

TOWNSHIP OF MARLBORO

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Mayor
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SUBJECT: Marlboro Auto Theft Update

Dear Neighbor,

Now that we are in the heart of the summer camp and vacation season, I want to provide an update on our neighborhood safety initiatives, and how all of our hard work, by our residents and police, together, as a community is paying off.

While the entire State has experienced an unprecedented spike in auto theft activity, the numbers are down in Marlboro, to the tune of 32% over the same six month period in 2022. And to put this percentage in perspective, in a community of more than 40,000 people spanning 30+ square miles, there were 27 auto thefts and 9 burglaries.* While I believe that any criminal act is one too many, it is important to recognize that we fortunately live in a very safe community, ranked the 19th safest town in America and the 4th safest in the State. There is virtually no crime here outside of this auto theft phenomenon plaguing the entire State.

Of course, this meaningful decline in auto thefts is no consolation to those who have been victimized. Despite our gains, this is no time to let our guard down.

As you may recall from prior communications, we have instituted numerous programs to deter would-be thieves from coming to Marlboro. With the State-wide spike in auto thefts in mind, we expanded our 'See Something. Say Something. We Will Do Something.' program which began in 2018 in response to school shootings throughout the country. We continue to ask residents to report suspicious activity that does not feel right or seems out of place, and to not hesitate to call the police.

Our tool kit to combat auto thefts also includes other initiatives, including 'Take the Pledge' and enhanced police patrols to focus resources on targeted areas. My 2023 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. We struck a partnership with 'Neighbors' Ring Door Bell to facilitate electronic communication between our residents and the Police. We also pressured Governor Murphy and state leaders to reverse course and once again allow local police to engage in stolen vehicle pursuits, and were the first in the state to adopt a local Marlboro ordinance to maximize fines and require arrest warrants for those who commit crimes. And just in case, during the course of your very busy days you may forget, we regularly send electronic reminders for residents to lock their cars, remove the fob, hide valuables and to place your keys out of the line of sight when you get home. A complete list of safety initiatives is linked on the top of our website.

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. We remain vigilant in our efforts to keep our families and neighborhoods secure, and the hard work is making a difference. With persistence and determination, this is another challenge which we, together as a community, will overcome.

If you are not receiving our weekly updates to your inbox, scan the QR code below or visit our website at Marlboro-nj.gov and enter your email in the blue box. We continue to work with Marlboro Police to increase security in our Town and plan to announce those additional measures shortly. In the meantime, please have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jon Hornik

*Source: Marlboro Township Police

