



# Richmond Police Department

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## ALERT TO RICHMOND RESIDENTS

### THEFTS FROM AND OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning, October 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, unknown culprit(s) stole three (3) motor vehicles from two (2) residential addresses in the Meadowbrook neighborhood off of Route 138. In each case, the owners left their vehicles unlocked and culprits subsequently located vehicle keys that were hidden somewhere inside. Thieves also entered other unlocked vehicles in the neighborhood and stole valuables that included electronic items, such as GPS units. Two of the stolen vehicles have been since been recovered in the City of Pawtucket, and an investigation is ongoing.

There have been a rash of similar thefts in other Rhode Island communities over the last few weeks. This press release is intended to keep Richmond residents informed and emphasize the importance of taking some simple steps to keep themselves and their property safe and secure.

While Richmond is considered a safe place to live and visit, the Town's proximity to Interstate Route 95 makes it an attractive target for thieves with nefarious intent. To deter property crimes and prevent unnecessary opportunities for theft, residents and visitors should:

- 1) **Remove and secure portable property/valuables** from their vehicles when left unattended;
- 2) **Remove and secure their automobile ignition key(s)** when they leave their vehicle(s) unattended, and;
- 3) **Lock the doors of their vehicles and homes** to prevent unauthorized access.

Thieves often seek opportunities that present the lowest challenge and lowest risk of being detected and caught, so an unlocked door is the usually the most common means of creating an opportunity for a property crime to occur.

We encourage citizens to contact the Richmond Police Department to report suspicious activity when it is occurring, so the police can respond to take appropriate action.