



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<b>Subject:</b>	Theft from Vehicles		
<b>Releasing Officer:</b>	Lt. Charles C Chandler		
<b>Date:</b>	August 31, 2017		
<b>Press Release Log:</b>	<b>17-006</b>	<b>Report #:</b>	N/A

(Westerville, Ohio) – Five unlocked vehicles were entered overnight in Westerville, resulting in thefts ranging from loose change to a wallet. According to the Westerville Division of Police (WPD), 90% of thefts from vehicles during the month of August were from unlocked vehicles with valuable items visible from the outside.

“This is a crime of opportunity and is consistently the most common issue month after month we’re seeing,” said Lt. Charles Chandler of the WPD Investigations Bureau. “It’s really important to understand you’re making yourself a target if you don’t lock your vehicle.”

WPD has a simple list of preventative steps to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of a crime, including simply locking your vehicle.

Tips for securing your vehicle:

- 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).

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