



ST. PETERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



## PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY AWARENESS DIVISION

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### **MAKING A DENT IN AUTO THEFT**

The Annual Crime Report for 2017 is out and St. Petersburg auto thefts are significantly down! Auto thefts are down 10.7% compared to 2016 and have dropped 36% compared to 2015 in St. Petersburg.

While auto theft remains a serious juvenile crime issue, St. Petersburg Police is making progress in reducing the numbers. See attached graphic for auto theft numbers from 2001-2017.

We believe the dramatic decrease is due to our collaborative efforts with other agencies and our multi-pronged policing approach:

- Collaboration with the Pinellas Sheriff's Office, other LEO's, the State Attorney, and judges.
- H.O.M.E, - Habitual Offender Monitoring Enforcement - officers are assigned fulltime to do regular home checks on juvenile offenders on home detention.
- Investigative Support Unit - focusing on tracking youth gang members and their activities.
- Auto Theft Unit merged with the Burglary Unit -auto break-ins often lead to auto theft when the keys are left in the car. Detectives can now share information on suspects and be more effective in solving cases.
- Public education with weekly social media posts to remind people to lock their cars.

"These numbers are encouraging. They show that our efforts, and the cooperative efforts of our citizens, are paying off. The St. Petersburg Police Department, along with our partner agencies, will continue to monitor the effectiveness of our current practices. Should any shift in this data occur, we will adjust our efforts accordingly," said Anthony Holloway, Chief of Police.

Graph of thefts by year on the next page.