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MAYOR HORNIK ANNOUNCES NEW ANTI-AUTO THEFT INITIATIVE

More Eyes and Ears on the Road Overnight

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (August 23, 2023) – In order to further deter criminals from pursuing car thefts in Marlboro, Mayor Jonathan Hornik has announced implementation of a hybrid initiative adding additional police officers and non-police personnel at strategic locations and times throughout the Township.

“We always look to do more and think outside the box to accomplish our programs in the most effective way possible,” stated Mayor Hornik. “While vehicle thefts are down 32% percent in Marlboro compared to last year, we will continue to introduce new initiatives to further reduce these types of incidents. In addition to all we’ve done thus far, we’re going to continue put more resources into driving this element out of our town.”

The newest tool in the Marlboro Auto Theft Task Force toolbox is the implementation of a hybrid initiative which combines 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 explained, “The Division of Police has ramped up its data analytics to narrow down and focus resources on areas where auto theft is more likely to occur. You hear about the use of ‘CompStat’ in big cities in the country and we’re employing these techniques here in Marlboro.” He continued, “Using this data, we will also be employing additional patrol resources in the field, and where the data tells us auto theft is most likely to occur. “

According to Chief Peter Pezzullo, no additional details will be released about the initiative so as to ensure the maximum effectiveness and security.

“In a town that is 30+ square miles, expanding our footprint on the overnights is necessary, and as we have said before, the hard-working men and women of Marlboro Police cannot do it alone. As an example, communication from our residents has been integral to our success thus far. Additional resources on the road will serve as more

eyes and ears for our law enforcement personnel, and we believe will also provide an important deterrent effect,” said Chief Pezzullo.

He continued, “Here is the message to the criminals – we are going to be watching you with many more eyes on the street – and we’re going to catch you.”

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.

The Township Tool Kit to combat auto thefts has continued to expand. Enhanced police patrols focus resources on targeted areas. Mayor Hornik’s budget included the hiring of an additional police officer for a long term assignment to the New Jersey Auto Theft Task Force to focus efforts at the root of this problem at the State level. A Police/community partnership was with ‘Neighbors’ Ring Door Bell to facilitate electronic communication between our residents and the Police.

At the State level, Mayor Hornik pressured Governor Murphy and state leaders to reverse course and allow local police to engage in stolen vehicle pursuits. Marlboro was the first in the state to adopt a local Marlboro ordinance to maximize fines and require arrest warrants for those who commit crimes.

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. Residents are urged to register for Township emails and texts to receive safety updates and to continue to lock their car door, take the fob and remove valuables.

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