



TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing"

Robert P. Kochen
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 26, 2017

Open letter to our community:

As Chief of Police, I encourage everyone to read the attached Tampa Bay Times article, entitled "Hot Wheels", which came out in today's newspaper (Link attached below). This article addresses the issue of auto thefts within Pinellas County, which has become a major public safety issue within our County.

<http://www.tampabay.com/projects/2017/investigations/florida-pinellas-auto-theft-kids-hot-wheels/car-theft-epidemic/>.

This article highlights the importance of removing valuables (especially firearms) from your vehicle, coupled with locking your vehicle doors at all times. The Tarpon Springs Police Department continues to work proactively through our Patrol Officers; Crime Watch program; Business Watch Program; and our partnerships with community leaders, religious organizations, schools, and other organizations in our city to keep our citizens from becoming victims of auto thefts and/or other types of crimes.

We also need your help by being diligent and reporting any suspicious activity you may witness. I ask each and every one of you, please take a second and lock your car doors. This simple act could help deter many car thefts and thefts of property (to include firearms) from within unlocked cars from ever taking place.

If you have any questions or would like to have a Crime Prevention presentation done in your area please contact Officer Ulrich in our Crime Prevention office at (727) 937-8753.

Thank you,

Chief Robert P. Kochen



444 S. HUEY AVE., TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689 - PHONE (727) 938-2849
WWW.TSPD.US

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