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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MINNESOTA
AUTO THEFT PREVENTION
PROGRAM



1996
ANNUAL REPORT

Arne H. Carlson, Governor
State of Minnesota

Donald Davis, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Dennis Roske, Chairman
Auto Theft Prevention Board

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Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 168A.40

**THE MISSION OF THE AUTO THEFT
PREVENTION BOARD IS:**

**To reduce motor vehicle theft and its consequences
in the State of Minnesota by funding programs
which aid in the:**

- * Identification of Critical Issues**
- * Education and Awareness**
- * Investigation and Prosecution**

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MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM

January 10, 1997

The Honorable Arne H. Carlson, Governor
Members of the State Legislature
State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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Dear Governor Carlson and The State Legislature:

I am pleased to present to you the first annual report of the newly created Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program.

The seven member panel of the Board of Directors were appointed in August 1996. The first board meeting was held October 1, 1996, and has met on a bi-monthly basis to develop and put into implementation a comprehensive Auto Theft Program. Rules and by-laws from which the Board will operate were established. The Board has established a special Auto Theft Prevention revenue account from which monies will be distributed through a grant program. The Board has also drafted grant policies and procedures, and have designed a grant application and instructions for the administration of money from the special auto theft fund.

Although a great deal was accomplished in 1996 by the Board, many challenges lie ahead. Our biggest task is to create successful programs that are effective in reducing motor vehicle theft in Minnesota. I am confident we will meet this challenge.

Sincerely,

Dennis Roske
Chairman
Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program

THE MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Roske, (Chairman), Minnesota State Patrol

Sergeant Roske is a 25 year veteran with the Minnesota State Patrol assigned to Investigative Services, Auto Theft Unit, for the past 12 years. He is also the third vice president for the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.

Robert Johnson, (Vice Chair), Insurance Federation of Minnesota

Mr. Johnson is the Executive Vice President of the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, serving as the Attorney for the Insurance Federation for past 19 years. He also Chairs the Minnesota Department of Commerce insurance Advisory Committee.

Richard Arney, Washington County Attorney

Mr. Arney has been the Washington County Attorney for the past 10 years. Prior to that he was in private practice and worked as the Juvenile Public Defender.

John Ballis, St. Paul Police Department

Sergeant Ballis has been with the St. Paul Police Department for 29 years and assigned to the Auto Theft Unit for the past 5 years. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Anti-Vehicle Crime Association.

Tracie Lucking, 3M Companies

Ms. Lucking is a Sales Representative with the 3M Company, Verification Security Labels Division. She has been with the 3M Company for over 16 years. She has trained over 700 police officers world-wide in the vehicle component part identification labeling system.

Cis Nelson, Alamo Rent A Car

Ms. Nelson is the General Manager at the Mpls. Airport site of Alamo Rent A Car. Ms. Nelson has been in the rental car industry for over 20 years. She is a University of California, Los Angeles graduate, and an active member of the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota's Board of Directors.

Bob Larson, Duluth Police Department

Deputy Chief Larson is a 27 year veteran with the Duluth Police Department. He has 10 years of detective experience in the areas of auto theft investigation and fraud.

Most citizens do not realize the number of vehicle thefts that occur in the State of Minnesota on a yearly basis and the financial loss due to the thefts. In 1995, the dollar amount totaled \$43,493,07.00 in stolen vehicles in Minnesota which resulted in higher insurance premium costs for the consumer. Auto theft is not a victimless crime as some have described it. Many auto thefts turn into violent crimes such as car-jacking. While other crimes have decreased over the past few years, auto theft continues to climb. Minnesota residents pay in many ways for auto theft crimes.

Motor Vehicle Theft - In 1995 there were 15,625 offenses of motor vehicle theft in Minnesota, compared to the 14,321 offenses reported in 1994; an increase of 9.0 percent.

<u>Hennepin County</u>	6,463	<u>Ramsey County</u>	2,824
Minneapolis	4,489	St. Paul	2,229
Bloomington	377	Maplewood	119
Brooklyn Park	259	Roseville	117
<u>Anoka County</u>	947	<u>Dakota County</u>	752
Coon Rapids	193	Burnsville	166
Fridley	172	Eagan	164
Blaine	127		
<u>St. Louis County</u>	419	<u>Washington County</u>	309
Duluth	283	Sheriff's Dept.	100
Rochester	138	St. Cloud	173

The Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program enacted under State Statute 168A.40, created the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Board of Directors. The Board has been given the statutory duties and responsibilities to:

1. Develop and sponsor the implementation of state-wide plans, programs, and strategies to combat auto theft.
2. Coordinate the development and planning, relating to inter-agency and inter-governmental cooperation with respect to auto theft enforcement.
3. Develop a plan of operation.
4. Set up a special revenue account within the State Treasury for auto theft prevention purposes.
5. Distribute money from the auto theft prevention special revenue account for auto theft prevention activities.

Special Revenue Account:

The statute established the auto theft prevention account to be used only for the automobile theft prevention program. From this account the Board of Directors will make grants to eligible applicants for programs that address the problem of auto theft in the State of Minnesota.

The funds for this account will come from a surcharge that is to be collected from insurance carriers that provide comprehensive insurance coverage issued in the State. This amount is collected at the rate of \$ 1.00 per year per vehicle insured.

Grant Availability:

Each year the Board will publish notice of grant money availability to prospective applicants. Applications may be submitted for the following types of projects related to auto theft prevention and reduction.

1. Training (criminal justice, citizens, and business, etc.).
2. Public education (public meetings, literature, public service announcements, neighborhood and business watch promotions, etc.).
3. Programs designed to improve or expand the resources of existing auto theft prevention, investigation, apprehension, or prosecution activities.
4. Multi-jurisdictional projects combining the resources of different agencies in a task force approach to combat auto theft.
5. Long term specialized training to further develop the expertise of auto theft investigators or prosecutors.