

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR HORNİK ANNOUNCES ‘JOIN THE CLUB’

Steering Wheel Lock Program in Partnership with Auto-theft Task Force

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (November 9, 2023) – Mayor Jonathan Hornik and Chief Peter Pezzullo released a video on to announce ‘Join the Club’, a new addition to the Marlboro Township Vehicle Theft Prevention Initiatives. ‘The Club’ steering wheel lock will be made available to Marlboro Residents at no charge, maximum two per household, via a link on the Township website.

The ‘Join the Club’ initiative is a partnership with the NJ Auto Theft Task Force and a direct result of the long term assignment from the Marlboro Police to the State task force included in Mayor Hornik’s budget. The Club was purchased using forfeiture funds and are provided at no cost to the taxpayers.

“We have announced more initiatives than any other town to stop vehicle theft and it is working. Marlboro Township had no vehicle thefts during the months of August and September and thefts are down 32% compared to the same period last year.” stated Mayor Hornik. “The thieves may be going to neighboring towns, but my concern is Marlboro and we’re going to continue to put more resources into driving this element out of our town.”

Chief Peter Pezzullo stated, “In a town that is 30+ square miles, the hard-working men and women of Marlboro Police cannot do it alone. Communication with our residents has been an integral part of our Vehicle Task Force Initiatives. The Club steering wheel lock and an ‘I took the Pledge’ lawn sign go a long way to visibly letting criminals to move on.” He continued, “The club program is being rolled out on the heels of the Hybrid CompStat technology announced late this summer which combined more police officers on the overnights with both stationary and roving non-police personnel at strategic locations and times throughout town, serving as partners to law enforcement in protecting our neighborhoods.”

Mayor Hornik’s ‘See Something. Say Something. We Will Do Something.’ initiative was launched in Marlboro in 2018 in response to school shootings throughout the country.

In March, 2022 this program was expanded to include home and vehicle safety due to the uptick of vehicle thefts.

Mayor Hornik urged residents, “Above all, call the police if you see something that feels not right or out of place. Don’t wait. Don’t hesitate. ‘See Something. Say Something.® We Will Do Something.’ The Club will be an additional, visible, deterrent to vehicle thefts.”

It is important to note that virtually every car stolen has had access to the key fob and an unlocked car allows access to your garage door opener. The Club steering wheel lock makes it impossible to drive the car and is a back up to locking your door and taking the key fob inside. Residents are asked to keep vehicle keys in a non-visible location in your home.

Mayor Hornik stated, “My appreciation and thanks to the Marlboro Township Police Department, Chief Pezzullo and the residents for doing their part to fight vehicle theft in Marlboro.” He continued, “Our Police continue to make arrests of those attempting to steal vehicles, and I am proud of the determination of our officers to keep our community safe. While the incidents have gone down year over year, we are not resting until all vehicle thefts are eliminated. We remain vigilant in our efforts to keep our families and neighborhoods secure, and the hard work is making a difference.”

The Town’s safety initiative Tool Kit is linked at the top of the Township website at www.marlboro-nj.gov. Join the Club/Pledge Portal can be found on the homepage of the Township website under ‘Quick Links and Actions’.

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