



Crime Prevention Bulletin

May 24, 2022

Officer Steven McGhee

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Criminals Ransack Unsecured Vehicles Causing an Increase in Stolen Vehicles

Paradise Valley, AZ (05/24/2022) – Although crime is historically lower compared to surrounding jurisdictions, the crime rates within the Town of Paradise Valley are experiencing an up-tic in occurrences. These incidents are impacting neighborhoods and could be described as the onset of a new crime wave.

Many of the recent crimes stem from unsecured vehicles. Primarily occurring at night to avoid the sight of onlookers, suspects will attempt to open several vehicle doors until finding one unsecured. This is what they do if you can see it.

Be on the lookout for slow-moving vehicles. You may not immediately recognize that there are pacing persons on foot, running between cars, from house to house. If a person is without a vehicle, they often use a bicycle. These persons will carry backpacks to collect their items. You may see flashes of light turning on within parked vehicles in driveways or streets. This is due to most burglars in all these situations carrying a flashlight.

This week Paradise Valley Police Officers arrested five suspects connected to similar incidents. The crime started as a vehicle burglary. A suspect used a victim's identification and credit card which ultimately led to police intervention. The case evolved to include several jurisdictions and other felony offenses. However, the damage to the victims can never be completely undone. There is a long road ahead to regain a sense of security within their homes. Here's what the community can do to can help deter and prevent future crimes.

Simple actions multiplied by many can have a calming effect. Crime in the Town of Paradise Valley is often opportunistic. By removing the opportunities, together we can remove the crime.



Officer on follow up for burglary to vehicle case.



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The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority shares the following “Layered Approach” to Prevention:

Layer 1: Common Sense

- Always lock your car
- Take your keys and fobs
- Park in well-lit areas
- Always turn off your vehicle when unattended
- Remove valuables and weapons from your vehicle

Layer 2: Visible & Audible Deterrents

- Use audible alarms
- Use imitation security system warning theft flash blinking lamps
- Use a steering wheel or pedal lock
- VIN etch your windows
- Enroll in the Watch Your Car Program

Layer 3: Vehicle Immobilizer

- Install kill switches
- Utilize fuel disablers

Layer 4: Tracking Systems

- There are multiple systems offered by vehicle manufacturers and aftermarket suppliers.

Chief of Police Peter Wingert wants to stress the importance of the community working in hand with the police department. He says, “We need your extra eyes and ears. You know your neighborhood better than anyone. If you see something, please say something. It’s critical now more than ever. You have an outstanding police department at your fingertips. All it takes is calling us and I guarantee we’ll have an Officer on their way to address your emergency.”

For any active crimes or threats to public safety, always dial 9-1-1 and provide your location.

Residents are urged to report all suspicious vehicles, persons, and activities by dialing the non-emergency line at (480)-948-7410. Is there a license plate, make/model, or unique characteristics to the hood, doors, trunk, or wheels? Describe persons to the best of your ability. Think from the head down, piercings, facial hair, clothing, tattoos, scars, or marks.

Engage your neighbors and ask if they know about the #NineOClockWalk Campaign.

Making a nightly habit can help us change the face of crime prevention. Help keep your neighborhood crime-free. End crime by walking it out. Search #NineOClockWalk on social media for safety tips and schedule your annual Home Security Review by contacting Community Resource Officer Steven McGhee at smcghee@paradisevalleyaz.gov



TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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For the latest information, follow the Paradise Valley Police Department:

www.ParadiseValleyPD.com

