

## CAR BREAK-IN PREVENTION TIPS

Vehicle break-ins are an internationally common crime, and the Village of Highland Falls is not immune. The good news is there are things that we can do to protect ourselves from having our cars broken into and our personal property stolen:

- ❖ Leave at home any items that might be attractive to thieves.
- ❖ Put your valuables in the trunk! Put items attractive to thieves in your trunk **before** you arrive at your destination. Doing so while at your parking spot can tip off a thief that you have good property to steal.
- ❖ Never leave anything visible inside your vehicle! This is the single most important thing you can do to prevent your car window from being smashed and your valuables stolen.
- ❖ Park in a well-lighted location with large amounts of foot traffic. Avoid parking on an isolated side streets or parking lots.
- ❖ Roll up your car windows all the way, and lock your doors! Engage your car alarm if you have one, but understand that a car alarm alone may not deter a thief from breaking into your car. The amount of time necessary for a thief to break into your car and steal your property is less than 30 seconds, not enough time for them to be scared away so easily.
- ❖ Thieves take things you might think are worthless.

### Take with you, leave at home or store in your trunk any of the following items:

- ◆ GPS units (always wipe of the suction cup ring on your windshield – that ring is a dead giveaway to a thief that a GPS device is inside your vehicle. GPS units are the most common items stolen during a car break-in.
- ◆ Handbags, purses, wallets, gym bags, and briefcases are the second most stolen items during a car break-in.
- ◆ Cell Phones
- ◆ MP3 players
- ◆ Chargers (even if you hide your electronics, if the thief sees the charger, they will break into a car on the assumption that the GPS, cell phone, or MP3 player is hidden under your seat, in an interior compartment, or inside your trunk.
- ◆ Stereo faceplates, satellite radio receivers
- ◆ Radar detectors
- ◆ Loose change – to some your spare change is a fortune. A car thief will break into your car to steal your change out of a cup holder or ash tray
- ◆ CD's or DVD's
- ◆ Laptops and cases

## What to do if you see a car break-in in progress

- ❖ **Call the Highland Falls Police department directly at 845-446-4911 or 911 and report the incident.**
- ❖ When talking to the dispatcher, try to give as much information as possible, specifically:
  - **LOCATION of the incident:** Address, cross streets, or specific location.
  - **DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT(S):** Provide as much information as possible, such as sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color and length, facial hair, color and style of clothing, identifying marks such as tattoos or piercings, etc.
  - **DIRECTION:** Give a direction of travel if the thief flees. If the thief flees in a vehicle, give a description of the vehicle, and attempt to provide a license plate.
  - **DESCRIPTION OF THE VICTIM'S VEHICLE:** If possible give the color, make, model, and license plate for the vehicle. If it is your vehicle advise the dispatcher.