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Governor Proclaims August “Watch Your Car Month”

ABTPA Urges Texans to Protect Themselves from Auto Burglary and Theft

(AUSTIN, Texas – August 30, 2018) With the end of the summer being historically one of the riskiest seasons for vehicle burglary and theft, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared August “Watch Your Car Month” to remind Texans they can take steps to protect their vehicles. The proclamation notes Texans experience nearly one billion dollars in losses every year due to motor vehicle burglary and theft.

“I applaud the governor for bringing more attention to the risk of auto theft and the simple steps people can take to reduce the chance their car gets stolen,” said Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) Chairman and Port of Brownsville Chief of Police Carlos L. Garcia.

ABTPA offers the following steps Texans can take to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of burglary or theft:

- Always lock your vehicle and take your keys.
- Never leave your car unattended while it is running.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Take valuables with you when you are not in your vehicle or keep them out of sight.
- Give parking attendants the ignition key only.
- Install an anti-theft device.

“Many car thieves are lazy and look for easy targets,” said ABTPA Board Member and Galveston County Sheriff’s Office Lieutenant Tommy Hansen. “Throughout the year, but especially during ‘Watch Your Car Month,’ it’s best to get into the habit of doing those simple things to make sure you are not an easy target.”

For more information about “Watch Your Car Month” and how to protect yourself, visit ABTPA online at <http://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/consumer-protection/auto-theft-prevention>.



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The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles serves, protects and advances the citizens and industries in the state with quality motor vehicle related services. For every \$1 it spends, the TxDMV returns \$11 to the state. Each year the agency registers more than 24 million vehicles; issues more than 8 million vehicle titles; licenses approximately 34,000 motor vehicle dealers and distributors; credentials more than 60,000 motor carriers; issues more than 650,000 oversized/overweight permits; investigates approximately 13,000 complaints against dealers and motor carriers; and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts. Learn more at www.TxDmv.gov.



THE STATE OF TEXAS

GOVERNOR



*To all to whom these presents shall come,
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is
presented to all observing:*

Watch Your Car Month

August 2018

Motorists and businesses in Texas have estimated nearly 1 billion in losses due to motor vehicle burglary and theft every year. According to Texas law enforcement authorities, motorists run the greatest risk of having their car stolen during the summer months.

Unlocked vehicles, forgotten keys, and exposed valuables contribute to a large percentage of these crimes. To combat these vehicle-related crimes the Texas Legislature created the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority.

At this time, I would like to encourage all Texans to take the necessary steps and precautions to reduce motor vehicle burglaries and thefts throughout our state.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in wishing you the best.



*In testimony whereof, I have signed my name
and caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be
affixed at the City of Austin, this the 24th day
of August, 2018.*

Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas