

# **SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY**

**The Prince William County Police Department and Commuter Lot Watch frequently patrol commuter lots but there are still steps you can take to protect your property.**

**When it comes to safety and security, always remember:**

- Lock your vehicle, even if you are expecting to be away for only a few minutes.
- Never leave your keys in the vehicle.
- Never hide a second key in your car. Extra keys can easily be found if a thief takes time to look.
- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or other valuables in the vehicle when it is unattended.
- If you must keep belongings in your vehicle, make sure it is not in plain view. Even if you have cd's, change, or other small items in your vehicle, do not display them. Don't make your vehicle a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving items in plain sight.
- If the weather is warm, do not leave your windows down, not even a small amount.
- Don't leave the registration or title in your vehicle. A car thief will use these to sell your stolen car. File the title at your home or office, and carry the registration in your purse or wallet.
- Engrave expensive accessories. Engrave personal I.D. numbers on car stereos, cellular phones, etc., so the thief will have difficulty disposing of them. Do the same for your vehicle.
- Invest in a visible steering wheel lock. It prevents the steering wheel from being turned.
- Be particularly observant to any suspicious activity or persons.

Please remember to report **ALL** suspicious activity immediately by calling:

**Emergency: 9-1-1**

**Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500**

Prepared by the Prince William County Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
703-792-7270