



Contact

For Immediate Release

Mark Hanna
(512) 326-7616

March 25, 2009

Lock, Take and Hide Comes to Highland Village

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) has joined with the Highland Village Police Department in a crime prevention campaign aimed at preventing auto thefts and auto burglaries. The program involves the creation and distribution of signs that read, "**LOCK** your car, **TAKE** your keys and **HIDE** your belongings."

Captain Corry Blount of the Highland Village Police Department said the **LOCK, TAKE and HIDE** program will help educate his growing community to the possibilities of crime.

"A lot of our folks are just not as conscious about the criminal element that can be lurking in the parking lots of our restaurants and shopping areas who are just looking for an opportunity to break into a vehicle," said Capt. Blount. "These signs along with our ongoing crime prevention campaign will help educate our residents on being better prepared."

In Texas, an estimated 100,000 vehicles are stolen and another 250,000 are burglarized each year. It is also estimated that half of the vehicles stolen had the drivers' keys left in the ignition.

Capt. Blount said the signs will be placed in large public and private parking areas such as shopping centers, city parks, restaurants, apartment complexes and other areas where there is parking congestion.

Insurance Council of Texas spokesman Mark Hanna said police welcome any kind of deterrent for criminals as well as good advice for drivers. "The Insurance Council of Texas is honored to be a part of a program that urges motorists to protect their automobile and their belongings through this simple message," said Hanna. "The signs should also serve as a reminder for everyone to be aware of their surroundings when they are leaving and entering their vehicle."

ICT initially started the crime prevention program in Austin on March 2, 2005, and has since begun similar programs in Round Rock, Garland, Mesquite, Frisco, Celina, Del Rio, Laredo, Brownsville and Houston.

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of more than 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas.

###