



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police Remind Drivers to Turn Off Unattended Vehicles**

The Howard County Police Department is reminding citizens not to leave unattended motor vehicles running with the keys in the ignition. This effort is aimed at reducing the number of stolen motor vehicles in the county.

In October, four vehicles left unoccupied and running for short periods of time were stolen. Of the 611 motor vehicles stolen in Howard County in 2002, 20 percent had the keys inside when they were taken.

Citizens should remember to park in well-lit areas and to lock their cars. Keys should never be left in an unattended car, even while running a quick errand, and valuables should be kept in the trunk.

Drivers should be aware that leaving a car unattended and running is a traffic violation subject to one point and a \$55 fine.

Citizens are encouraged to report all vehicle thefts and suspicious activity to the police. For more information on vehicle theft prevention, visit the Howard County Police Department's Web site at [www.hcpd.org](http://www.hcpd.org).

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