

PRESS RELEASE



GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Vehicle Theft Prevention:

As theft from vehicle incidents continue to challenge our community and communities throughout Nassau County, some individuals are taking advantage of unlocked cars, particularly during those quiet overnight hours. Thieves are checking for unlocked vehicles, and, unfortunately, when they find one, they're making off with everything from loose change to personal belongings. In some cases, the subject was able to steal a vehicle when they located a key or smart key/fob.

In light of this, the Police Department wants to remind everyone to take a few simple precautions:

- Always lock your vehicle, even if you're running into the house for a minute.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight; even an old gym bag can look like treasure to a thief.
- Never leave or hide a key, smart key/key fob, valet key, or spare key in your vehicle.
- Never leave your car running, unattended, or unlocked.
- If possible, park your vehicle in a locked garage.
- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas.
- Keep the exterior of homes and driveways well-illuminated.
- Close all your vehicle windows completely when parked.
- Consider installing a GPS system, a visible anti-theft device, or an audible alarm.
- Never leave valuable personal property in your vehicle.
- Also, secure your garage door opener to prevent access to your home.
- Install surveillance cameras.
- And if you see anything suspicious—whether it's someone loitering near cars or trying door handles—don't hesitate to report it.

Commissioner Jackson reminds everyone that thefts involving unoccupied vehicles are often just crimes of opportunity. When simple precautions are taken to reduce that opportunity, the likelihood of someone entering your vehicle is drastically reduced. In addition, alert residents are often instrumental in the apprehension of criminals, particularly subjects who commit larcenies involving vehicles. Residents are encouraged to promptly call 911 and report suspicious activities, people, noises, or vehicles, including license plate numbers, to the Police Department. In addition, residents and property owners with video surveillance footage of a crime on their property or a neighbor's property are encouraged to contact the Detective Division at 465-4108.