



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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Contact: Shannon Carbone
Phone: 303-441-3804
scarbone@bouldercounty.org

Press Release

The District Attorney's Office is reminding community members that increased property crimes are a matter of significant public concern. Throughout Colorado, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a dramatic increase in property crimes including motor vehicle thefts and car trespasses. These thefts hit the most vulnerable population because older model cars have fewer anti-theft features. There are likely a number of reasons behind these increases throughout the state. The pandemic has caused an additional financial strain on many members of the community, a lack of treatment for those struggling with substance abuse disorder, and fewer people outside and on the street that would deter these crimes from taking place.

Boulder County continues to experience similar increases in car thefts and trespasses as seen throughout Colorado. The Community Protection Division of the District Attorney's Office (CPD) advises community members to be alert to these property crimes, and offers the following safety tips to prevent losing money or personal property:

- Lock your car doors. Many of these crimes are committed by individuals simply checking for unlocked cars.
- If you are able to do so, park in a well-lit area.
- Do not leave valuables in sight.
- Firearms should never be left in a vehicle unsecured overnight.
- Never leave your car running and unattended.
- Ensure you have your license plate and VIN documented.
- If you see anything or anyone suspicious looking into or around cars, call 911 immediately.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "Community safety is our top priority. So, the increase in car trespasses throughout Colorado is a matter of serious concern. Someone breaking into your car feels like such a violation and can lead to thousands of dollars in loss. Based on the data, locking the car doors makes a real difference. We will continue to prioritize these property crimes and it is our hope that this safety bulletin will help reduce and prevent these crimes from taking place in our jurisdiction."