St. Pete Police alerts the public about an alarming spike in auto thefts

10:30 AM Today, St. Petersburg Police will hold a press briefing to discuss a significant increase in auto thefts and auto burglaries. Investigators want to alert the public this trend is affecting neighborhoods across the city and across Tampa Bay.

There are *NEW tips*, detectives have learned from suspects arrested and through intelligence sources, we will pass along to help citizens avoid becoming victims.

We will release video of units tracking a stolen car and apprehending a suspect using covert methods.

We will also discuss SPPD’s cooperation with the Tampa PD. Many cars stolen in St. Pete have been used in crimes in Tampa and a number of cars stolen in Tampa have been recovered in St. Petersburg.

Major Paul McWade will brief reporters and be available for interviews. Statistics will also be distributed today at 10AM, in Classroom D, the Police Training Building, 1301 1st Avenue N., St. Petersburg.

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Yolanda Fernandez