Detecteds report an increase in auto burglaries in the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood of St. Petersburg. The area is bound by 22nd Avenue North to 9th Avenue North, from 3rd Street to Tampa Bay. There have been 18 incidents in the neighbor since June 30th. In virtually all the cases victims have left their vehicles unlocked. Again we are reminding our citizens of the following:

1. Lock your car and take your keys, even if leaving your car unattended for only a few minutes.

2. Do not leave valuables in plain sight inside the car. Take purses, wallets and other valuables with you or secure them in the trunk (unless access to the trunk can be gained via the passenger compartment).

3. Do not leave firearms unattended and unsecured in your car. Responsible gun owners must realize that even in a locked car, auto safety glass is easily broken and does not provide sufficient security to keep a firearm out of the hands of thieves. Once in their hands, YOUR gun can be used to commit a host of violent crimes that can result in serious injury or death.

4. Remove, if practical or at least secure tools and other items of value left unattended in open truck beds or trailers.

A video of two recent auto burglaries can be seen at http://youtu.be/HAEFzSV1Cxc. These two incidents did not take place in the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood, but are indicative of the same type of cases. The first incident took place in the 6500 block of Cedar St NE and the other in the 5500 block of Grove Street South.

The St. Petersburg Police are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspects in this cases. Anyone with information should call the non-emergency number at 727-893-7780, Text-A-Tip to 727-420-8911 or leave a confidential tip at 727-892-5000

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org