



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<b>Subject:</b>	Theft from Vehicles		
<b>Releasing Officer:</b>	Lt. Charles C Chandler		
<b>Date:</b>	July 24, 2017		
<b>Press Release Log:</b>	<b>17-003</b>	<b>Report #:</b>	N/A

(Westerville, Ohio) – In July, thefts from vehicles in the City of Westerville increased from the previous month, according to the Westerville Division of Police (WPD). The vast majority of these thefts, nearly 90%, were from unlocked vehicles with valuable items visible from the outside. One case resulted in the theft of the vehicle due to the key being left in the car overnight.

“Thefts from vehicles are one of the most common crimes in Westerville, and as this statistic shows, it is most often happening to unlocked vehicles,” said Lt. Charles Chandler of the WPD Investigations Bureau. “Taking steps to secure your vehicle may discourage a criminal from targeting you and your personal property.”

WPD reminds residents of preventative steps to reduce their risks of becoming a victim of a crime, including simply locking your vehicle.

### Securing vehicles:

- Keep windows up and doors locked when parked.
- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Remove all valuable materials from the vehicle, or secure them in the trunk.
- Never leave property visible in the vehicle. Purses, laptop computers and electronic equipment are popular items for thieves.
- Park your vehicle off the street and in your driveway whenever possible. If you have a garage, it is the best place for your vehicle to be parked. This one act can reduce your risk dramatically.

WPD asks the community to report anything that appears unusual in public parking lots or in neighborhoods.

- Call the non-emergency phone line at (614) 882-7444. **Call 9-1-1 for emergencies.**

- Identify yourself by name, address and phone number.
- Report the type of crime (burglary, assault, suspicious person, or vehicle, etc.).
- State the location. Be prepared to be as specific as possible.
- Be prepared to provide a description of the suspect, a description of the vehicle, including license plate number and the direction of travel, if applicable.
- Stay on the phone with the dispatcher until they tell you that you may hang up. (Unless you are in fear for your safety).

For more information on the Westerville Division of Police, please visit [www.westerville.org/police](http://www.westerville.org/police).

# # #