



STATE OF NEW YORK
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Sean Byrne
Acting Commissioner
Division of Criminal
Justice Services

**Office of Program
Development and Funding**

Anne Marie Strano
Deputy Commissioner

New York State



2009 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature

**Motor Vehicle Theft and
Insurance Fraud Prevention Board**

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

4 Tower Place

Albany, NY 12203

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>



New York State
Motor Vehicle Theft and
Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

Denise E. O'Donnell, Chair
Commissioner
New York State
Division of Criminal Justice Services

Kristina L. Baldwin, Esq.

Hon. Richard A. Brown
District Attorney, Queens County

Hon. Janet Di Fiore
District Attorney, Westchester County

Hon Robert T. Johnson
District Attorney, Bronx County

Thomas Lohmann
Regional Director
National Insurance Crime Bureau

V. Daniel Robinson II
President
New York Central Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

Com. David J. Swarts
New York State
Department of Motor Vehicles

Christine M. Ziemba
Chief of Police
Town of Cheektowaga Police Dept.

Office of Program Development and Funding

Anne Marie Strano
Deputy Commissioner

Ron Dickens
Assistant Director

Law Enforcement Grants Unit

Eileen I. Langer-Smith, Criminal Justice Program Specialist

Michele Mulloy
Mary Ann Dudla

Paul Chesley
Michael Passaro
Kathleen Stack

Tom Cowin
Paula Raiti

Other Report Contributors:

Office of Justice Research and Performance

Paula Lockhart Adam Dean Marge Cohen

New York State Department of Insurance
Insurance Frauds Bureau

Frank Orlando, Director

Roy Zabala

Mission Statement

Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

In accordance with Executive Law §846-1 and 846-m, the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board, as its stated mission and purpose, shall make recommendations to the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (Commissioner) with respect to the exercise of his or her functions, powers and duties as set forth in Executive Law §846-1(3).

The Board shall also:

In accordance with the legislative intent of Article 36-A of the Executive Law, develop and recommend to the Commissioner a plan of operation which shall provide for a coordinated approach to curtailing motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud throughout the State (hereinafter "Plan"). The Plan shall provide an integrated means to detect, prevent, deter, and reduce motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud by providing funds, upon the recommendation of the Board and approval by the Commissioner, to meet these objectives.

The Plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- An assessment of the scope of the problem of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud, including a regional analysis of the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud and related activities;
- An analysis of various methods of combating the problem; and
- The development of a request for proposals process, consistent with the Plan, for applications from provider agencies to receive grants from the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Fund established pursuant to §89-d of the State Finance Law.

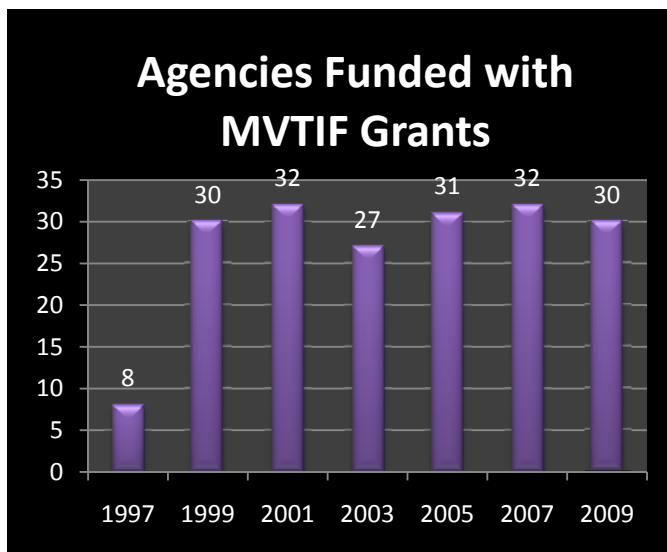
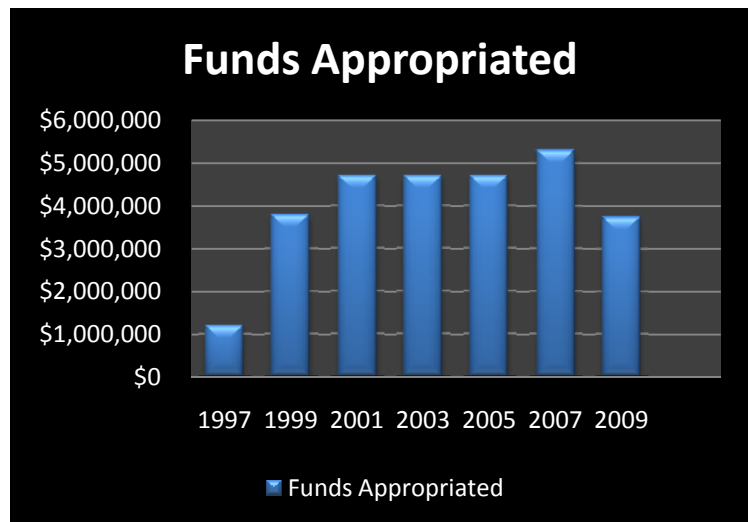
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I. INTRODUCTION

New York State enacted Executive Law, Article 36-A (L.1994, c.170) creating the *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program* to help reduce the overall cost of motor vehicle insurance in the State. A 12-member *Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* was authorized under this statute to oversee the program. Members of the Board, selected by the Governor and the Legislature, include representatives of law enforcement, consumers of motor vehicle insurance, insurance carriers, and relevant state agencies. The Board became operational in September of 1997 with the appointment of its members. This is the 13th annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by the *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* as required under Executive Law §846-1(3)(h).

Funding for the program is provided for under State Finance Law §89-d which established a special fund consisting of monies received from the \$10 dollar fee assessed on each insurance policy issued for a portion of passenger vehicles and all other motor vehicles registered in New York State Insurance Law §9110. The 2009/10 State Budget appropriated \$3.7 million to support of demonstration projects.

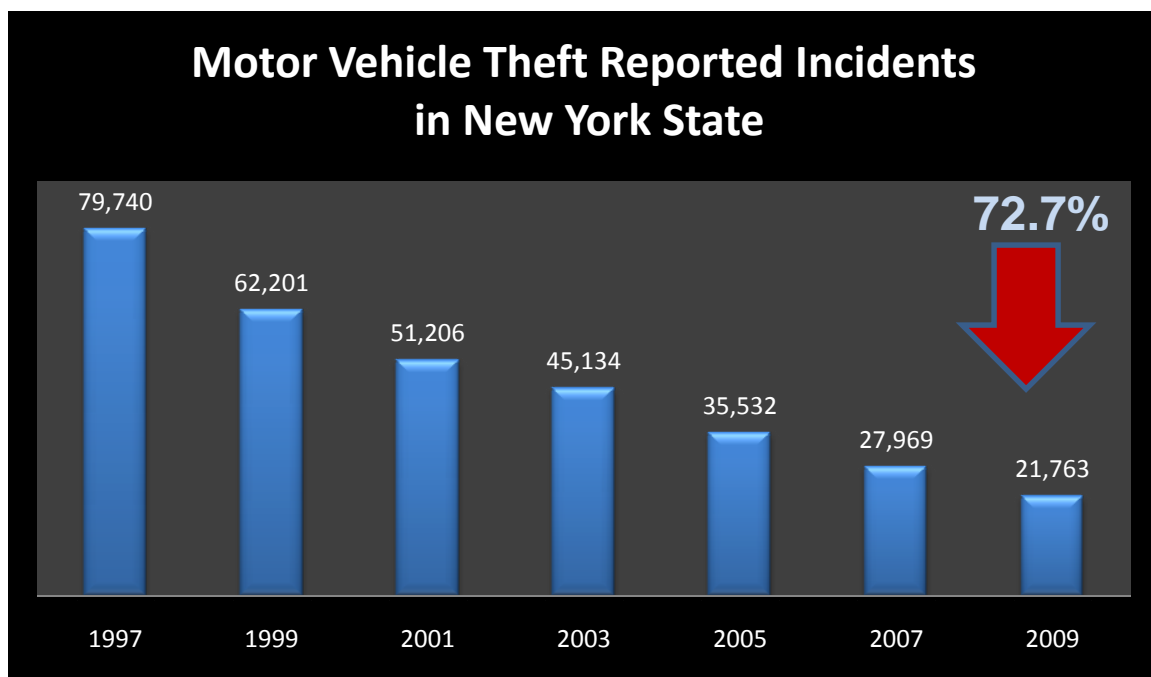


Having completed its organizational tasks of crafting bylaws and a mission statement, as well as creating a strategy for conducting a Request For Proposal (RFP) process, the Board was able to make its first awards in September of 1997. The Board issued RFPs annually since then and 2009 marked the 13th full year of the Board's operation.

All of the tasks outlined above are part of an organized and planned pursuit of reducing motor vehicle theft rates and insurance fraud in New York. The impact of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud cannot be understated. It is a highly organized criminal activity that costs hundreds of millions of dollars each year, and those costs are passed on to law abiding citizens and legitimate businesses and result in increased costs of doing business and in higher insurance rates.

Motor Vehicle Theft

Great strides have been made in reducing motor vehicle theft in New York. Since 1997, reported thefts are down 72%. However, the cost remains high. In 2009, there were 21,763 motor vehicles stolen in New York State with a value of \$141,568,315.



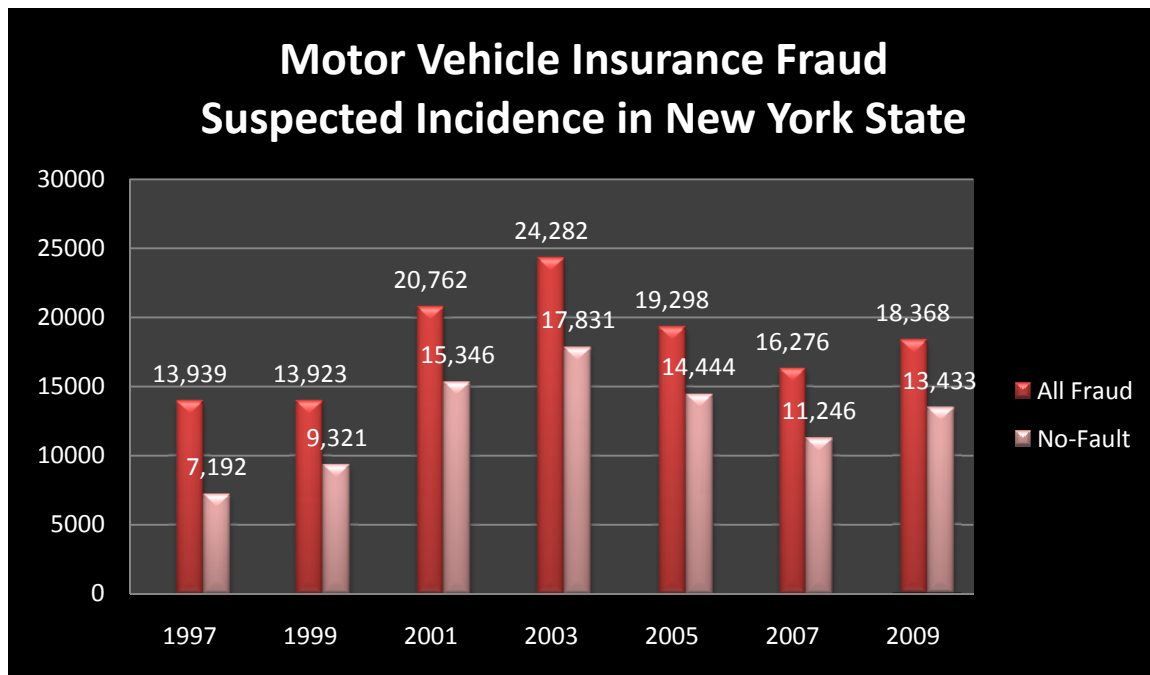
Law enforcement knowledge gained in the dynamics of motor vehicle theft makes it apparent that the trafficking of stolen vehicles knows no state or international boundaries and that insurance fraud, in many cases, is perpetrated by well-organized groups of profit-motivated conspirators.

Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud

The incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud in the early 1990s was significantly lower than the level now reported. Since 1997, the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau had seen an alarming increase in the number of reports of suspected insurance fraud from insurers across the state. Reports of motor vehicle insurance fraud had increased consistently from 5,214 in 1996 to a high of 24,282 in 2003. No-fault insurance fraud had increased as well during this time period to a high in 2003 of 17,831, that accounted for 73% of all reported motor vehicle insurance fraud.

Combined investigative and prosecutorial efforts of state and local law enforcement agencies to combat motor vehicle insurance fraud as well as effective changes in the insurance laws resulted in a 32.9% decrease in these crimes in 2007.

With the economic down turn that started in 2008, suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud increased by 5.5% in 2008 and then again by 6.8% in 2009. No-fault insurance fraud increased by 9.7% from 2007 to 2008 and by another 8.8% in 2009.¹



Statewide Plan of Operation

In August 1999, the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board, in keeping with its mission, initiated the development of a statewide plan for curtailing motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud throughout the State. The Board determined that the experience and expertise gained as a result of the ongoing operations of the funded demonstration projects provided a solid foundation upon which to build a Statewide Plan. To research and develop a plan that was reflective of the problem in all regions of New York State, the Board recommended that several agencies having extensive expertise in this area be involved in its development. In

¹ The actual incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud is difficult to measure accurately. The State Insurance Department receives reports from insurers of suspected fraud but this number cannot be considered to be an accurate representation of the problem since the term can be used administratively by insurance companies. The New York State Penal Law does not distinguish between vehicle-related insurance fraud charges and all other insurance fraud. Consequently, DCJS uses the insurance industry numbers as it works to develop a more accurate reflection of the crime vehicle related insurance fraud.

addition, officers representing 16 law enforcement agencies were added to the Statewide Work Group which first met in January 2000.

Since the initial meetings in 2000, the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Strategy Work Group, which is comprised of individuals with backgrounds in combating motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud, has grown as the number of grantees has grown.

Buffalo City Police	Onondaga County District Attorney
Cheektowaga Town Police	Queens County District Attorney
Hempstead Town Police	Richmond County District Attorney
New York City Police	Westchester County District Attorney
Rochester City Police	Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Syracuse City Police	Nassau County Police
Bronx County District Attorney	Niagara County Sheriff's Office
Erie County District Attorney	Suffolk County Police
Kings County District Attorney	Westchester County Police
Monroe County District Attorney	National Insurance Crime Bureau
Nassau County District Attorney	NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
New York County District Attorney	NYS Insurance Frauds Bureau
Niagara County District Attorney	NYS Division of State Police

The insurance industry also has representation on the Statewide Work Group through the following carriers: Allstate, Auto One, New York Central, Progressive, and State Farm.

The Board approved the completed Statewide Plan in 2001. The Strategy Work Group reconvenes annually; its members have the following responsibilities:

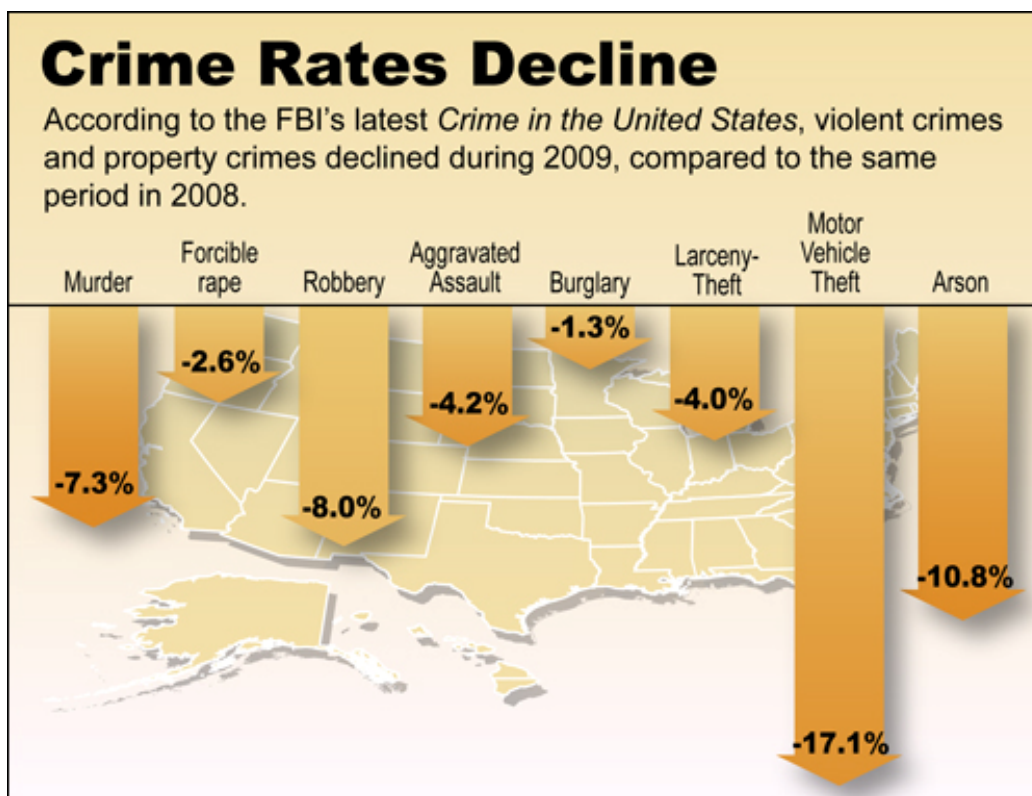
- researching and developing updates for both plans reflecting the current crime trends of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud, and;
- recommendations for a statewide motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud shared information database.

The annually updated Statewide Plan of Operation is available on the DCJS website, www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us, and is useful for reference for those law enforcement agencies applying for demonstration project funding. Following the recommended format for the Statewide Plan, the Annual Report will present information on the dimensions of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in two separate sections.

II. Dimensions of Motor Vehicle Theft in New York State

National Overview

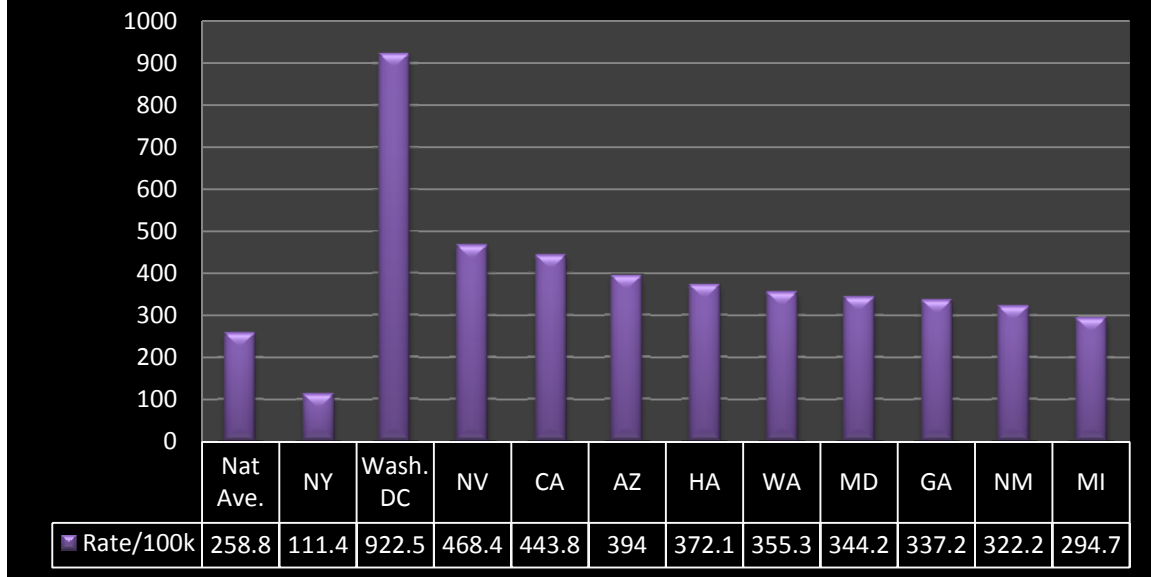
According to national statistics the number of motor vehicle thefts reported in 2009 had **decreased by 17.1%** over the prior year. There were **794,616** motor vehicle thefts reported in **2009** as compared to **958,629** in **2008**; all regions of the country experienced a decrease in motor vehicle thefts.



Midwestern states showed a decrease of 18.4%, the Southern states a decrease of 16.9% and the Western states a decrease of 16.7%. The **Northeast Region of the United States** experienced a **17.1% decrease** in motor vehicle thefts in 2009. In the Northeast region, only New York and Pennsylvania have dedicated funds administered by a board or authority for the prevention of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

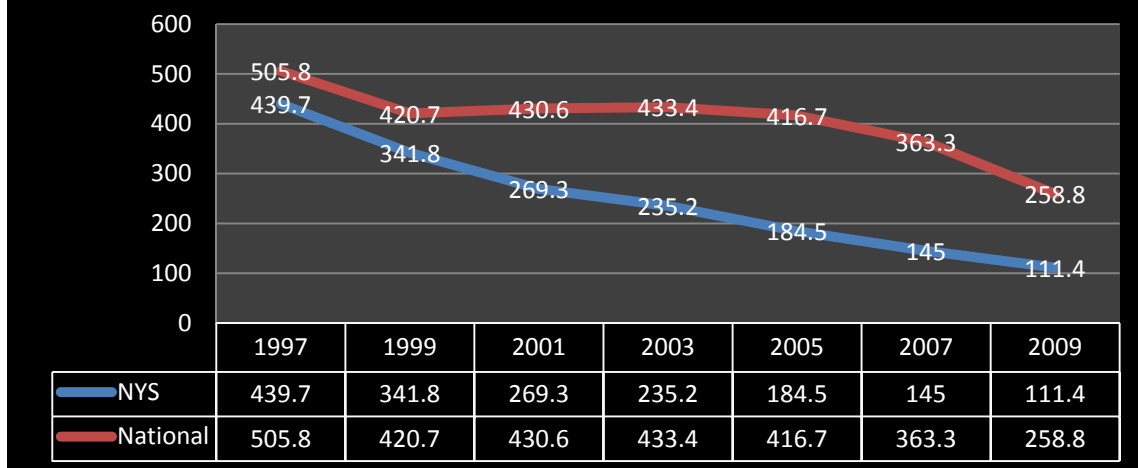
FBI statistics showed that California had the greatest number of thefts - 164,021 or 21% of the national total - followed by Texas (76,559), Florida (50,259), Georgia (33,145) and Michigan (29,383). The number of motor vehicle thefts for New York State as estimated by the FBI was 21,763 or 2.7% of the national total.

Motor Vehicle Theft Rate/100K Population



In **New York** in 2009, the rate of motor vehicle thefts at 111.4 per 100,000 population was 56.9% below the national average of 258.8 per 100,000 population. in Washington, D.C. has the highest rate of 922.5 stolen vehicles per 100,000 population followed by Nevada (468.4), California (443.8), Arizona (394.0), Hawaii (372.1) and Washington (355.3).

Motor Vehicle Theft Rates/100k Population



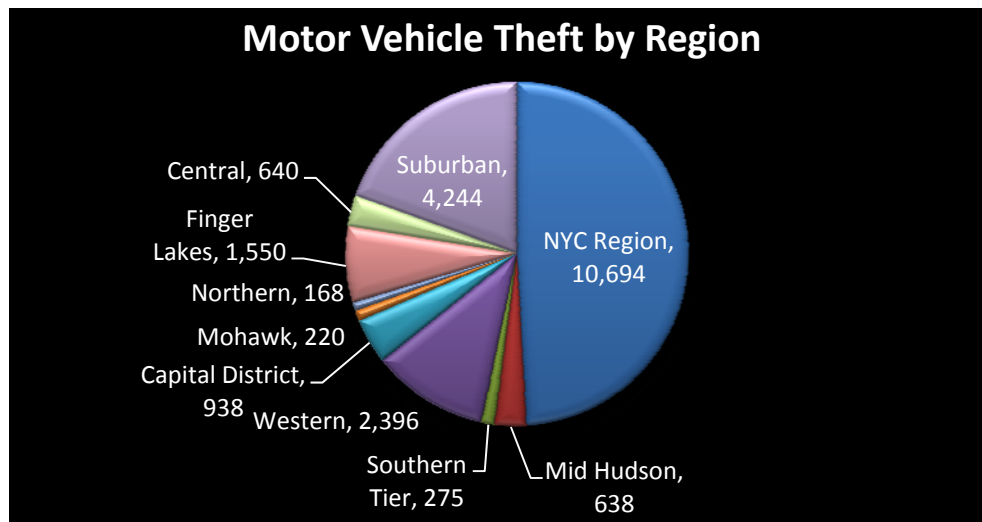
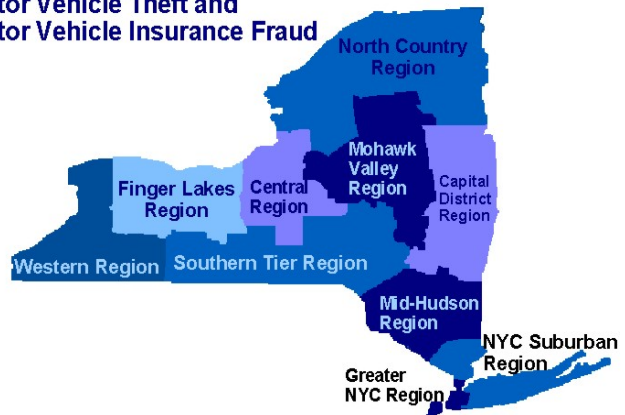
New York's motor vehicle theft rate of 111.4 per 100,000 is at its lowest rate in decades.

Statewide Overview of Motor Vehicle Theft

New York State has experienced a sustained reduction in the number of reported stolen vehicles — from 79,740 in 1997 to 21,763 in 2009 (a 72.7% decrease). This reduction in New York far exceeds the national reduction of 41.3% in reported motor vehicle thefts between 1997 and 2009. The number of vehicles reported stolen in New York is now at its lowest level in more than two decades.

The following overview on the incidence of motor vehicle theft in New York State will be done in a regional perspective². In 2009, the greatest number of motor vehicle thefts occurred in the Greater New York City Region, with its 10,694 reported thefts accounting for 49% of state total. Rounding out the top five regions in the state are NYC Suburban Region 4,244 (20%), Western Region 2,396 (11%), Finger Lakes Region 1,550 (7%), and the Capital District Region 938 (4%). A detailed breakdown of the data by county is provided in the appendices of this report.

New York State Regional Map for Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft and Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud



² NYC Region - Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond; NYC Suburban - Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, Westchester; Mid-Hudson - Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster; Capital District - Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington; Mohawk Valley - Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Schoharie; North Country - Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence; Central - Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego; Finger Lakes - Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates; Southern Tier - Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins; Western - Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara

The Division of Criminal Justice Services has identified the top 18 localities in New York with the highest volume of Part 1 crimes, which include motor vehicle theft³. In 2009, these localities showed a decrease in motor vehicle theft in the greater metropolitan New York City area and its suburban municipalities of 11%. The cities in the Western New York experienced a 19% decrease while those in the Central New York also experienced a decrease of 31%. The Capital District/Hudson Valley cities experienced a slight increase of 1% in motor vehicle theft.

When the rate of motor vehicle theft per 100,000 population is calculated by county, Erie County has the highest rate of 222.9 per 100,000, followed by Monroe County at 183.2, Bronx County at 173.5, Schenectady County at 169.8, and Queens County at 143.3 respectively.

Motor Vehicle Thefts Reported - 2008 - 2009			
Police Agency	2008	2009	Change
Albany City PD	224	239	6%
Binghamton City PD	47	44	-6%
Buffalo City PD	1,856	1,580	-15%
Jamestown City PD	26	20	-23%
Kingston City PD	20	30	50%
Nassau County PD	1,018	1,121	10%
Newburgh City PD	90	88	-2%
New York City PD	12,440	11,065	-11%
Niagara Falls City PD	161	128	-20%
Poughkeepsie City PD	77	65	-16%
Rochester City PD	1,262	962	-24%
Schenectady City PD	224	215	-4%
Spring Valley Village PD	24	22	-8%
Suffolk County PD	1,940	1,511	-22%
Syracuse City PD	502	338	-33%
Troy City PD	113	120	6%
Utica City PD	120	77	-36%
Yonkers City PD	352	343	-3%

³ Part 1 crimes are: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft.

III. Dimensions of Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud in New York State

National Overview

During the 1960s, traditional motor vehicle liability insurance became the target of public criticism because of expensive and time-consuming process of determining who was at fault and, therefore, legally liable when an accident occurred. In response to this consumer dissatisfaction with the insurance industry, many states enacted no-fault legislation that allows accident victims to recover financial losses, such as medical and hospital expenses and lost income from their own insurance companies without liability being assigned. In 1974, New York became one of 12 states that initiated true no-fault motor vehicle insurance.

However, as the law resulted in an increase in an no-fault insurance claims, insurance fraud crimes involving motor vehicles also increased across the United States. In many states, the financial benefits of having no-fault insurance are being eliminated due to the higher premiums now paid for coverage. According to the Insurance Information Institute, as of June 2010, only 12 states still have no-fault insurance laws.

On a national level, identifying the crime of motor vehicle insurance fraud in order to develop trends that allow law enforcement to target the problem is difficult. Unlike the motor vehicle theft, theft from a motor vehicle and theft of motor vehicle parts and accessories, statistics on motor vehicle insurance fraud crimes are not part of the Uniform Crime Report maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There are no uniform definitions of insurance fraud among the states and insurance fraud is illegal in all states, the level of seriousness attached to the crime also varies by state. Some states classify insurance fraud or certain types of fraud as a felony, others as a misdemeanor. In addition, the dollar amount involved can determine whether the crime is considered a felony.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, not all states require special investigation units of insurance companies to forward every suspicious claim to their state's fraud bureau. These reports are "suspected incidents" of insurance fraud are handled in-house by insurance carriers or by civil actions instead of being prosecuted criminally. Prompted by the incidence of insurance fraud, 46 states have set up fraud bureaus, some bureaus have limited powers, and some states have more than one bureau to address fraud in different lines of insurance.

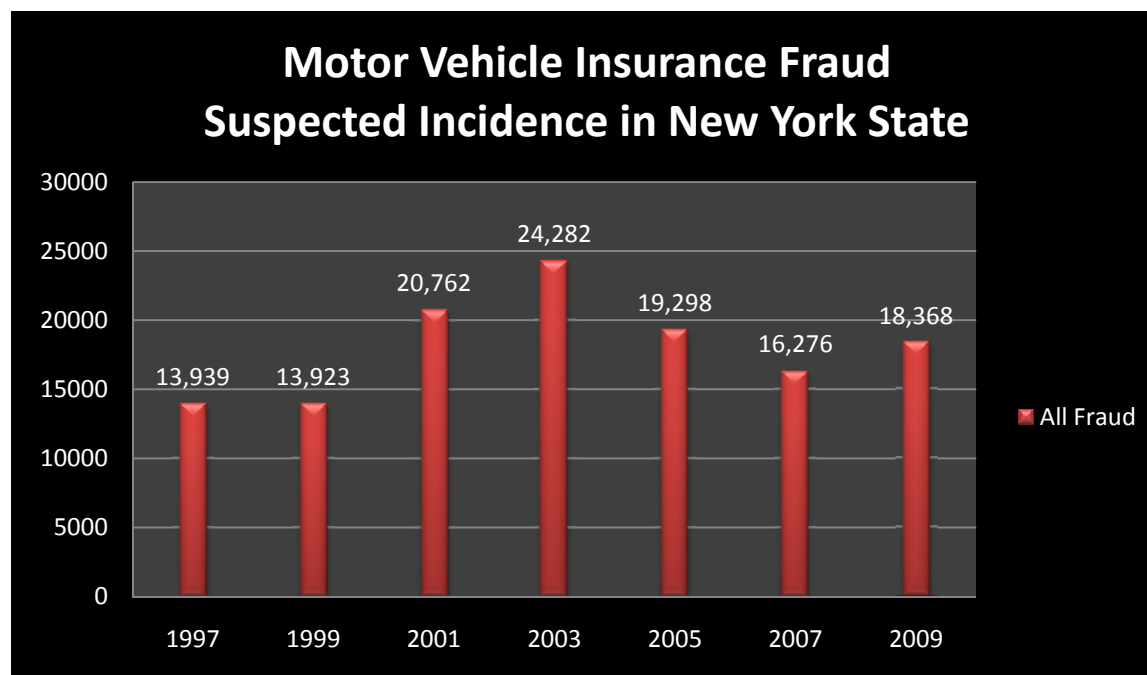
Statewide Statistics

In 2009, there were 18,368 incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud reported to the Insurance Frauds Bureau of the State Insurance Department, including motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle fire, and larceny from a motor vehicle, motor vehicle vandalism, motor vehicle collision damage, motor vehicle fraud bill, motor vehicle insurance cards, and motor vehicle miscellaneous and No-Fault.

These crimes add an estimated 10% to the cost of insurance premiums paid by policyholders in New York State. As the legislative findings associated with the creation of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Demonstration Program point out: “Motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud are a major problem in New York and costs honest motor vehicle policyholders billions of dollars annually. As the cost of motor vehicle insurance continues to rise, this essential coverage has become less affordable and more out of reach for many New Yorkers.”

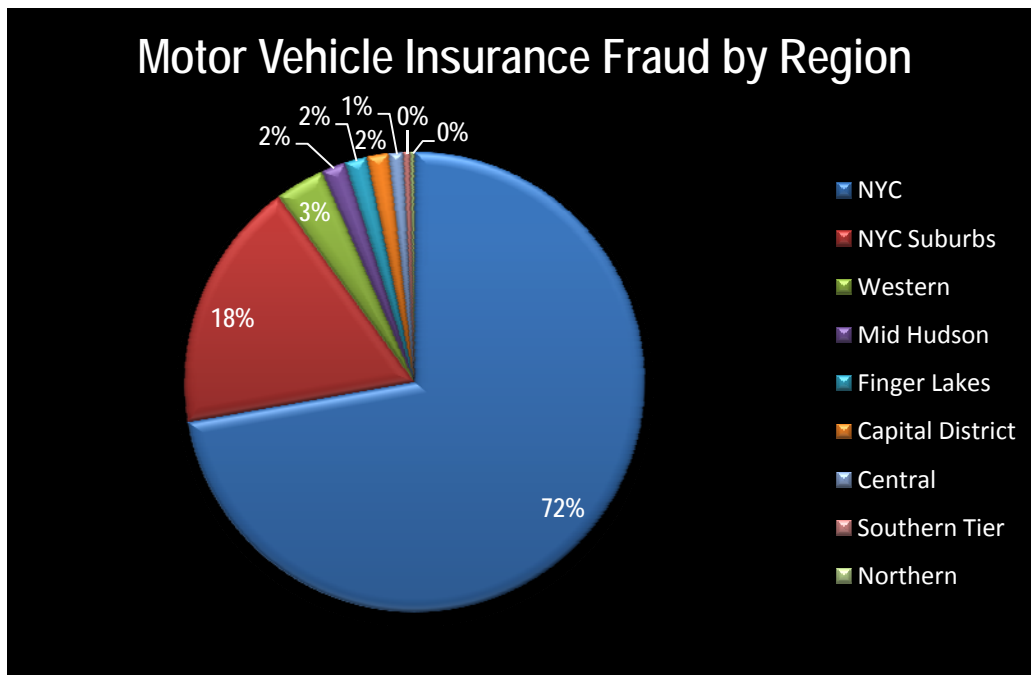
Since 1997, New York State had experienced an alarming increase in the reports for suspected incidents of motor vehicle insurance fraud (MVIF) from insurers in the State with the greatest increase occurring in no-fault related fraud. Suspected reports of MVIF to the State Insurance Frauds Bureau includes fraudulent reports of vehicle theft, vehicle fire (arson), larceny from vehicle, vehicle vandalism, vehicle collision damage, billing and no-fault. In 1997, 13,939 incidents of MVIF were reported and by 2003, the number had increased by 39.4% to 24,282. Due to targeted enforcement, enhanced prosecution and changes in New York State insurance laws MVIF decreased by 32.9% from 2003 to 2007.

Since the economic downturn began in New York State has experienced, an increase of MVIF of 16,276 suspected incidents in 2007 to 17,185 as compared to 18,368 incidents in 2008. This has greatly contributed to the fact that the average cost of motor vehicle insurance for New York State residents is the third highest in the nation behind Michigan and New Jersey.



In 2009, the New York City Region experiences **70%** of the suspected incidence of motor vehicle insurance fraud reported to the State Insurance Frauds Bureau with 19% of those incidents reported for the Region of suburban counties: Nassau,

Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester. On average, the cost of motor vehicle insurance in these regions is much greater than the rest of New York State.

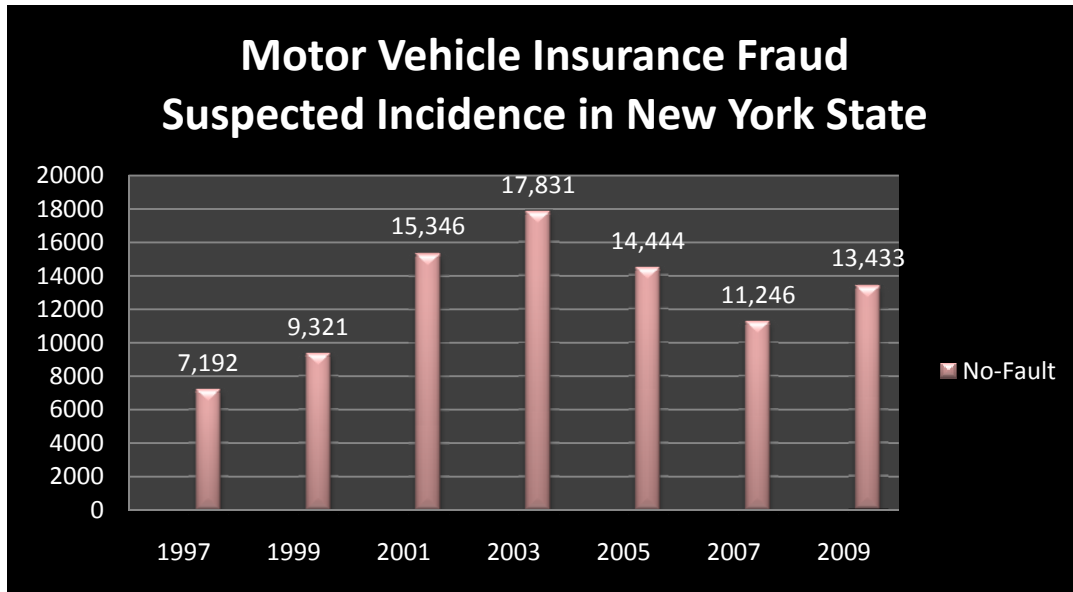


Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud - 2008 – 2009			
Top Ten Counties			
County	2008	2009	Change
Kings	4,416	4,908	11.1%
Queens	3,282	3,483	6.1%
Bronx	1,859	2,336	25.6%
New York	1,704	1,164	-31.6%
Suffolk	1,377	1,396	1.3%
Nassau	1,534	1,369	-10.7%
Richmond	454	544	19.8%
Erie	411	429	4.3%
Westchester	416	424	1.9%
Monroe	209	226	8.1%

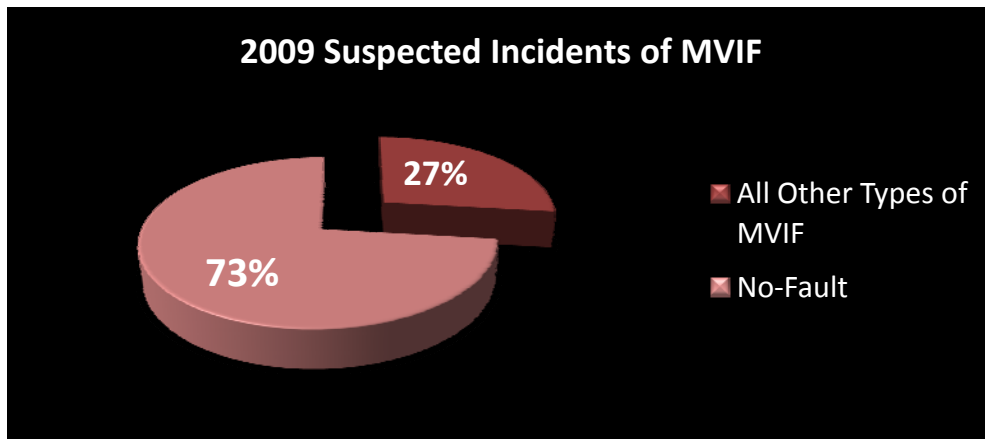
Although New York City has documented declining reports of motor vehicle theft, the City of New York, as a region, still has the highest rates of motor vehicle insurance fraud (111.7 per 100,000) in the State. In 2009, Kings County had the highest rate of motor vehicle insurance fraud based on population (191.1 per 100,000 population) and accounted for approximately 26.7% of the reported incidents of motor vehicle insurance fraud in the State followed by Bronx County (167.1 per 100,000), Queens County (151.2

per 100,000), Richmond County (111.1 per 100,000) and New York County (111.1 per 100,000).

As previously mentioned New York State is a no-fault state; the number of suspected incidents of no-fault insurance fraud reported to the State Insurance Frauds Bureau has increased by 19.4% since 2007.



No-fault insurance fraud accounts for more than 73% of all reported suspected incidents of motor vehicle insurance fraud.



According to the Insurance Information Institute:

- No-fault fraud and abuse in New York cost consumers and insurers approximately \$229 million in 2009, or approximately \$628,000 per day earned by crooked medical providers and their accomplices.

- New York's no-fault average claim costs – at \$8,690 per claim – are the third highest in the nation, 64% higher than the national median of \$5,289.
- Medical care costs in the United States rose 21.1% between 2004 and 2009, according to the Consumer Price Index, but the average no-fault claim, which mainly reimburses for medical care costs, rose 47.7 percent during that same period.

IV. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program* supports a variety of initiatives targeting motor vehicle theft and related motor vehicle insurance fraud.

A. Program Goals

The goals of the program are to provide an integrated means to prevent, deter and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud by developing and providing funding for demonstration programs that include: education on theft and fraud prevention; programs on motor vehicle theft and fraud prevention; and specialized law enforcement units to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. The following entities are eligible to participate: any locality, governmental agency, or not-for-profit organization that provides one or more of the motor vehicle theft or insurance fraud prevention programs approved by the Board. Current budget language restricts program funding to local assistance projects only.

B. Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

The demonstration program is administered by a 12-member board chaired by the Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), or his or her designee. All Board members are appointed by the Governor: three appointees are recommended by the Speaker of the Assembly; three by the Temporary President of the Senate; and the remaining five by the Governor. The members, who are not considered public officials, serve a four-year term. The Board is to be representative of consumers of motor vehicle insurance, motor vehicle insurance companies, law enforcement agencies, and the judicial system. The Board must meet a minimum of four times per year.

The Board is charged with developing and recommending a coordinated plan of operation that provides for the statewide reduction of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Elements of the plan must include:

1. An assessment of the magnitude and scope of the problem including an analysis of theft and fraud by region;

2. Methods for combating the problem; and
3. Development of a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) process.

The legislation that created the Board also authorizes the Commissioner of DCJS, pursuant to the recommendations of the Board, to:

1. Execute contracts;
2. Accept grants and other contributions;
3. Make grants through an RFP process;
4. Appoint employees and affix compensation;
5. Request assistance and information from the State Police, police departments, the Insurance Department, Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of Court Administration, or any other agency or from any insurer;
6. Assist political subdivisions in the development of local programs;
7. Advise and assist the Superintendent of Insurance pursuant to Insurance Law § 2348. (This section now requires that rate filings reflect insurers' savings resulting from the program); and,
8. Submit by February 15 of each year to the Governor and Chairs of Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees a report on the Board's activities, activities of grant recipients and the results or impact achieved.

C. Program Priorities

Program priorities identified in the enabling legislation are: **motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud**. Funds must be used to augment, not supplant, locally supported initiatives. Activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to:

1. Prosecution and adjudication
2. Law enforcement
3. Community-based organizations
4. Educational programs for motor vehicle owners
5. Programs to examine the efficacy of theft prevention devices

V. BOARD ACTIVITY

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON June 8, 2009

Board Members Present:

Kristina Baldwin	Eileen Sullivan (for Richard Brown)
Tim Hotaling (for David Swartz)	Steve Vandervelden (for Janet DiFiore)
Tom Lohmann	Bill Zelenka (for Robert Johnson)
V. Daniel Robinson	Christine Ziemba

DCJS Staff Present:

Sean Byrne	Michele Mulloy
Paul Chesley	Michael Passaro
Tom Cowin	Paula Raiti
Mary Ann Dudla	Beth Ryan
Val Friedlander	Anne Marie Strano
Eileen Langer-Smith	

Guests Present:

Laurie Cummings	Michael Occhicone
Joseph DiBenedetto	Bradley Sherman
Trevor Hannigan	Gerard Spano
John Mueller	Paul Welyczko

On behalf of Commissioner Denise O'Donnell, Executive Deputy Commissioner Sean Byrne called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

Deputy Commissioner Byrne mentioned that since the 1994 legislative law passed on auto theft, auto theft was down by 82 percent in New York State.

Staff provided and update on the following topics:

- Current statistics for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud
- SFY 2008 MVTIFP Awards
- SFY2009/2010 Budget
- Legislative Update (Presented by Valerie Friedlander, DCJS Senior Attorney)

Representatives from the Albany County District Attorney's Office (ACDA), the Albany City Police Department, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office (WCDA), and the Yonkers City Police Department (YCPD), presented a summary of grant activities that reflected their agency programs to reduce decrease the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance.

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON September 28, 2009

Board Members Present:

Tim Hotaling (for David Swarts)	Jim Potts (for V. Daniel Robinson)
Tom Lohmann	Eileen Sullivan (for Richard Brown)
Joe DiBenedetti (for Janet DiFiore)	Bill Zelenka (for Robert Johnson)

DCJS Staff Present:

Mark Bonaquist	Michele Mulloy
Sean Byrne	Paula Raiti
Tom Cowin	Anne Marie Strano
Mary Ann Dudla	Ben Lazarus
Eileen Langer-Smith	

On behalf of Commissioner Denise O'Donnell, Executive Deputy Commissioner Sean Byrne called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. He welcomed everyone in attendance.

Staff provided and update on the following topics:

- Current statistics for motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud
- SFY 2008 MVTIFP Awards
- SFY2009/2010 Budget
- Legislative Update (Presented by Mark Bonaquist, DCJS Senior Attorney)

The MVTIFP RFP for 2009-2010 awards was discussed and an OFPD Administration Unit Representative (Ben Lazarus) provided a review of the DCJS Grants Management System (GMS) for Board members and representatives to utilize during the grant review process.

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON November 18, 2009

Board Members Present:

Commissioner O'Donnell	Thomas Lohmann
Kristina Baldwin	V. Daniel Robinson
Richard Brown	David Swarts
Janet DiFiore	Christine Ziemba
Robert Johnson	

DCJS Staff Present:

Sean Byrne	Paula Raiti
Paul Chesley	Beth Ryan
Ron Dickens	Kathy Stack
Mary Ann Dudla	Anne Marie Strano
Valerie Friedlander	Mike Passaro
Eileen Langer-Smith	

Guests Present:

Tom Hotaling
Eileen Sullivan

Steve Vandervelden

Commissioner Denise O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 11:05 am and welcomed everyone in attendance. Attendees introduced themselves.

Staff provided an update on the following topics:

- Current statistics for motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud
- Status of the MVTIFP Award Contracts
- Regional Statewide Meetings
- SFY 2008 Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Instruction on how to utilize the Grants Management System (GMS)
- Legislative Update

Anne Marie Strano spoke about budget cuts that were made. She mentioned that the state operations budget sustained a 3.35 percent cut. This reduction applies to both Special Revenue funds which support the administration of Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention program as well as State General Fund administrative funds. Local assistance received a 7 percent cut; this included Special Revenue funds. Ms. Strano mentioned that a re-organization was going to take place within the Office of Program Development and Funding to accommodate the workload. Ms. Langer-Smith mentioned that funds were cut for traveling to attend Statewide and Regional meetings. Eileen mentioned that travel money for the Statewide meetings would be covered by the grant contracts.

Anne Marie Strano mentioned that Commissioner O'Donnell only wants to hold Board meetings when there is a quorum. Ms. Strano mentioned that, starting in January, Board meetings can be held via video conferencing. She also mentioned that DCJS can assist with identifying sites that have video conferencing facilities that can connect members with DCJS. Ms. Langer-Smith will be reaching out to Board members to find out what kind of video conferencing capabilities they have.

SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIVITY ON NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Board Members & Representatives Present

Commissioner O'Donnell	Richard Brown
Janet DiFiore	Robert Johnson
Thomas Lohmann	Mark Petruniak (Proxy for Christine Ziembra)
Daniel Robinson	David Swarts
Bill Zelenka (Proxy for Robert Johnson)	

Guests

Eileen Sullivan

Steve Vandervelden

DCJS Staff

Ron Dickens
 Val Friedlander
 Eileen Langer-Smith
 Michele Mulloy

Paula Raiti
 Beth Ryan
 Anne Marie Strano
 Terri Vigo

Commissioner Denise O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 11:10 am and welcomed everyone in attendance. Attendees introduced themselves and individuals representing absentee Board Members were requested to present their proxy letters to Commissioner O'Donnell.

Valerie Friedlander (DCJS Senior Attorney), discussed proposed amendments to the Board Bylaws which would allow members the option to participate at Board meetings via videoconferencing in accordance with the current provisions of the Open Meetings Law. Members voted to adopt the revised Board Bylaws.

FY 2009 Funding Proposals***New Agencies***

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Vote by members to accept amount recommended
Oswego City Police Department	\$34,894	\$0	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
New York City Fire Department	\$1,144,000	\$0	All members were in favor of the recommendation.

Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Mr. Lohmann motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Daniel Robinson seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

New York City Agencies

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Vote by members to accept amount recommended
Bronx County District Attorney	\$324,962	\$293,000	District Attorney Robert Johnson recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Kings County District Attorney	\$328,831	\$225,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
New York County District Attorney	\$300,000	\$270,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Queens County District Attorney	\$600,000	\$540,000	District Attorney Richard Brown recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Richmond County District Attorney	\$102,265	\$102,265	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
New York City PD – Auto Crime Unit	\$316,397	\$269,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
New York City PD – FAIS	\$190,000	\$161,500	All members were in favor of the recommendation.

New York City PD – Auto Larceny Units	\$150,000	\$127,500	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
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Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Tom Lohmann motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Robert Johnson seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

New York City Suburbs Agencies

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Vote by members to accept amount recommended
Hempstead Village Police Department	\$40,000	\$25,500	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Nassau County District Attorney	\$200,000	\$135,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Nassau County Police Department	\$177,000	\$150,450	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Suffolk County District Attorney	\$300,000	\$135,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Suffolk County Police Department	\$153,998	\$131,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Westchester County District Attorney	\$388,000	\$388,000	District Attorney Janet DiFiore recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Yonkers City Police Department	\$269,365	\$67,500	All members were in favor of the recommendation.

Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Christine Ziemba motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Tom Lohmann seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Capital Region/Central New York

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Vote by members to accept amount recommended
Albany City Police Department	\$40,000	\$25,500	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Albany County District Attorney	\$109,747	\$99,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Schenectady County District Attorney	\$50,000	\$45,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Syracuse City Police Department	\$50,000	\$32,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.

Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Richard Brown motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Janet DiFiore seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Western Region Agencies

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Vote by members to accept amount recommended
Buffalo City Police Department	\$125,600	\$120,000	Commissioner O'Donnell recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Cheektowaga Town Police Department	\$60,000	\$39,000	Chief Christine Ziembra recused herself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Erie County District Attorney	\$122,232	\$83,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Monroe County District Attorney	\$155,430	\$70,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Monroe County Sheriff Office	\$87,437	\$38,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Rochester City Police Department	\$57,728	\$37,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Niagara County District Attorney	\$180,868	\$122,500	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Niagara County Sheriff Department	\$32,000	\$23,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.
Niagara Falls City Police Department	\$43,175	\$37,000	All members were in favor of the recommendation.

Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Janet DiFiore motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Tom Lohmann seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Statewide Agencies

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Vote by members to accept amount recommended
New York Anti-Car Theft & Fraud Association	\$98,500	\$50,000	Tom Lohmann recused himself from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.
New York Prosecutor Training Institute	\$101,700	\$50,000	District Attorneys Richard Brown and Janet DiFiore recused themselves from the vote. All members were in favor of the recommendation.

Commissioner O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the recommendations for the awards as presented. Janet DiFiore motioned to accept the recommendations for awards as presented. Christine Ziembra seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Eileen Langer-Smith mentioned the breakdown of the funds of the motor vehicle awards announced at the meeting. Fifty-four percent of the funds were distributed to the New York City area, where 50% of motor vehicle theft was happening and 73% of the insurance fraud was occurring. Twenty-eight percent of the funds were distributed in Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk counties, where 20% of theft and fraud was occurring. Five percent of the funds were distributed in the cities of Albany and Schenectady and Onondaga County. Ten percent of the funds were distributed to the Western New York

region. Three percent of the funds were distributed to NYACT & NYPTI, to support the training and theft fraud.

Note: The complete minutes of the Board's meetings are available upon written request to the address listed below:

**New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
Office of Program Development and Funding
Law Enforcement Unit
4 Tower Place
Albany, New York 12203**

VI. 2009 Grant Program Descriptions



New York City Region

Bronx County Office of the District Attorney
Kings County Office of the District Attorney
New York County Office of the District Attorney
Queens County Office of the District Attorney
Richmond County Office of the District Attorney
New York City Police Department
Auto Crime Division
Auto Larceny Units
Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad

Bronx County Office of the District Attorney

The Bronx County District Attorney's Office Anti-Auto Theft Unit, in collaboration with individual NYPD precincts, continued its work investigating both auto crime and insurance fraud matters. The unit also continued to place the bait cars in precincts as needed.

In 2009, as in the previous 10 years, the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention grant enabled the Office to continue its focus on auto crime and insurance fraud. Between 1990 and 2009, complaints of grand larceny auto declined by 89% in Bronx County, from nearly 23,000 complaints to 2,411. The office continues to recommend jail time on cases involving the theft of a motor vehicle in Bronx County or the recovery of a stolen motor vehicle within the county.

In the fall of 2006, the Bronx District Attorney's Office detective investigators began using License Plate Reader technology (LPR) provided by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). The following year, using Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud prevention grant funds, the office purchased its own LPR to enhance the coverage area. In 2009, the use of the two LPRs in collaboration with NYPD precincts in the Bronx resulted in 18 arrests, 234 summonses issued, and 157 stolen vehicles recovered.

Strategies Implemented. The office continues to partner four detective investigators with personnel in local precincts to target auto crime enforcement. A variety of law enforcement tactics are used, including deployment of bait cars and license plate readers; surveillance; and long- and short-term investigations. Defendants are also debriefed in an effort to uncover ongoing criminal enterprises.

Bronx County Office of the District Attorney

<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations	29	Stolen/altered vehicle recovered	428
MVT felony arrests prosecuted	603	Value of vehicles recovered	\$4,997,025
MVT misdemeanor arrest prosecuted	112	Lojack utilized	164
MVT felony convictions	81	Lojack recoveries	15
MVT misdemeanor convictions	320	Values of Lojack recovered vehicles	\$369,535
MVT confidential informants developed	5	MVT/MVIF debriefings	68
MVT indictments	92	MVIF felony arrests prosecuted	19
MVT warrants issued	6	MVIF felony convictions	8
MVT investigations filed with SAFETNet	2	MVIF misdemeanor convictions	21
Hits resulting from SAFETNet		MVIF confidential informants developed	1
Reported motor vehicle thefts	2,411	MVIF investigations filed with SAFETNet	5

Kings County Office of the District Attorney

The District Attorney's Office of Kings County has a history of conducting ground-breaking and multifaceted investigations, especially in the area of white collar crime. The overall purpose of the program was, and continues to be, to identify, investigate, and prosecute the perpetrators who engage in, and profit from, automobile theft, automobile insurance fraud and no-fault fraud in Kings County, with the goal of significantly decreasing the incidents of these crimes in Brooklyn and elsewhere. The grant program allows the office to comprehensively address the auto insurance and no-fault insurance fraud problem, while generating intelligence and cooperators who will help identify individuals for investigation and prosecution of auto theft and insurance fraud, as well as other criminal activities. The Rackets Division is responsible for this endeavor and has successfully conducted investigations into automobile and insurance-related crimes, which include car thefts; chop shops; odometer rollbacks; collision shops submitting fraudulent claims, such as enhanced damage claim; and fraudulent vandalism claims.

The Division also investigates medical clinics involved in fraudulent activities, durable medical equipment providers, as well as arsons for profit, identity theft, dealers of fraudulent insurance cards and money laundering. The office also has a Zone system of prosecution in which assistant district attorneys (ADAs) are assigned to Zones covering specific precincts in Kings County.

According to the New York State Department of Insurance, there were 4,416 incidents of suspected automobile insurance fraud in Kings County during 2008. In 2009, there were 4,907 incidents, representing an approximate 11% increase. Of the incidents in 2009, 4,274 were classified as suspected no-fault fraud. According to Department of Insurance statistics, Kings County still has the highest incidence of suspected no-fault fraud in the state. According to NYPD statistics, there were 45 felony arrests for insurance fraud-related crimes in 2009.

According to the New York City Police Department there were 3,898 motor vehicles reported stolen in 2008, and in 2009 there were 3,438 motor vehicles reported stolen, representing a 12% reduction in auto thefts. Of those vehicles reported stolen, 2,027 were recovered. The NYPD reports that 383 felony arrests were made in 2009 for auto theft.

The three-prong program instituted by the Kings County District Attorney's Office (KCDA) has made possible vigorous and successful prosecution of perpetrators who commit the automobile theft and insurance fraud. These prosecutions have also resulted in more jail sentences being imposed, particularly with misdemeanor offenders.

The first prong of this investigative strategy is to focus resources to prosecute street-level automobile theft that plagues the community by coordinating the efforts of the Rackets Division with the Complaint Room, through which all arrests in Kings County are processed. Working as a unified team, these units work in conjunction with outside agencies, particularly the Police Department Automobile Crimes Division and local precincts resulting in a more effective prosecutorial approach designed to deter criminal behavior.

A deputy bureau chief of the Rackets Division reviews all Complaint Room sheets relating to the target crimes and evaluates whether the most severe criminal laws supported by the evidence were charged. The cases are then tracked to the appropriate Zone, and are handled by designated ADAs, who specialize in automobile and insurance fraud cases. ADAs have special training in the area and a mandate to get the toughest pleas possible. Further, the ADAs can consult with senior investigative attorneys who are extremely experienced in the investigation and prosecution of complex matters for advice and counsel.

The second prong is for the Rackets Division of the KCDA to continue to use its resources to investigate all aspects of the targeted crimes, including:

- a) fraudulent insurance claims arising out of fictitious automobile theft claims;
- b) inflated or fictitious invoices from collision repair shops;
- c) fraudulent no-fault claims arising from "staged" or fake accidents;
- d) fraudulent medical claims arising from unnecessary, exaggerated, or non-existent medical treatment;
- e) fraudulent durable medical equipment claims arising from the non-supply or inflated costs of equipment; and
- f) the interrelationships between medical clinics, management and billing agencies, "runners," lawyers, doctors, and other medical personnel, durable medical equipment providers, and corrupt employees of law enforcement agencies.

The third prong is the continuation of attempts to get at the proceeds of these crimes. Working with a designated ADA assigned to the KCDA Money Laundering and Revenue Crimes Bureau, as well as other individuals all trained and experienced in the areas of automobile crime and insurance fraud, the office attempts to decrease the profit of those who benefit from their criminal activity. This prong of the approach is intended to result in an increased number of actions for forfeiture and other financial

penalties. Accordingly, the office worked with the New York City Department of Finance, Criminal Audit, and Tax Enforcement Unit.

In 2008, the Rackets Division initiated an investigation into a corrupt ring of individuals who were engaged in numerous areas of criminal activity, including stealing money from automobile insurance companies by making false theft and vandalism claims on late-model luxury cars and SUVs such as BMW, Lexus and Mercedes Benz sedans, Land Rovers, and Cadillac Escalades. From 2002 to 2008, this conspiracy netted the defendants more than \$450,000 from eight different insurance companies. This investigation is ongoing and to date, has resulted in four felony pleas, all of which involve jail time. Several defendants' cases are still pending and the original investigation has expanded and continues.

To facilitate the successful prosecution of these organized and complex criminal enterprises, additional investigative techniques are being utilized such as eavesdropping warrants or wiretaps. The results have been positive, but the resources required to effectively conduct these investigations is quite extensive and labor intensive.

The office also continues to investigate in a more conventional manner individuals who engage in no-fault insurance scams. They also often work as a group, to ensure the effectiveness of their scams. Investigations conducted in Kings County show that there are many medical clinics that exist for the primary purpose of engaging in no-fault fraud. Many of these clinics work under multiple company names; however, the billing is generally handled by a number of entities.

Kings County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
Investigations initiated	3	MVT-related misdemeanor prosecutions	486
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	0	MVT misdemeanor convictions	301
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	MVT-related felony prosecutions	486
Confidential informants developed	2	MVT felony convictions	90
Warrants issued	0	Indictments	138

New York County Office of the District Attorney

The New York County District Attorney's Office continued its coordinated efforts throughout 2009 to effectively investigate, prosecute and reduce motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud in Manhattan. Assistant district attorneys (ADAs) responsible for cases that fall within the grant program are members of several different bureaus within the Investigation Division and Trial Division of the Office. The program is overseen by the bureau chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, who has been a member of the program since its inception in 1999. In addition to the Special Prosecutions Bureau, ADAs in the Rackets Bureau and the Major Economic Crime Bureau have handled significant cases under the MVTIFP Grant Program. The most significant case pending

in 2009, an enterprise corruption indictment of numerous individuals and corporations charged with operating a “medical mill,” is being handled by ADAs in the Major Economic Crime Bureau. The program also drew on the experience of senior attorneys from the Money Laundering and Tax Crimes Unit and received valuable assistance from the Asset Forfeiture Unit in several cases. While attorneys in the Investigation Division handled long-term investigations usually related to insurance fraud, ADAs in the Office’s Trial Bureaus prosecuted a large number of motor vehicle-related crimes, including theft and a wide variety of offenses involving the use and production of fraudulent documents such as licenses, insurance cards, VIN plates, license plates, and vehicle registrations. Most of these cases originated with street-level arrests by NYPD officers and came to the DA’s Office via its Early Complaint Assessment Bureau, where charges are reviewed and formal complaints are drafted against the defendants. The Bureau of Planning and Management continued to manage systems for the collection and tracking of data on motor vehicle theft cases.

While motor vehicle theft remains a problem in Manhattan, the city as a whole saw a drop in the number of vehicles stolen in 2009. NYPD statistics indicate that reported thefts were down city-wide approximately 14% from 2008. The number of felony vehicle theft arrests prosecuted in 2009 in Manhattan, however, did not vary substantially from last year’s number. The possession, use and production of fraudulent motor vehicle-related documents continues to be a serious problem. Defendants arrested for auto theft or possession of stolen vehicles were frequently also in possession of fraudulent drivers’ licenses, insurance cards, registration cards, VIN plates or other documents. These types of documents, particularly drivers’ licenses, continue to be used in a wide variety of other crimes, such as bank fraud, check fraud, credit card fraud, identity theft and other larceny schemes. A number of insurance fraud arrests and indictments involving owner give-ups, false reports of theft, and vehicle arsons took place in 2009. Despite the high unemployment rate in 2009, the office did not see a significant increase in arrests for these offenses from last year. The number of defendants charged with participating in staged accidents in Manhattan continued to decline somewhat from past years. The State Insurance Department’s Insurance Frauds Bureau (IFB), however, recorded a 2009 increase in the number of insurers reporting suspected fraudulent auto insurance claims. Potential reasons for this discrepancy between IFB reports of suspected fraud and the number of arrests for insurance fraud will be examined further in 2010.

Collaboration remains an essential component of the District Attorney’s MVTIF Program. In 2009, members of the unit continued to meet and confer with the State Insurance Frauds Bureau, investigators from numerous insurance carriers, the New York PD, National Insurance Crime Bureau, the New York State Police, the Department of Motor Vehicles, other DA’s Offices, the NYC Fire Marshals, the Metropolitan Transit Authority and others to combat these crimes. The strategy continued to be a combination of aggressive, effective prosecution of individual cases arising from street-level arrests and initiating more long-term investigations of complex fraud and multi-defendant schemes when possible.

A long-term investigation conducted by the Frauds Bureau (now a part of the newly formed Major Economic Crime Bureau) with the NYPD’s Fraudulent Accident

Investigation Squad, NICB, and insurance carriers resulted in the 2008 indictment and arrest of 13 defendants and 10 corporations for operating a “medical mill” that stole more than \$6 million from a dozen insurance companies. The investigation included a series of undercover visits to the clinic – St. Nicholas Medical Care P.C. - and the execution of extensive search warrants. The defendants include runners who staged fraudulent car accidents and brought the supposedly injured “patients” to the clinic for treatment; doctors and other health care professionals employed by the clinic who prescribed unnecessary treatments and procedures, falsified records, and submitted fraudulent insurance claims; and the actual owner of the corrupt clinic who paid the runners to stage crashes and procure patients, directed the doctors and other staff in their schemes, and concealed his ownership and control of the enterprise through a web of corporations, management companies and related bank accounts. In addition to treating “staged accident” patients who had no actual injuries at all, the clinic prescribed similar fraudulent courses of treatment for patients who came in after being injured in real accidents. In some instances, medical services billed for were provided only in part or not provided at all, and insurers were routinely billed for treatments and equipment that was medically unnecessary. An asset forfeiture action was also initiated. As this case continued to move toward trial in 2009, a related investigation led to an additional arrest and indictment. Another long-term investigation and prosecution of a “medical mill” enterprise that began in 2005 came to a close in 2009 with the sentencing of eight remaining defendants out of the original 16. Two ring leaders received prison sentences of 2 to 6 years, another defendant was sentenced to 6 months in jail, and the others received a variety of non-jail sentences. Asset forfeiture actions filed in the case have thus far resulted in the forfeiture of more than \$4 million dollars, the majority of which has gone to make restitution to the various insurance companies victimized by the defendants. The earlier trial conviction of a physician charged in this case was upheld on appeal. The Appellate Division specifically held that it was permissible for the prosecution’s expert witness to testify that the defendant, in the expert’s opinion, took actions for which there was no reasonable medical explanation or justification, a ruling which may be useful for future prosecutions in this area.

The Rackets Bureau has been conducting an investigation for several years into crooked personal injury attorneys paying bribes to runners, hospital employees, and clinic owners to steer no-fault accident cases to them. Twelve individuals have been convicted as a result of this investigation, and in 2009, two attorneys pleaded guilty to tax fraud, raising the number of convictions to 14. These two attorneys allowed a previously convicted, disbarred attorney to continue the practice of law by setting up a branch office of their firm that was used as a front for his practice. The disbarred attorney gave them monthly cash payments for fronting his unlawful practice and allowed them to take some of his more lucrative cases for themselves. The two attorneys used a shell corporation to share legal fees with their disbarred cohort. They pleaded guilty to failing to report the illegal cash income on their taxes.

The C.E.O. of an industrial supply company was indicted and pleaded guilty this year to grand larceny and scheme to defraud for supplying numerous counterfeit parts to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) for installation on NYC buses and subways. He and his corporation are required to pay more than \$125,000 in restitution and \$10,000 in fines. A further condition of the plea and sentence is the dissolution of the

corporation that defrauded the city. Several defendants were charged with insurance fraud in connection to staged or fabricated motor vehicle accidents and owner give-up schemes. An intensive investigation by the NYPD and the NYC Fire Marshals led to the arrest and indictment of a defendant who set four cars on fire on Central Park West. Always acting in the early morning hours, the defendant smashed windows on the target vehicles, doused the interiors with gasoline, and set them ablaze, completely destroying them. He also set an apartment lobby on fire during his nine-day spree. He was in possession of a loaded gun when arrested - just as he was about to set another fire - and a search warrant on his apartment yielded ammunition, gasoline, and other incriminating material. He was apprehended during a carefully coordinated operation in which undercover officers hid in numerous vehicles in the neighborhood in which the arsons were occurring, waiting for the arsonist to strike again. This indictment was still pending as 2009 came to a close.

Defendants in a substantial number of vehicle theft and fraudulent documents cases received state prison sentences. In one case, a commercial tractor-trailer truck driver was arrested and indicted for using a forged license after he struck and killed a pedestrian. He pleaded guilty at the end of 2009 and is expected to receive a state prison sentence. Ongoing staff training also remains a component of the office's strategy. ADAs attended NYPTI's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud seminar at the NYC Police Academy. The program coordinator gave a presentation at the FDNY Fire Marshal Academy class that included a discussion of motor vehicle arson.

New York County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	0	MVIF investigations initiated	10
MVT indictments	115	MVIF indictments	64
MVT related misdemeanor prosecutions	391	MVIF related misdemeanor prosecutions	259
MVT related felony prosecutions	229	MVIF related felony prosecutions	190
MVT misdemeanor convictions	160	MVIF misdemeanor convictions	43
MVT felony convictions	85	MVIF felony convictions	58
Warrants issued	0	Confidential informants developed	12

Queens County Office of the District Attorney

The Queens District Attorney's Office Specialized Auto Crime and Insurance Fraud Unit is responsible for handling auto crime and insurance fraud-related investigations and prosecutions in Queens County. The unit is comprised of assistant district attorneys and investigators with specific experience and expertise in motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud and focuses on long-term investigative efforts, sting operations and the handling of specially selected trial matters that target organized motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud activity.

The Office engages in ongoing gathering and analysis of crime patterns, intelligence data, and emerging patterns in the community and utilizes a full range of investigative techniques including intensive physical surveillance, use of informants and undercover operatives, sting operations, and sophisticated surveillance and investigative techniques, such as search warrants, wiretapping or other electronic eavesdropping and surveillance. A major emphasis in both investigations and prosecutions of organized auto crime and insurance fraud matters continues to be building enterprise corruption cases, where possible, to ensure that the organized foundations of the crime activity are uprooted and maximum sentences are obtained when possible. In addition, assigned prosecutors aggressively address individual prosecutions in the county and target them for strong dispositions and sentences, particularly because of the often discerned linkage of individual prosecutions to an overall pattern of criminal activity.

In 2009, the office's Specialized Auto Crime/Insurance Fraud Unit handled 100 new cases, with 41 dispositions, including 23 felony pleas, 11 state prison sentences, four city jail sentences, and one probation sentence.

Over the past several years there has been a large number of insurance fraud prosecutions and successful dispositions in this area by the specialized unit. In 2009, the unit disposed of 14 cases, in which the defendant specifically pleaded guilty to the crime of insurance fraud, with eight of these cases disposed of with felony pleas. In addition, a great deal of effort was spent on following up on any licensed professionals found to be involved in insurance fraud schemes to ensure that they also were dealt with administratively by their respective licensing agencies.

New auto crime patterns are emerging, with an increase in the number of high-end cars being stolen and exported out of state or to foreign countries. In addition, the theft of high-end vehicles from dealership lots, the theft of vehicles for the purpose of harvesting scrap metal, and the number of individual owner "give-up" cases are on the rise, as is the use of stolen or fake identities and false documentation to purchase and obtain leases for vehicles.

The use of the Internet also adds a new dynamic to the auto crime problem, making it more diffuse, complex and, therefore, often more difficult to track. Groups of individuals are coming together to profit from the lucrative auto crime "industry" in new ways, such as using Craig's List to sell and purchase stolen vehicles and component parts.

The reasons for the auto crime problem in Queens County are: the county has an abundance of parking lots, high-rise complexes and open areas, where vehicles may be parked for a long period of time. It also is home to two airports, both of which have long-term parking facilities. The combination of many high-quality cars; a large concentration of auto junkyards, collision shops; and a network of highways convenient for driving stolen cars away, also continues to make Queens fertile ground for those who engage in auto crime.

In the area of insurance fraud, much of the problem in the county remains organized in complex criminal enterprises that are difficult to infiltrate. These enterprises take advantage of numerous manifestations of property and personal injury claim insurance fraud, including false stolen vehicles reports, enhanced collision damage claims, owner-give-ups, "bump and run" schemes, staged accidents and sophisticated no-fault medical mill scams. Although the office has made great strides in insurance fraud by shutting down numerous fraudulent medical clinics, new ones continue to emerge in the County.

The following are examples of successful investigative and prosecutorial efforts in both the auto crime and insurance fraud areas in 2009:

1. A chiropractor with a practice in Woodhaven was charged with insurance fraud and other charges after allegedly convincing a "patient" to fabricate injuries and then billing an insurance company more than \$26,000 for medical treatments over three months. The defendant then allegedly gave a \$1,000 kickback to the "patient," who was actually an undercover investigator. Charges remain pending at this time.
2. Eight alleged members of an auto theft ring - including a public school assistant principal - were indicted on charges involving the alleged theft of 16 late model, high-end automobiles with a total value exceeding \$400,000 mostly from dealership parking lots in Queens County and elsewhere. Some of the automobiles - the majority of which were 2008 BMWs, Mercedes Benzes and Lincolns - had their vehicle identification numbers changed or altered before being resold. The charges are the result of a joint undercover investigation by the New York City Police Department's Auto Crime Division and the Queens District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau. To date, these charges have resulted in two jail sentences, one conditional charge sentence, and one jail/probation split sentence; remaining charges remain pending at this time.
3. A Middle Village physician who was to begin trial on charges of falsely billing insurance carriers under New York's no-fault law for costly medical tests he allegedly never provided to motor vehicle accident victims pled guilty to fourth degree insurance fraud. He is the second doctor charged with insurance fraud from the same Jamaica, Queens clinic. The defendant was charged with allegedly submitting insurance claims for costly nerve conduction studies and needle electromyographs between January and December 2006 that, in fact, were not performed on seven individuals. As a result of the alleged false claims, insurance companies paid out more than \$21,000 to the defendant's employer - the medical clinic. The defendant received a conditional discharge sentence.

Office of the Queens County District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	6	MVIF investigations initiated	6
MVT investigations filed with SAFETNet	28	MVIF investigations filed with SAFETNet	60
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	3	Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0
MVT related misdemeanor prosecutions	197	MVIF related misdemeanor prosecutions	12
MVT related felony prosecutions	17	MVIF related felony prosecutions	19
MVT warrants issued	11	Warrants issued	2

Richmond County Office of the District Attorney

The Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Program (MVTIFP) operates under the aegis of the Supreme Court Investigations Bureau within the Office of the Richmond County District Attorney. The allocated funds were applied to the partial salaries of five program staff. Case prosecution protocols include the involvement of an assigned assistant district attorney (ADA) as early as case investigation and through the disposition. The Investigations Bureau Chief assigns felony program cases, oversees their prosecution, provides advice to prosecutors and confers with the District Attorney regarding specific program cases. The grant program's assigned Supreme Court assistant district attorney investigates and prosecutes felony program cases. Added to the program last year were two staff prosecutors from Criminal Court. They investigate and prosecute misdemeanor cases and maintain the statistics for misdemeanor convictions.

In Richmond County, there were 424 vehicles reported stolen during 2009, with 242 vehicle recoveries. During that same period, 54 felony arrests for motor vehicle theft were prosecuted. In Criminal Court, the reported prosecution was 77 misdemeanor arrests for motor vehicle theft and 10 misdemeanor arrests for insurance fraud.

The overall goal of the MVTIFP plan is the continuation of the successful reduction of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud crime. Vehicle thefts in Richmond County appear to be crimes of opportunity. Generally, motor vehicle theft has slightly decreased.

In one investigation, the senior detective investigator, accompanied by other investigators, equipped with a **New York Statewide Police Information Network (NYSPIN)** access mobile computer, patrolled local areas and randomly checked license plates for stolen vehicles. The senior detective investigator also is the program liaison to other law enforcement agencies, and the office participated with investigations initiated by other law enforcement agencies. While working with other agencies, shared intelligence is collected from reliable information provided by creditable confidential informants. The Office of the Richmond County District Attorney during this funding year continued to develop relationships with confidential informants; as a result of information provided, search warrants were obtained and four individuals were arrested on felony counts of insurance fraud.

Despite warnings and public service announcements, cars are still stolen with keys in the ignition. Additionally car hopping, which involves pilfering items left in cars, continues. The typical criminal charges for car hopping are criminal possession of stolen property, petit larceny and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Office of the Richmond County District Attorney	
Stolen vehicles reported	424
Stolen vehicles recovered	242
MVT felony arrests prosecuted	54
MVT misdemeanor arrests prosecuted	77

New York City Police Department – Auto Crime Division

The Auto Crime Division, established in 1980 and part of the Organized Crime Control Bureau, is a citywide investigative unit that investigates chop shops, auto salvage yards, organized auto theft rings, and auto theft export. The Division also actively investigates insurance fraud and closely monitors businesses associated with the automotive industry.

Total grand larceny auto complaints decreased by 14.4% citywide in 2009 as compared to 2008. The two-year decrease is 19%, the eight-year decrease is 63.8% and the 16-year decrease is an astounding 90.4%. The acquisition of funding from the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board (MVTIFP) continues to permit the NYPD to effectively combat auto crime. Some of the methods utilized by the Auto Crime Division were sting operations, Multi-Agency Response for Community Hot-spots (MARCH) operations, undercover vehicle buy back operations, Get Legit or Quit Operations (GLQ) and training for members of the department. In addition, new technology is being successfully utilized by members of the division. License Plate Readers have been designed for covert installation into Division vehicles and are used frequently during ongoing investigations.

From Jan. 1, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2009, there were four major cases brought to completion by the Auto Crime Division. The following are highlights of these operations:

On Feb. 11, 2009, members of the Auto Crime Division initiated the takedown of Case #08-054 Operation “**Vehicles For Sail,**” arresting 19 individuals, executing seven search warrants and recovering 11 auto’s, one dump truck and one Caterpillar backhoe, an estimated recovery value of \$426,000. This 12-month investigation is being prosecuted by the New York State Attorney General’s Office Organized Crime Task Force.

On April 16, 2009, members of the Auto Crime Division initiated the takedown of Case #08-001 Operation “**Steal In a Box.**” This case investigated more than 60 vehicle thefts that occurred in the five boroughs, the surrounding counties and in New Jersey. A Bronx-based group of Dominican “steal crew” members were identified; this crew had the capability to alter vehicle identification numbers and

provide forged titles to match the false vehicles identifiers. This investigation also identified targets that were exporting a large number of these vehicles to Albania, Russia and Iceland. The takedown of this case resulted in the arrest of nine individuals, the recovery of 43 stolen vehicles (with an estimated value of \$1.5 million). All subjects were charged in the Southern District of New York with conspiracy to export stolen vehicles along with the interstate trafficking of stolen vehicles.

On April 27, 2009 members of the Auto Crime Division initiated the takedown of Case #08-041 Operation “**Lockbox**,” which resulted in the arrest of eight individuals, the execution of two search warrants, the overall recovery of 16 stolen autos (valued at approximately \$500,000) and a total of six search warrants during the case. The Queens County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

On October 7, 2009, members of the Auto Crime Division closed Case #08-184, which was a 12-month investigation focusing on the thefts of high-end vehicles from valet locations within Queens. During this investigation, 13 individuals were arrested, four search warrants were executed and 19 vehicles (valued at approximately \$1.5 million) were recovered. The Queens County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

New York City Police Department Auto Crime Division			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT felony arrests	273	Vehicles reported stolen	10,670
MVT misdemeanor arrests	41	Vehicles recovered	137
Major cases initiated	3	SAFETNet targets entered	677
Search warrants executed	28	Officers trained at Auto Crime School	1,346

New York City Police Department – Auto Larceny Units

The seven Auto Larceny Units are a support unit under the direction of the Patrol Services Bureau and respective Patrol Borough Commanders. The following is a summary of activities for 2009.

Manhattan North Auto Larceny Unit

The Manhattan North Auto Larceny Unit operates within the confines of Patrol Borough Manhattan North, which covers upper Manhattan, 59th Street to the Bronx, and the Hudson River to the East River. The unit has one lieutenant, one sergeant, and three police officers. These officers patrol designated precincts where auto related crimes are the most prevalent, using unmarked vehicles and utilizing a License Plate Reader assigned to one vehicle. Officers also conduct repair shop and tow truck inspections, and combat auto-related crimes with overtime patrols.

Patrol Borough Manhattan North reported 71 grand larcenies of autos in 2010 as opposed to 107 in the same period last year, which is a 33.6% decrease. Arrests for grand larceny auto have also decreased this year by 75% for the same period, which could be attributed to fact that fewer autos are being stolen.

Auto larceny trends have not changed as a whole within the past year. Vehicles are still being stolen for parts, equipment, and use. The unit conducts patrol and shop inspections to deter the selling of stolen parts and the use of stolen vehicles that have had their original vehicle identification number (vin) removed and a dummy vin put in its place. Trends also include the larcenies of motorcycles, GPS systems, and high-end vehicles from parking garages.

Some of the strategies implemented by the unit are continued patrol in high auto theft prone areas utilizing the License Plate Reader. The unit also will conduct vehicle checkpoints, shop, and tow truck inspections when not on regular patrol and will continue to work with the NYPD Auto Crime Division, other police agencies, rental companies and the NICB to share and gain intelligence.

Manhattan North Auto Larceny Unit			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT/IF investigations initiated	0	Reported motor vehicle thefts	1108
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	0	Stolen parts recovered	0
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Stolen vehicles recovered	14
MVT-related misdemeanor arrests	15	Value of parts recovered	0
MVIF-related misdemeanor arrests	10	Value of vehicles recovered	\$150,000
MVT-related felony arrests	16	MVIF-related felony arrests	5
Confidential informants developed	2		

Bronx Auto Larceny Unit

The Bronx Auto Larceny Unit consists of one lieutenant, one sergeant, and six police officers. The unit's function consists of patrolling areas that have a high incidence of vehicle theft and locations where stolen vehicles or the remnants of stolen vehicles have been recovered. Auto Larceny Unit members patrol these targeted locations in vehicles equipped with a License Plate Reader and Lo-Jack (locates vehicles with Lo-Jack anti-theft tracking device). While on patrol, all unit members have photo packages of known auto-related offenders listing their last known address, the areas in which they are known to operate and their most recent law enforcement photograph. Vehicle stops are effected on a number of indicators of auto theft, stolen vehicles are recovered, interviews of witnesses and perpetrators are conducted, and the area is canvassed for video surveillance. The unit gathers information from prisoners, complainants, and witnesses and uses this information to initiate investigations and alert fellow law enforcement personnel of new crime trends in order to reduce auto-related crime. Unit members continually visit and conduct inspections of scrap yards, motor vehicle repair shops, used glass and parts businesses on a regular basis to discourage the buying and sale of stolen vehicle parts. The unit further conducts frequent tow truck inspections to discourage the theft of motor vehicles through the use of a tow truck.

There were 2,395 vehicles reported stolen in Patrol Borough Bronx (PBBX) in 2009 as compared to 2,891 for 2008, a decrease of 17.2%. Insurance fraud crime indicators and intelligence shows a sharp decrease in insurance fraud.

The vast majority of vehicles reported stolen in PBBX are Honda and Toyotas, with most being seven years old. Although there is a continuing problem with owner “give ups” and vehicle arson, there has been a dramatic decrease due to the efforts of the unit in investigating and arrests for insurance fraud.

The unit has implemented several strategies throughout the year including the use of “bait” cars in target areas and short-term investigations in warehouses doubling as “chop shops.” The unit also responds to, and investigates, all vehicle fires in the Bronx, which has led to several arrests. In 2009, the unit recovered 152 stolen vehicles, conducted in excess of 200 motor vehicle repair shop inspections, 72 tow truck inspections and initiated 35 short-term investigations. The unit made 178 auto-related arrests (97 felonies and 81 misdemeanors).

The unit confers daily with the NYPD Auto Crime Division and adjoining Auto Larceny Units and also is in constant communication with adjoining police departments of Yonkers, Pelham Manor and Mount Vernon. This unit conducts bi-monthly operations with both the state Department of Probation and the state Division of Parole for grand larceny auto-related individuals. The unit’s Insurance Fraud team along with supervisors, are in constant contact with both the Bronx District Attorneys Office and state Insurance Frauds Bureau and also utilizes the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs in matters of tow truck companies, their operators, scrap yards and repair shops.

Bronx Auto Larceny Units			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
Reported stolen vehicles	2395	Stolen vehicles recovered	152
Stolen parts recovered	24	Investigations initiated	35
Investigations filed w/ UDECS	5	Number of hits w/ SafeTNet	5
Felony arrests	97	Misdemeanor arrests	81
Tow truck inspections	72	Repair shop inspections	205
Command staff/ ALU meetings	30	Value of vehicles recovered	1.2 M
Confidential informants	2	Value of parts recovered	2,500

Brooklyn South Auto Larceny Unit

The Brooklyn South Auto Larceny Unit is composed of one lieutenant, two sergeants and 12 police officers. Two squads cover two tours of duty, from 9a.m. to 5:30p.m. and 8p.m. until 4:30a.m. For the year ending 2009 versus 2008, there was an 8.3% reduction in auto theft in the area covered by the unit.

Trends have remained the same in the past few years. Year to date for 2010, the top five models of cars stolen are Nissan, Ford, Honda, Toyota and Dodge. This unit has made several arrests for grand larceny auto on straight steals. There have not been any arrests for arson or insurance fraud to date. There are three scrap yards in the

confines of Brooklyn South and the unit closely monitors their activity; those businesses have continued to operate in a legitimate and lawful manner.

Brooklyn South Auto Larceny			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	0	Reported motor vehicle thefts	2,040
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	0	Stolen parts recovered	7
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Stolen vehicles recovered	199
MVT-related misdemeanor arrests	134	Value of parts recovered	8,000
MVT-related felony arrests	138	Value of vehicles recovered	1,971,489
MVIF-related felony arrests	2		

Brooklyn North Auto Larceny Unit

The Brooklyn North Auto Larceny Unit is a borough unit dedicated to the reduction of grand larceny of auto, apprehension of perpetrators, the recovery of stolen vehicles and vehicle contents and insurance-related crimes. The unit consists of one lieutenant, one sergeant, two detectives, and three police officers. The unit arrests perpetrators and track the cases through the criminal justice system until the cases are disposed.

The unit is deployed by Patrol Borough Brooklyn North on a daily basis and is designed to provide additional support and expertise to patrol precincts experiencing increases in reports of stolen motor vehicles. In 2009, the unit made 64 arrests for grand larceny of auto.

The Patrol Borough Brooklyn North had 1,399 motor vehicles reported stolen in 2009. Though the volume of stolen vehicles is staggering, the crime reduction efforts of Patrol Borough Brooklyn North are evidenced by a 16.1% reduction for 2009, a 21.1% reduction for the past two years, and an 85.4% reduction for the past 16 years. Strategies are closely monitored and adjusted to address current trends and unexpected increases. There have been four burned stolen vehicle recoveries, about which the New York City Fire Marshal, National Insurance Crime Bureau and Insurance Companies have been notified for possible insurance fraud.

There are loosely organized groups that operate auto theft rings. Identity-related thefts and thefts where vehicles are used in another crime are related, and opportunity crimes, (i.e. keys left in vehicle) are a continuing problem.

To enhance investigative efforts of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud crimes, the unit coordinates with police departments, the County District Attorney, state Insurance Frauds Bureau, state Department of Motor Vehicles and State Police Auto Crime Bureau. Also, NICB is notified of all recovered vehicles when potential insurance value is noted and of all patterns or trends in Brooklyn North.

Brooklyn North Auto Larceny Unit			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT-related felony arrests	64	Reported motor vehicle thefts	1,399
Stolen parts recovered	28	Stolen vehicles recovered	514
Value of vehicles recovered	\$1,000,000	Value of parts recovered	\$5,000

Queens South Auto Larceny Unit

The Queens South Auto Larceny Unit is tasked with patrol duties with special attention to vehicle-related crimes in the precincts that comprise the Patrol Borough Queens South. The unit functions as an augment to the precinct patrol with the goal of reducing vehicle-related crimes. The Patrol Borough Queens South consists of the following Precincts in Queens County: 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, and 113. Currently, the Queens South Auto Larceny Unit consists of a lieutenant, two sergeants, and nine police officers who are deployed on two separate tours of duty.

The Auto Larceny Unit performs patrol duties with vehicles equipped with Lo-Jack units, mobile digital computers, and one vehicle that is equipped with a license plate reader device in attempt to detect and deter vehicle related crimes. Deployment for patrol is determined by analysis of vehicle-related crimes in order to respond to the current crime trends.

In 2009, there were 1,793 vehicles reported stolen from the precincts that comprise Patrol Borough Queens South, an 11.5% decrease from the 2,027 vehicles reported stolen in 2008. Of these reported stolen vehicles, some are actually acts of insurance fraud. Although it is difficult to put a firm number on how many are fraudulent reports, there were 60 arrests for insurance fraud made in Queens County, with Queens South Auto Larceny Unit making four arrests for insurance fraud based on fraudulently reported stolen vehicles in 2009.

An analysis of stolen vehicles, arrests involving stolen vehicles, debriefings of arrested perpetrators, and of recovered stolen vehicles in Patrol Borough Queens South have revealed a few trends.

The first trend involves Honda Civics and Acuras made in the 1990s. These vehicles are primarily stolen for parts, particularly V-Tec engines and transmissions. Honda Civics are commonly used for street racing and are relatively easy to steal. From arrests, it appears that these stolen cars are stripped in private lots and backyards in Queens for their parts to be used in other Civics. Some individuals steal these cars for personal use of the parts, while others seek to profit from members of the street racing subculture who are in need of parts. These vehicles are regularly recovered in residential areas with major parts missing.

Another Queens South vehicle theft trend involves Ford Econoline Vans, which are ubiquitous on major thoroughfares, as they are the primary vehicle for the livery or "Dollar Van" routes. The Ford Econoline is another vehicle that is relatively easy for thieves to steal and the majority of parts have no indentifiable markings. Vans are

recovered with seats, doors, and other body parts missing, and in some cases without engines and transmissions. In some cases, they are intact but have their VIN's altered in an attempt to conceal the stolen origin of vehicle. They also are utilized for livery service without changing anything to conceal that the vehicle is actually stolen.

Also targeted are the Dodge Caravan, the Chrysler Town & Country and the Plymouth Voyager, which are essentially the same vehicle. The skill level to steal these vehicles is relatively low, and these vehicles seem to be stolen often to commit other crimes. On several occasions, the unit has recovered this type of stolen minivan with stolen motorcycles concealed inside the vehicles. The motorcycles themselves are stolen with the intent to be used intact and for parts. These stolen minivans have also been associated with street robberies and residential burglaries.

There also are crimes of opportunity, created when an owner has left the key in the ignition and vehicle running. These opportunities are readily exploited by criminals looking for easy transportation, and in many cases these, cars are recovered relatively intact. Another trend involves a wide range of older model vehicles being stolen so they can be scrapped for their metal; or the vehicle is usually destroyed prior to it being reported stolen. This trend was less prevalent in 2009 than it was in 2008 primarily due to the reduced commodity price for steel.

The Queens South Auto Larceny Unit is primarily a patrol-based enforcement unit. Areas for deployment are determined by an analysis of the current crime trends. Patrol is carried out in vehicles that are equipped with Lo-Jack, mobile digital terminals, and one vehicle that is equipped with a License Plate Reader device. While on patrol, car stops are effected for traffic infractions committed in stolen vehicles and for any vehicle displaying indicators of being stolen. Tow trucks are targeted for enforcement in an effort to deter their use in vehicle theft. The unit also routinely conducts licensing inspections of motor vehicle repair shops and tow yards in an effort to deter a possible revenue source for vehicle thieves.

In addition to making arrests and recovering stolen vehicles on patrol, patrol observations lead to the initiation of short-term investigations. Short-term investigations have been initiated as the result of recovering stolen vehicles and burnt-out vehicles. There were six such investigations into Insurance Fraud initiated by members of the Queens South Auto Larceny Unit, four of which resulted in arrest of the vehicle's owner. As a part of these investigations, the unit has coordinated efforts with the fire marshalls, state Department of Motor Vehicles investigators, the Queens District Attorney's Office, the New York City Police Department Auto Crime Division, and agents of the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

State Department of Motor Vehicle investigators have worked with members of Queens South Auto Larceny Unit to investigate and arrest individuals who were stealing older model vehicles, forging the required documentation, and selling these vehicles for scrap metal at scrap yards in Brooklyn. Both tow truck operators and individuals who contracted tow truck operators were identified and arrested for stealing and destroying these motor vehicles.

In 2009, members of the unit arrested eight individuals on charges involving Altered or illegal vehicle identification numbers. These arrests were enhanced by members of the Auto Crime Division and the National Insurance Crime Division.

In October 2009, a short-term investigation into an individual selling stolen motorcycle parts on E-Bay was initiated with the assistance of the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the Queens District Attorney's Office. Parts from six motorcycles stolen from Queens County were positively identified as having been sold or were currently for sale on E-Bay, and during the course of the investigation, the individual and the persons to whom he sold the stolen property were identified. Parts for these stolen motorcycles were shipped around the country from California to upstate New York. Local police agencies were able to positively identify and recover these stolen parts. During the course of the investigation, with the assistance of the Queens District Attorney's Office, subpoenas for records and a search warrant of the perpetrator's residence were obtained. The individual was arrested, the search warrant was executed, and stolen motorcycle parts were recovered from his residence. It was identified that the perpetrator was selling or had sold other motorcycle parts that had not been identified.

Another tool developed to enhance the efforts of motor vehicle crime prevention is the identification of individuals who are motor vehicle crime recidivists in the borough. Individuals are identified through analysis of arrests and debriefings of prisoners. In effort to further identify individuals who may be responsible for the auto related crimes in Patrol Borough Queens South, conferral is done with the city Department of Probation, the New York State Division of Parole, and the Auto Crime Division. Once individuals are identified, the intelligence is shared with the Queens South Precincts and the individuals are monitored.

Queens South Auto Larceny Unit			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT felony arrests	104	MVIF felony arrests	4
MVT misdemeanor arrests	20	MVIF misdemeanor arrests	0
MVT investigations initiated	18	MVIF investigations initiated	6
Reported motor vehicle thefts	1,793	Investigations filed with SAFETNet	1
Stolen parts recovered	8	Stolen vehicles recovered	58

Queens North Auto Larceny Unit

The Queens North Auto Larceny Unit is deployed by Patrol Borough Queens North on a daily/weekly basis and is designed to provide additional support and expertise to patrol precincts experiencing spikes in grand larceny auto and/or larceny from an auto. Through the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft grant program, extended patrols can be done in problematic areas, current strategies can be enhanced, and new strategies can be implemented in order to facilitate the continued reduction of vehicle-related crime. Although Patrol Borough Queens North has consistently been in the top three in volume of vehicles stolen, it fell to fourth for 2009 with 1,630 thefts for the year. The 104th Precinct lead the Borough with 295 thefts for 2009, the 109th Precinct was second with 287 thefts, and the 115th Precinct was third with 233 thefts. Though the sheer volume of stolen vehicles is staggering, the crime reduction efforts of Patrol

Borough Queens North are evidenced by an 18.1% reduction in 2010 to date, a 72.1% reduction for the past eight years, and a 93% reduction for the last 16 years. Strategies are closely monitored and adjusted to address current trends and unexpected increases.

Over the last several years the theft of high intensity discharge headlights and airbags have dominated the focus of auto parts-related theft enforcement. Currently the trend of theft has shifted to both manufacturer installed and portable GPS/navigation systems and larcenies of tire/rims. Grant funds will assist in conducting both reverse sting operations and "Get Legit or Quit" shop inspections for GPS/navigation system programming hardware and tire/rims.

It is learned through prisoner debriefing that a fair amount of perpetrators wanted for vehicle and parts theft are affiliated with gangs and/or neighborhood youths. Often, it is a rather simple operation in which two to three individuals successfully remove tire/rims or GPS/navigation system within a few minutes.

There are currently 169 grand larceny auto recidivists in all of Queens County (based on the standard of two or more arrests for GLA within the borough). Of those, Queens North has a total of 73 with 27 designated as Worst of the Worst offenders (those with three or more GLA arrests within Queens North). A detailed demographical analysis shows that the ages of these offenders vary considerably, and they reside primarily within Queens North, Queens South and Brooklyn North. Of the 73 recidivists, three are on Parole and eight are on Probation.

Due, for the most part, to the recent increase in the price of scrap metal enforcement efforts have turned toward Scrap Metal Processors with Queens North focusing on Hugo Neu Schnitzer East, located at 30-27 Greenpoint Avenue since 1998. Established in 1947 in Jersey City, New Jersey, the business is one of the largest scrap metal processors in the world. Under New York State Motor Vehicle Law, a vehicles eight years or older require only a MV-35 form – not a title – to be processed for scrap metal. Additionally, two truck operators are targeted since they traditionally tow vehicles to scrap yards and have the ability to steal vehicles regardless of their anti-theft devices.

Patrol Borough Queens North currently has three commands in the "Top Ten" steals list citywide; there were well over 100 grand larcenies of tire/rims documented during 2009. Patrol Borough Queens North, including the top theft areas; are principally middle-class residential neighborhoods with small commercial clusters. A high percentage of thefts occur after 8p.m. but with no set time frame pertaining to the month or time of year.

Staten Island Auto Larceny Unit

The Staten Island Auto Larceny Unit is composed of one lieutenant, one sergeant and four police officers and varies its deployment to meet crime trends and patterns. For the year ending 2009 versus 2008, there was an 8.2% reduction in auto theft in Staten Island.

Trends have remained the same in the past few years. Year to date for 2009, the top five vehicle makes stolen were Nissan, Honda, Toyota, Ford & Chevrolet. This unit has made several arrests for grand larceny auto on “straight steals” and there has been one arrest for insurance fraud to date. No arrests have been made for arson. There are three scrap yards on Staten Island and the unit monitors their activity, utilizing close-circuit television technology for covert surveillance. These businesses have continued to operate in a legitimate and lawful manner.

Staten Island Auto Larceny Unit			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	5	Reported motor vehicle thefts	423
MVT felony arrests	32	Stolen vehicles recovered	272
MVT misdemeanor arrests	16	Value of vehicles recovered	\$2,000,000
MVIF investigations initiated	1	MVIF-related felony arrests	1

New York City Police Department – Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad (FAIS)

The FAIS Unit investigates no-fault insurance fraud/medical mills by utilizing undercovers as well as confidential informant. FAIS conducts surveillance on runners, participants, staged accidents and effects arrest in and outside New York City. The unit confers with New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau, National Insurance Crime Bureau, various insurance carriers/ special investigative units, and Precinct Highway Safety Units. It also provides mandatory roll call training and attends DCJS Workshops/training.

Estimates by the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (NHCAA) put the cost of health care fraud at 3% of all health care spending, for a total of \$70 billion annually. There were 15,163 reports of suspected health care fraud received by the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau during 2009: 1,488 involved accident and health insurance, 242 involved disability insurance and 13,433 involved no-fault. New York State has received more than \$12 million in refunds and \$124,000 in fines from five health care providers.

The no-fault schemes involving medical mills and staged accidents continue to be primarily backed by Eastern-European organized crime. Other trends include side-swipe accidents with three or more people in the vehicle. The subjects are of Haitian descent, and their true identities are unknown. This ring has registered vehicles to unassuming victims and they have re-registered vehicles after having multiple accidents with unsuspecting victims. This ring has also assumed the identity of innocent accident victims that are targeted during this scheme. While committing this scheme, the subjects use the information exchanged at the scene of a staged accident, then go to a precinct and fill out a complaint for stolen/lost license (MV78B) in the name of the innocent accident victim. The unsuspecting accident victim’s identity would then be produced at a future suspect accident, with the perpetrator then using the MV78B as their identification.

FAIS STRATEGIES

- Use confidential informants to obtain information for arrests
- Infiltrate criminal enterprises through undercover operations
- Obtaining search/arrest/eavesdropping warrants
- Gather and share intelligence with other law enforcement agencies and the insurance industry.

NYPD – Fraudulent Accident Investigation Squad			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVIF investigations initiated	103	Warrants issued	29
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	124	Hits resulting from SAFETNet	6
MVIF-related misdemeanor arrests	0	MVIF-related felony arrests	88
Confidential informants developed	3		



New York City Suburban Region

Hempstead Village Police Department
 Nassau County Office of the District Attorney
 Nassau County Police Department
 Suffolk County Office of the District Attorney
 Suffolk County Police Department
 Westchester County Office of the District Attorney
 Yonkers City Police Department

Hempstead Village Police Department

The Office of the Chief of Police is responsible for all grant management for the police department. This provides a centralized location to analyze the performance of the grants, coordinate staff resources, expenditures and provide accurate reporting statistics.

In an effort to apprehend car thieves, the Hempstead Police Departments crime analyst conducts a statistical analysis of auto thefts and recoveries occurring within the village. Once “hot spots” are identified, officers will concentrate on those areas in an effort to make apprehensions. Officers will also continue a public education/deterrence program (VIN etching and the Watch Your Car program) started in 2006, as well as enhance its insurance fraud investigations with the assistance of the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office and the Nassau County Police Department.

Small foreign vehicles continued to be the vehicle of choice for car thieves within the village: this mirrors what is happening throughout Nassau County. These trends were mapped by the police department’s crime analyst, who prepared weekly maps for

the department to utilize. Crime analysis drove the enhanced/targeted patrols. The police department continued to work on this project and coordinated prosecutions with the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, and will consult with and request assistance from the New York State Police, the Insurance Frauds Bureau of the state Insurance Department, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

In 2009, 11 sets of license plates were reported stolen and 562 motor vehicle accidents (151 with injuries) were reported during this time period. The LPR was in service for approximately 1,040 hours with reads of 67,190 plates.

Hempstead Village Police Department			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	205	Number of stolen vehicles recovered	96
MVT misdemeanor arrests	13	Number of stolen parts recovered	1
MVT felony arrests	9	Number of investigations initiated	2
Reported motor vehicle thefts	205	Value of recovered motor vehicles	\$670,485

Nassau County Office of the District Attorney

In 2009, multi-agency cooperation continued to be an important part of our strategy to combat auto theft and motor vehicle-related insurance fraud. The office met regularly with local law enforcement to maintain open communication, exchange ideas and intelligence, and plan coordinated investigations as well as short- and long-term operations. Office staff were in constant contact with members of the Nassau County Police Department's (N.C.P.D.) Crimes Against Property Squad (C.A.P.), the Nassau County Police Department's Surveillance Apprehension and Vehicle Enforcement (S.A.V.E.) units, Hempstead Police Department and other police departments. Members of the NCPD C.A.P. Squad participated jointly with district attorney investigators in the debriefings of defendants and confidential informants believed to have information in the area of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle-related insurance fraud. An investigator from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) was assigned to work with the Nassau County District Attorneys' Office. The NICB investigator assigned to the Office coordinated with NICB investigators in neighboring Suffolk County as well as in adjoining New York City boroughs to identify auto theft and insurance fraud crime patterns that reached beyond Nassau's boundaries. He also actively assisted in investigations and provided data analysis and other technical support. During 2009, the Office also worked closely with the New York State Police, the state Department of Motor Vehicles and with the state Insurance Frauds Bureau.

Between January and December 2009, approximately a dozen new motor vehicle insurance fraud investigations were initiated by the Auto Theft and Fraud Unit. Another long-term undercover investigation was initiated by the Rackets Bureau because targets were believed to be involved in organized crime. Two of the investigations initiated by the Auto Theft and Fraud Unit resulted in felony arrests. Two cases were indicted and another four resulted in felony guilty pleas to motor vehicle-related insurance fraud charges. Statistics for misdemeanor arrests and pleas related to

motor vehicle insurance fraud are difficult to ascertain because these cases are often charged with counts other than insurance fraud. Four defendants were sentenced, and 16 targets were entered into SAFETNet for motor vehicle related insurance fraud, with no hits.

In the area of motor vehicle theft, between January and December 2009, four new long term auto theft investigations were initiated. Additionally, the office prosecuted 107 defendants arrested for felony auto theft crimes, and 78 defendants arrested for misdemeanor auto theft crimes. Of those, 23 defendants were indicted, with approximately 99 pleading guilty to felony charges and approximately 70 pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges. Also, 140 defendants were sentenced for auto theft crimes during this time period, and one target was entered into SAFETNet, with no hits.

One strategy that has proven successful in the past and was expanded in 2009 is the debriefing of all defendants charged with auto theft crime and related fraud offenses, as well as those defendants deemed to be "of interest" and therefore, possible sources of intelligence based on their background. These debriefings, conducted by district attorney investigators, are conducted after the case is in the system, and are distinguished from debriefings conducted by arresting police officers at the time of arrest. Although most of these debriefings produced only marginal intelligence, several debriefings did produce significant intelligence and served as the starting point for several new investigations, both into auto crime and other offenses.

The highest instance of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud continues to be in the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th precincts, as originally identified in the Search Apprehension Vehicle Enforcement (SAVE) program strategy. During 2009, the Nassau County Police Department expanded the SAVE program to include the 2nd and 7th Precincts, because of the large shopping malls located within their boundaries. Six out of eight precincts are now part of the program. Detectives from the Crimes Against Property Squad (CAP), Vehicle Theft Section, also participated in countywide investigations. CAP detectives also assisted in specialized SAVE training of police officers and supervisors from those two newly added precincts as well as additional members of the existing precincts.

Nassau County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
Motor vehicles reported stolen	1,547	MVTIF investigations initiated	11
Motor vehicles recovered	343	Investigations filed with SAFETNet	1
MVT felony arrest prosecutions	107	Number of warrants issued	1
MVT misdemeanor arrest prosecutions	78	Number of indictments	18
MVT investigations initiated	4	Misdemeanor convictions	69
Confidential informants developed	2	Felony convictions	92

Nassau County Office Police Department

During 2009 stolen vehicle reports have increased by 4% and arrests for stolen vehicles increased by 34%. Much of this increase in arrests can be attributed to the SAVE program and the coordination that comes from this program. Also, 1,105 motor vehicle thefts were tracked by the Search Apprehension Vehicle Enforcement (SAVE) program, with investigations into 420 of them. There were 499 stolen vehicles recovered, with a value of more than \$5.5 million. In addition, 50 misdemeanor and 77 felony arrests were made on charges including criminal possession of stolen property, criminal possession of a forged instrument, illegal possession of a VIN number, and grand larceny. The majority of SAVE activities conducted during this year involved the investigation of motor vehicle theft and related crimes. However, as all SAVE officers are trained in the identification of insurance fraud-related crimes, all motor vehicle accidents and related incidents are, and will continue to be, systematically reviewed for risk factors. These numbers illustrate the effectiveness of the Nassau County Police Department SAVE program.

Weekly patterns and trends of motor vehicle-related crimes are analyzed to target specific high incidence locations, times or places of occurrence. During 2009, the SAVE Unit targeted street racers, as it has become evident that their V-Tech engines, which are highly popular with young drivers and can make an ordinary vehicle high powered, are commonly stolen. High-end motorcycles that race through the streets and highways are also being targeted for stolen parts, and there has been an increase in the larcenies of tires and rims.

The cornerstone of the department's strategy is the training segment offered to all precinct SAVE officers. Each of the six participating precincts now have certified SAVE officers, who have received specialized training to identify key factors of vehicle theft crimes in order to increase the timely investigation of suspicious activity related to motor vehicle theft, insurance fraud, and related crimes. They are trained in the proper enforcement methods employed by the SAVE Unit. The enforcement segment of the strategy mainly focuses on the use of license plate readers (LPRs) and the enhancement of targeted street patrols for enforcement, investigation of forged out-of-state registrations/documents and salvage yard inspections. SAVE officers utilized LPRs to identify violators and enforce the Vehicle and Traffic Law. LPRs were deployed in areas that have a high stolen auto rate, such as malls, to locate and arrest stolen auto offenders. Additionally, the plate readers were used in conjunction with chase cars to maximize their effectiveness on major thoroughfares to locate violators. SAVE officers and supervisors review all stolen vehicles reports and make the determination as to the locations to best deploy these plate readers. The high incident locations were amended as trends and patterns were gleaned from the reports. SAVE officers documented any changes in the locations. They were then able to effectively implement the investigation segment, which was twofold: first, focusing on identifying fraudulently reported stolen vehicles, and second, identifying stolen vehicles and parts. Through the systemic review of stolen vehicle reports for the identification of the key motor vehicle theft/insurance fraud indicators, the SAVE officers were able to track, and then further investigate suspicious incidents. Once identified, the officers commenced their

investigation and utilized all resources available to develop the case. While only six precincts are part of SAVE, the CAP Squad was responsible for monitoring the remaining two precincts for patterns and or suspicious reports. If a precinct squad detective or SAVE officer deemed a case to be fraudulent, the CAP Squad was called in to assist them. Assistance from insurance investigators and CAP squad was utilized whenever necessary to develop the case.

In 2009, all scrap and vehicle dismantler yards were targeted throughout the county to ensure compliance with all laws and state Department of Motor Vehicle regulations. A team of detectives and police officers assigned to SAVE operations, joined with DMV investigators to inspect all yards and auto body repair shops. As this process has continued, the shops have become more compliant with the rules that govern them. These inspections will continue annually to ensure that all shops are in compliance and to monitor any potential for these businesses to deal in stolen vehicle and/or parts.

Throughout the year, a variety of innovative techniques were utilized, ranging from the identification of “tuner” cars and the use of “bait” cars, and to surveillance of gang members suspected of operating a stolen car enterprise. Furthermore, CAP Squad continues to partner with the District Attorney’s office to debrief all arrestees that have been charged with vehicle thefts or vehicle part thefts.

A key to this program’s success in the past has been the countywide coordination and collaboration between the different precincts, the CAP Squad, and numerous outside agencies. During this year, the SAVE Unit as a whole has continued to enhance their collaborations, both within the different precincts of the department as well as with numerous outside agencies, including local police departments, state agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, and federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency. In all, these efforts show the Department’s dedication to the program mission of preventing, deterring, and reducing the incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

Nassau County Police Department			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	420	Motor vehicle thefts reported	1,105
MVT investigations filed With SAFETNet	18	Stolen parts recovered	9
MVT SAFETNet submission hits	0	Value of stolen parts recovered	\$15,065
MVT misdemeanor arrests	50	Stolen motor vehicles recovered	499
MVTI felony arrests	77	Value of recovered vehicles	\$5,583,985
Confidential informants developed	1	MVIF investigations initiated	5

Suffolk County Office of the District Attorney

Despite the steady decline of motor vehicle theft, Suffolk County still ranks within the top 15 counties in thefts per 100,000 population. Suffolk County is currently ranked 9th. The decreases in thefts can be attributed to efforts by the District Attorney's Office Insurance Crime Bureau in partnership with the Suffolk County Police Department, the New York Police Department, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the state Insurance Frauds Bureau. According to Suffolk County Police Department figures, from July 2006 through July 2007 there was a 29% recovery rate. While this figure is encouraging, more needs to be done to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. With regard to motor vehicle insurance fraud, in 2009 Suffolk County reported its highest number in five years for suspected cases of fraud at 1,396, which places the county 5th in New York State.

With the current economic trend, there has been an increase in the number of cars that are stolen for scrap or for other purposes or reported stolen as part of an insurance scam. This trend has increased with respect to motorcycles, jet skis, and all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs). It has been found that most of the cases involving part thefts are now related to jet skis, ATVs, and motorcycles, because they are easier to hide due to their size and because they are not used as often as motor vehicles. With respect to motor vehicle parts thefts, there has been a marked increase in the amount of tire and rims thefts occurring throughout Suffolk County, but those crimes have ceased as a result of long-term investigations. The vehicles that are legitimately stolen (as opposed to those reported stolen during an owner give-up scenario) remain to be Hondas and Acuras because of their interchangeable parts and high street value among the teenage and early adult population.

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office is continually investigating and prosecuting new motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud cases. In 2009, the conclusion of numerous investigations culminated in arrests and prosecutions that have taken some of the most brazen criminals off the streets and returned restitution to the victims of these crimes. During the past year, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office has recovered \$163,661.89 for victims of motor vehicle theft and \$103,957.51 for victims of motor vehicle insurance fraud.

The most successful investigation was a long-term operation that utilized an undercover sting location. Undercover detectives operated a garage manned by law enforcement personnel, and through the location, purchases were made of stolen motor vehicles, stolen motorcycles, stolen trucks, stolen jet-skis, and other various types of stolen property. Additionally, purchases were made of vehicles that were owner "give-ups," meaning that the owner of the vehicle, or someone on their behalf, sold the car and would then report the vehicle stolen to collect money on the insurance claim. All transactions that occurred at the sting location were caught on digital surveillance cameras that have audio and video capabilities. In all, during the past year, 22 motor vehicles, nine motorcycles, two jet skis, one flat-bed tow truck, 15 handguns, one rifle, one jet ski trailer, and one 2006 Suzuki boat motor were purchased by the Insurance Crime Bureau (ICB). The undercover sting location was a great success in part due to

the help of funding received from other agencies such as the National Insurance Crimes Bureau and the state Insurance Frauds Bureau. The sting location has also helped increase collaborative efforts with other law enforcement agencies by aiding them in their investigations.

Suffolk County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVIF investigations initiated	21	Warrants issued	5
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	0	Indictments	13
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Misdemeanor convictions	17
MVIF-related misdemeanor arrests	7	Felony convictions	12
MVIF-related felony arrests	38	Confidential informants developed	2

Suffolk County Police Department – Vehicle Theft Section

The Vehicle Theft Section, which consists of one detective lieutenant, one detective sergeant and eight detectives, is part of the Major Crimes Bureau of the Suffolk County Police Department and reports to the Chief of Detectives. The Vehicle Theft Section has primary investigative responsibility for auto and marine thefts, auto and marine insurance frauds, odometer frauds, vehicle dismantlers and investigations involving the disposal of junk and salvage vehicles.

Vehicle thefts in the Suffolk County Police District showed a decline in 2009, with 1,639 vehicles reported stolen. 367 fewer vehicles than were reported stolen in 2008. The vehicle recovery rate is 77.9 percent. The Vehicle Theft Section conducted 80 insurance fraud investigations in 2009, two more than handled in 2008.

While the number of vehicles stolen in Suffolk County has declined, the make and models of the most frequently stolen vehicles have remained relatively constant. During 2009, the most commonly stolen vehicles in the county were the Honda Civic, followed by the Nissan Altima, Honda Accord, Jeep Cherokee, Dodge Caravan, Toyota Camry and Nissan Maxima (tied with the Ford Explorer). Older model vehicles continue to be stolen and sold for scrap as the price of scrap metal has slightly risen from earlier lows.

Motorcycle-related crimes have continued, with foreign-made bikes more frequently stolen than American-made motorcycles. While Suffolk County experiences motorcycle thefts throughout the year, this crime spikes during the summer months.

Suffolk County also has experienced a rash of auto stripping incidents involving tires and rims of late model, high-end vehicles. This crime has been occurring throughout the year, but increased during the onset of colder weather and the resulting reduced chance of detection due to fewer people outside and on the roads. This crime has been linked to increased thefts of larger vehicles, such as the Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager, which are then used to transport proceeds from the crime.

Strategy: Street Interdiction, Speed Shop Inspection

Detectives regularly inspect local speed shops, car shows, and car meet locations. Honda and Acura vehicles are popular with street racers and the inspection of vehicles at pre-race meeting places and speed shops has resulted in a high number of recoveries of stolen vehicles and stolen vehicle parts that are in great demand by street racers. This strategy has resulted in the recovery of numerous engines, transmissions, airbags, and interior parts from many vehicles both stolen locally and out-of-state. In addition, street sources have been cultivated for future investigations. This strategy led to the identification of a chop shop that was operating in a residential neighborhood, the seizure of many stolen and altered parts from several Honda vehicles, and the arrest of the operator.

Strategy: Scrap Yard, Dismantler Monitoring

When older vehicles are reported stolen, detectives of the Vehicle Theft Section notify area salvage yards and vehicle dismantlers and request a VIN search of their inventory for that vehicle. In addition, detectives do on-site inspections and check business records for reported thefts. Many vehicles are tracked using this method. Some are recovered, however, a number of vehicles are destroyed before the registered owner is aware their vehicle is missing. Nevertheless, this strategy regularly provides the documentation necessary to identify the stolen vehicle and arrest the individuals who sell them for scrap.

During the latter half of 2009, several older vehicles were stolen from railroad station and shopping center parking lots on the south shore of Suffolk County. Vehicle Theft Section detectives examined the records of area scrap processors and dismantlers and learned several vehicles were subsequently sold by the perpetrators at these facilities. Detectives conducted stakeouts at several junkyard locations and subsequently apprehended two individuals as they tried to scrap another stolen vehicle. They were charged with the theft of 21 vehicles and the falsification of records to facilitate the stolen vehicle sales.

Vehicle Theft Section detectives commenced an initiative to ascertain vehicle dismantler compliance with state and local laws mandating the collection of the proper vehicle documents and personal identification from individuals scrapping vehicles. Utilizing undercover vehicles from the state Insurance Frauds Bureau and scrap vehicles and scrap catalytic converters, Vehicle Theft Section detectives conducted an undercover sting operation and subsequently charged several licensed and unlicensed scrap processing and auto wrecking facilities with accepting vehicles and vehicle parts with no proof of ownership and "no questions asked." This effort was accomplished with the assistance of state DMV investigators. One local auto wrecking facility, which had been cited for multiple violations, ceased operations soon afterward.

Vehicle Theft section detectives and state DMV investigators concluded a long-term joint investigation of a vehicle dismantler/scrap processor that was operating without a license. The facility operator was arrested and a search warrant was executed

with investigators from both agencies present along with officers of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Detectives also conducted an undercover sting operation and posing as unscrupulous tow truck operators to purchase a stolen BMW.

Insurance Fraud Investigations

There has been an increase in the number of referrals made regarding auto related insurance fraud in Suffolk County. The highest category of suspected fraudulent incidents involves the theft of items from vehicles, followed by fraudulent collision claims, bogus auto theft reports and suspicious vehicle fires.

During 2009, Vehicle Theft Section detectives held regular meetings with investigators from the state Insurance Frauds Bureau and continue to work jointly on incidents that were suspected to be fraudulent by the carrier insurance company. Several joint agency multi-claim insurance fraud investigations have commenced and are ongoing. In addition, the cultivation of confidential informants in insurance fraud investigations resulted in the purchase of a late-model vehicle that was an insurance fraud “give up” from a distant state and the arrest of several individuals in various insurance fraud schemes.

Outside County/Arson Involved Theft Recoveries

It is not uncommon for vehicles reported stolen in Suffolk County to be found burned in Nassau County or New York City. Detectives closely monitor these crimes for discrepancies in victim accounts. Working closely with the New York City Fire Marshals Office and the Old Brookville Police Department, insurance frauds were discovered on four vehicles reported stolen locally and the owner/claimants arrested.

Suffolk County Police Department			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	337	Reported motor vehicle thefts	1639
MVT investigations filed with SAFETNet	144	Stolen parts recovered	277
MVT misdemeanor arrests	25	Stolen vehicles recovered	1276
MVT-related felony arrests	294	Value of parts recovered	\$137,350
MVT confidential informants	11	Value of vehicles recovered	\$1,003,900
MVIF investigations initiated	80	MVIF-related felony arrests	13
MVIF investigations filed with SAFETNet	50	Hits resulting from SAFETNet	5

Westchester County Office of the District Attorney

The Westchester County District Attorney’s Auto Crimes Unit was created in 1998 in response to a need in the county for a centralized unit dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of auto theft and auto insurance fraud. Previously, law enforcement efforts to resolve the problems of auto theft and related crimes were uncoordinated and piecemeal

at best, with arrests usually limited to those made as a result of the initiative of individual police officers on patrol and in follow-up investigations. The creation and subsequent expansion of the District Attorney's Auto Crimes Unit, a full-time investigative and prosecutorial unit consisting of two assistant district attorneys and two police investigators, filled that void.

Aggressive investigation and prosecution by the Westchester County Auto Crimes Unit has made a difference. Since its creation in 1998, auto theft has been reduced in Westchester County by nearly 80 percent between 1997 (4,130 thefts) and 2009 (853 thefts). In fact, the number of thefts has dropped significantly every year since the inception of the unit.

In the wake of the City of Yonkers having a rash of motorcycles stolen (46 in 2008 and 29 from January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009), the ACU teamed up with the Yonkers Police Department to conduct an investigation into determining who was responsible for the thefts. As part of that investigation, two individuals were arrested for selling three high-end stolen motorcycles, one on each of three occasions, to the undercover ACU investigator. Both defendants have recently pled guilty to criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree and are awaiting sentencing. Another investigation into motorcycle theft led to the arrest of an individual for attempting to steal a motorcycle in the City of Yonkers; that case is pending.

Additionally, in 2008 and continued in 2009, the unit aggressively pursued an investigation concerning five fictitious accidents involving the same BMW and a similar pattern of accidents with a second BMW. In each instance, fictitious accidents were claimed with damage in excess of \$15,000. Six individuals were arrested and charged with insurance fraud felonies. Although the majority of the defendants resided in Queens County, they utilized a Mount Vernon auto body shop to facilitate their fraudulent claims. Two of those individuals pleaded guilty to felony insurance fraud and the remaining four individuals pleaded guilty to misdemeanor insurance fraud. The ACU is presently conducting three significant investigations into auto-related insurance fraud.

The Auto Crimes Unit continued to focus on the southern portions of Westchester County, which still accounts for the majority of the county's automobile theft. The Auto Crimes Unit initiated several joint investigations and operations with the New York State Police, the New York City Police Department's Auto Crimes Unit, and the Yonkers Police Department. Many of these investigations are continuing and progress in these operations will be reported in the coming year.

In 2009, the Auto Crimes Unit obtained a license plate reader (LPR). In support and in coordination with local law enforcement, the Auto Crimes Unit has been conducting LPR operations concentrating on neighborhoods with the greatest incidence of motor vehicle theft.

The Auto Crimes Unit is also trains police officers from throughout the county and the state. The unit annually conducts a day-long training conference at the Westchester County Police Academy, featuring experts from a number of agencies lecturing and

offering hands-on demonstrations relating to issues in auto theft and insurance fraud prosecutions. Over the years, unit personnel have trained more than 550 officers from over 27 police departments. Additionally, unit personnel have been frequent lecturers at New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI) and International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) training seminars.

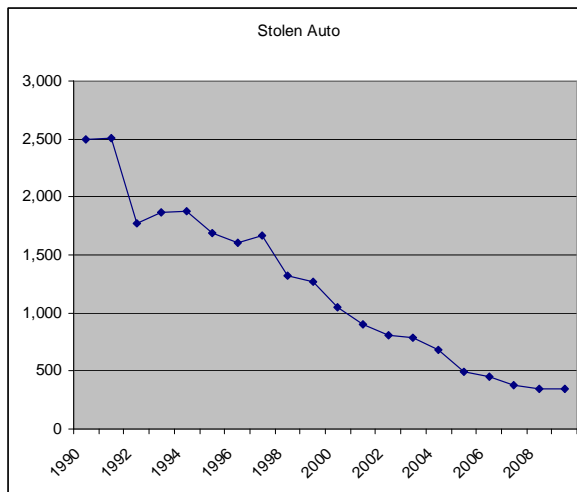
Finally, the Auto Crimes Unit has served the local community by conducting the “Watch your Car” program. Every year, members of the unit conduct free VIN-etching for citizens of the county. This program is coordinated with local police agencies and since its implementation, the unit has VIN-etched more than 1,000 vehicles.

Westchester County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations	16	MVIF investigations	9
MVT felony arrests prosecuted	117	MVIF felony arrests prosecuted	6
MVT felony convictions	19	MVIF felony convictions	2
MVT misdemeanor arrests prosecuted	12	MVIF misdemeanor arrests prosecuted	0
MVT misdemeanor convictions	42	MVIF misdemeanor convictions	1
MVT search warrants issued	1	MVIF search warrants issued	0
MVT SAFETNet referrals	0	MVIF SAFETNet referrals	3

Yonkers Police Department

The Yonkers Police Department’s (YPD) Auto Crime Unit works out of its Intelligence Unit. At the present time, a detective spends 100% of his time in the Auto Crime Unit, assisted by a detective and supervised by a sergeant and captain.

Due in part to the efforts of the Yonkers Police Department Auto Crime Unit, the number of auto thefts in Yonkers decreased more than 2%, from 351 in 2008 to 343 in 2009. Since 1991, when there were a reported 2,502 stolen autos in the City of Yonkers there has been a decrease of more than 86%. During 2009, the Yonkers Police Department Auto Crime Unit began 43 auto theft and auto-related fraud investigations and continued several others from the previous year.



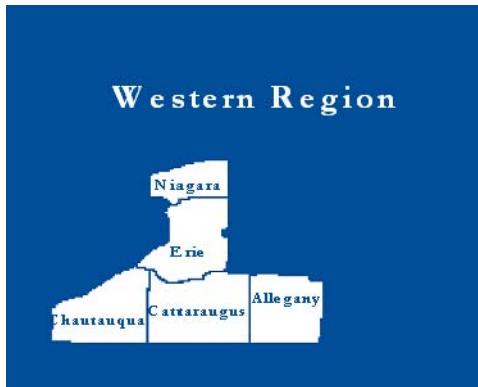
Current trends in auto theft include the theft of motorcycles, stolen cars being shipped through the Dominican Republic to other foreign countries, and the theft of construction vehicles. Whole vehicles tend to disappear from the street and are resold intact. Many are lifted off the road right into the backs of tow trucks.

Through the work of the unit's chief detective, the climate in Yonkers, whose close proximity to New York City and easy access to highways had made it a prime target of car thieves. However as reported on blogs and through confidential informants, car thieves are now afraid to come to Yonkers, particularly with cars that have been pieced together with stolen parts or with an eye to steal and strip down a car. The detective has taught many of YPD's officers (as well as officers from surrounding jurisdictions) the signs that a car may have stolen parts, altered VINs, or bogus registration and inspection stickers. His work with other agencies has helped to shut down numerous chop shops during the past decade and they have not returned to the area.

The current trends in auto-related fraud include falsely reporting a car stolen; staged accidents and medical mills; and enhanced damage to vehicles, which involves the body shop causing additional damage that did not occur in the original accident. The unit has worked closely on cases with these agencies during 2009:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Putnam County Sheriff | Suffolk County Police |
| FBI | Hastings-on-Hudson Police |
| DEA | Dobbs Ferry Police |
| U.S. Postal Service | White Plains Police |
| U.S. Customs | NYPD Auto Theft Unit |
| National Insurance Crime Bureau | Stamford (CT) Police |
| NYS Inspector General | New Haven (CT) Police |
| NY Insurance Fraud Bureau | Tenafly (NJ) Police |
| NY Department of Motor Vehicles | Westchester DA |
| New York State Police | Bronx DA |

Yonkers Police Department			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	43	Confidential informants developed	6
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	24	Reported motor vehicle thefts	343
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	1	Stolen vehicles recovered	74
MVT related misdemeanor arrests	2	Value of parts recovered	\$3,000
MVT related felony arrests	14	Value of vehicles recovered	\$775,000



Western Region

Buffalo City Police Department
Cheektowaga Town Police Department
Erie County Office of the District Attorney
Niagara County Office of the District Attorney
Niagara County Sheriff's Office
Niagara Falls City Police Department

Buffalo City Police Department

For the majority of 2009, the Buffalo Police Department (BPD) continued with its aggressive approach targeting motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud by developing effective strategies and by working collaboratively with the many local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Erie County and surrounding counties. This team approach helped to reduced motor vehicle theft by 30% when compared to 2008. Over the last 10 years (1999 to 2009) Buffalo, in keeping with the state of New York's decrease in the number of reported stolen vehicles, is down 47%.

Buffalo's General Investigation Unit (GIU) Auto Theft detective has trained patrol officers from five police districts, focusing on switched vehicle identification numbers, the use of the license plate readers, and the identification of potentially stolen vehicles. Also, the GIU detective has utilized the assistance of crime analysts assigned to the Erie Crime Analysis Center, housed in Buffalo Police Headquarters. This relationship leads to the analysis of real-time and hot-spot data in order to enhance investigative efforts and is interfaced with the department's COMPSTAT process, which involves bi-weekly meeting sessions attended by all administrative chiefs, patrol commanders and district detectives/detective sergeants. The alternating day/evening meetings allow officers who are assigned evening shifts the ability to attend; thus requiring full participation by all department members. These meetings are used as a means to increase the flow of information between the districts and units, with emphasis on the flow of crime and quality of life enforcement efforts. The discussions are based upon statistical analysis of Part I crime and mapping not only in the various patrol districts, but how it relates to crime in the entire city. Timely and accurate crime statistics and crime mapping are used. Various crimes, such as motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud are examined. During the first part of 2009, data was presented that indicated a spike in auto theft during the months of March through September. Patterns were reviewed and discussed and upon examination, it was found that there seemed to be a pattern of joy riding and also, field intelligence gathered seemed to point to a couple of neighborhoods where certain gang members, aged 18 and under, were spending time. The GIU detective worked more closely with patrol in Districts "D" and "E," where auto theft was highest.

During the summer, the GIU Unit worked with the Buffalo Fire Marshal's Office, Erie County Sheriff's Department, and the Erie County District Attorney's Office and made an arrest in an incident involving a stolen Buffalo Police car that was recovered and burned in the Town of Colden, New York. Buffalo police, along with the Erie County Sheriff's Department and other suburban police agencies, worked together to make that arrest.

An area of concentration for this year's auto theft grant was stolen cars crossing the Canadian border. Because Buffalo serves as an international border crossing, the GIU Unit and the detective assigned to the "Border Enforcement Security Team" (BEST) Task Force through U.S. Customs/Immigration looked at possible auto theft cases involving cross-border entries. In some cases, cars can easily be driven across the border before a car owner is aware their vehicle was stolen.

An investigation conducted by Buffalo's GIU detective involved a police officer from the "D" District who was on patrol, pulled over a suspected stolen Honda Civic and was suddenly dragged by this stolen vehicle. During the course of this investigation, it was found that members from the "7th Street Gang" were involved in an increasing number of thefts of Hondas and Acura Integras in the city. Through a cooperative intelligence gathering effort with the Gang Unit and Buffalo Public School Security, an individual was identified as a suspect. Also assisting on the arrest were the New York State Police and state Department of Motor Vehicles.

During the first quarter of this reporting period, Buffalo Police reinstated its program with eight of the most active scrap processors in the Buffalo area due to the recent surge in MV-35 investigations; 2 more than last year. The theft of numerous vehicles fitting the criteria for MV-35's (8-10 year old vehicles valued at less than \$1,250.) occur in the City of Buffalo on a daily basis. During this fiscal year, we continued to look at salvage yards and the number of cases is usually staggering. For example, when the GIU detective(s) had 13 cases developed in a week, it meant that there was the possibility of 26 felony charges and 13 misdemeanors that had to be completely investigated. Those charges would again double if the defendant in each MV-35 sale sold an additional vehicle. These are quality of life issues for Buffalo, since those vehicles involved in the salvage thefts are normally vehicles that don't have comprehensive insurance. For the most part, they are stolen by subjects who had prior narcotic arrests and received payment between \$80 and \$125 for each vehicle. Buffalo Police also continued to monitor tow truck operators who were reported stealing vehicles that were usually 8 to 10 years old. These operators then took the majority of vehicles to salvage yards, affirmed with a MV35 that the vehicles are theirs and then they scrapped them. Due to the cooperation of the most active scrap processors in the area participating with Buffalo Police's efforts to thwart motor vehicle theft, this type of scam has decreased by close to 5%.

The Department of Motor Vehicles examines the MV-35 records and the Buffalo GIU detective assisted with two cases under investigation with DMV. The GIU detective continued to help Buffalo's five police districts, along with other law enforcement

agencies with similar investigations involving salvage sales through the use of the MV-35s; Buffalo's GIU detective has provided training to those agencies and officers. Buffalo Police continue to see the thefts of Hondas and Acura Integras across the city's five police districts, however, analysis conducted by the Crime Analysis Center shows that the most thefts are occurring in the D and E Districts. The spike in Honda unauthorized use of a vehicle incidents occurred in the previously identified hot-spot areas in B and D Districts, which borders D'Youville College and Buffalo State College. All UUVs were 1998-2000 Honda Civics and all occurred on a weekend. It is well known that Honda models, particularly Civics, are valued because they are frequently modified to become "street racers." Hondas parts also are valued as replacement parts on street racers. Individuals and gangs known to be involved in auto stripping/salvaging/street racing are watched by patrols to prevent a more widespread pattern from developing.

At the end of 2009, one particular case in "E" District involved a local company who leased seven vehicles for an out-of-state dealer. The local dealer would not return the vehicles, and after further investigation, the local dealer took one of those vehicles to Maryland, forging the title, so he could sell that vehicle in Boston. This case was turned over the District Attorney's Office and prosecution of the suspect is pending.

During the holiday season this year, Buffalo Police dedicated district patrols in hot spots as determined by the Erie Crime Analysis Center. Patrol concentrated on car break-ins, suspicious vehicles, auto theft, and possible break-ins during holiday shopping. Also, due to several holiday shows, the theatre district was well patrolled, the Rotary Ice Rink and the area around Children's Hospital due to a rash of repeated break-ins. In the "E" District, officers caught not only caught a suspect vandalizing cars, but assisted with a burglary in progress call in the same vicinity. Also, while out on patrol, officers ended up arresting two suspects for possession of firearm during their patrol around Genesee and Hagen. "D" District officers worked with US Border Patrol on the towing of a suspicious vehicle. In addition, "C" District Officers worked several auto yards by interviewing managers and running vehicle identification numbers. "C" District officers also used their license reader and investigated an auto shop in the city where there were several cars with out-of-state plates. One stolen car was recovered during these checks.

Buffalo's GIU auto theft detective (s) and the GIU detective sergeant also have been involved on a couple cases with Operation IMPACT partners, including New York State Police. On weekends, IMPACT troopers patrol with Buffalo Police officers in designated "hot spots". Several arrests have been made, leading to the confiscation of a several guns and narcotics.

Buffalo Police City Police Department			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	43	Reported motor vehicle thefts	1,562
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	11	Value motor vehicles stolen	\$10,206,398
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Stolen vehicles recovered	1,421
MVT misdemeanor arrests	20	MVT felony arrests	33
Value: vehicles recovered: GIU det.	\$407,495	Value of parts recovered: GIU det.	\$7,557
Value: vehicles recovered: patrol	\$7,478,124	Value: parts recovered: patrol	\$642,576
MVIF misdemeanor arrests	4	Confidential informants developed	3
MVIF felony arrests	6	Insurance fraud investigations:	64
OVERALL MVT/UUV ARRESTS BUFFALO POLICE PATROL	353	UUV calls for service	2,581

Cheektowaga Town Police Department

The Town of Cheektowaga Police Department spent most of the funding from the grant on field investigation performed by a detective who was assisted at various times by other members of the detective bureau. Efforts focused on the investigation of auto theft, insurance fraud, and heavy equipment theft. Field efforts consisted of surveillance, collection of evidence (this included fingerprint identification, photography and DNA recovery), and information sharing which included meetings with outside agencies in the area. Including police departments in Amherst, West Seneca, Buffalo and Lancaster, the Wyoming County (Sheriff's Dept), the New York State Police, Erie County District Atty's Office, National Insurance Crime Bureau, state Insurance Frauds Bureau, s Department of Motor Vehicles, and Homeland Security/Border Patrol. The detective also networked with insurance company representatives from Geico, Allstate, and State Farm.

A joint investigation with the Buffalo and Lancaster police departments of a "Cruise Night" at Lancaster Speedway resulted in multiple vehicles examined for stolen parts and forged VIN's. Valuable intelligence was gained from this event and used in several subsequent investigations.

The department also participates in the Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle Task Force. Through the task force, the information sharing has greatly contributed to the department's efforts in auto theft and insurance fraud detection and apprehension.

Highlights of 2009

- **January** – Assisted Town of Amherst police in executing a search warrant and recovered a stolen 'Wacker' Roller (valued at \$14,250) and an 'Avalanche' Plow blade (valued at \$6,000).
- **June** – Members of the department participated in a truck checkpoint named "Operation Eagle Claw". In partnership with the New York State Police, Buffalo

PD, National Insurance Crime Bureau, state Homeland Security, and the state Department of Motor Vehicles. Two felony arrests for third-degree criminal possession of stolen property were made, and a stolen “mini-excavator” was recovered. This event also yielded numerous citations for truck infractions that were not grant related.

- **August** – Recovered a stolen mini-excavator (valued at \$56,000) at a construction site in town. This recovery led to two individuals being arrested for second-degree criminal possession of stolen property, a felony.
- **December** – Joint collaboration/checkpoint with Buffalo police (C district) to scrutinize 13 vehicles for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle status and also performed secondary (VIN) checks.

Cheektowaga Town Police Department			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
Vehicles reported stolen	87	Arrests (funded by grant)	8
Investigations initiated	71	Arrest warrants issued	16
Auto theft schools attended	1	Heavy equipment investigations	5
Confidential VIN check's	13	Heavy equipment arrests	4
		Heavy equipment (pieces rec'd)	7
Stolen vehicle recoveries	22	Insurance fraud investigations	4
Value of stolen vehicles	\$240,000	Insurance fraud arrests	2
Auto stripping investigations	22	Teaching seminars (academy)	1
Auto stripping warrants	1	Stolen inspection sticker inv.	2
Auto stripping arrests	1	Stolen inspection sticker arrests	0

Erie County Office of the District Attorney

The Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Unit is part of the Special Investigations Bureau. The Unit is comprised of one assistant district attorney (ADA) and one part-time confidential criminal investigator (CCI). The ADA works very closely with detectives from the Buffalo Police Department and Cheektowaga Police Department. The ADA also meets with various law enforcement agencies throughout the area to collaborate on ongoing investigations. The ADA vertically prosecutes the more serious motor vehicle theft crimes as well as all of the insurance fraud cases in Erie County. The part-time CCI assists with investigations initiated by the office or the Buffalo Police Department, including obtaining statements from witnesses, filing stolen vehicle reports and surveillance of known chop shops.

Erie County has seen a decrease in overall motor vehicle theft. The number of vehicles reported stolen in the county has dropped by 14.5%, from approximately 1,872 stolen vehicles in 2008 to 1,601 stolen vehicles in 2009. Over the past two years, motor

vehicle theft in Erie County has dropped by 29.8%. This decrease is likely attributed to a number of factors including a declining demand for scrap metal, increased use of antitheft features on newer vehicles by manufacturers, and successful law enforcement investigations and prosecutions.

During 2009, crimes involving vehicles, which are generally committed based on opportunity, have trended toward crimes that take a short time to commit and have a low risk of detection. It is more difficult to steal a vehicle today by simply hotwiring it, as many newer vehicles will not start without a transponder key. It is also more difficult to "part out" vehicles than in the past due to increased use of vehicle identification numbers leading to greater detection of stolen parts. Due to these reasons, the trend regarding vehicle crimes is moving toward vehicle break ins, stealing vehicles in which the owner has left the keys in the vehicle, owner "give ups" for insurance fraud, and white collar crime involving the use of fraudulent documents to commit larceny involving vehicle sales and financing.

The theft of vehicles for the sale of their scrap metal to scrap yards has drastically decreased, the result of the direct relationship between scrap metal prices and the profitability of vehicle theft. As the amount of money paid for scrap metal has been drastically reduced, the incentive to steal a vehicle for scrap has greatly declined. In Western New York, 35 motor vehicle theft cases resulted in the conviction of the owners of a scrap yard in Niagara County which acted as the largest fence in our area for stolen vehicles. These defendants were each convicted of operating their scrap yard without a license in March of this year.

Erie County continues to have a very high rate of vehicle owner "give ups" for insurance fraud purposes, with the most common case involving the burning of a vehicle by a paid arsonist. The arsonist is often a transient drug addict living in a poverty-stricken section of the City of Buffalo. The owner, typically from the suburbs or a more affluent section of the city, will generally pay the arsonist a small amount of money, between \$100 & \$500, to "make the vehicle disappear." The burnt-out vehicle generally turns up on a secluded side street in the city, a short time after it is reported stolen by the owner. The City of Buffalo has been consistently experiencing about 400 vehicle fires a year, and the vast majority of these are the result of insurance fraud.

Erie County also has experienced an increase in white collar vehicle crimes involving various schemes by offenders who use an opportunity, often through their employment, to manipulate various types of documents in order to commit theft. In September, the owner of the top used car wholesaler in Erie County pled guilty to six felony counts, admitting he stole MV 50 books from another car dealer and used the MV 50s to sell vehicles and he avoided paying taxes. He believed that any investigation into the unpaid taxes on these vehicle sales would not lead back to him and he could avoid detection. He stole more than \$70,000 from New York State in taxes he had collected on the sales.

Another case that was recently indicted involved a defendant who convinced a wealthy family friend to finance vehicles for his used car dealership. The defendant convinced the friend to finance vehicles without receiving the title to the vehicle. The defendant received financing from his friend to purchase vehicles and then the defendant went to other financial backers and financed the same vehicles a second time. When the business finally fell apart and the victim realized there was a problem, the defendant left town. The other financial backers were able to repossess many of the vehicles because they held the titles to the vehicles, the defendant's friend had no recourse and he was simply out \$984,000. This defendant was indicted on one count second-degree grand larceny and four counts of third-degree grand larceny.

This office also has encountered identity theft as a manner of committing theft and fraud cases. A defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree forgery for attempting to purchase two 2009 Chevrolet Malibus using a line of credit in another person's name. The defendant was employed as a debt collector and he had access to information regarding Social Security numbers. The defendant went to two separate Chevrolet dealers and attempted to take out a line of credit in the name of individual whose ID information he had stolen in order to buy a new Malibu for \$29,000. However, the information he used to fill out the loan application revealed that the individual lives in California. Luckily, the finance manager at each dealership realized there was a problem and denied the line of credit at each dealership. The defendant was reported to the police. He was located at a third dealership test driving a third vehicle, this time a BMW. The defendant is a five-time prior felon and was sentenced to 3 to 6 years in state prison.

The primary strategy implemented over the past year has been to aggressively prosecute the worst repeat offenders. This strategy has involved increased communication between agencies with an emphasis on more complete investigations of cases pre-arrest. The office's goal is to push for more comprehensive, thorough investigations, utilizing assistance from a broad a range of law enforcement agencies in order to best coordinate the available resources in our region. This method has provided greater opportunity to amass better evidence against offenders.

This office regularly works with the Buffalo Police Department, Cheektowaga Police Department, Buffalo Fire Department, New York State Police, New York State Insurance Department, National Insurance Crime Bureau, state Department of Motor Vehicles and investigators from insurance companies. In addition to working with law enforcement, this office also has increasingly worked with local businesses involved in auto sales and scrap processing.

Erie County District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT indictments	24	MVT warrants issued	7
MVT misdemeanor convictions	45	MVIF misdemeanor arrest prosecuted	8
MVT felony convictions	81	MVIF felony arrest prosecuted	21
MVT misdemeanor arrest prosecuted	170	MVIF misdemeanor convictions	15
MVT felony arrest prosecuted	191	MVIF felony convictions	14
Confidential informants	12	MVIF investigations opened	7
MVT investigations opened	30	MVIF warrants issued	1

Niagara County Office of the District Attorney

The Niagara County District Attorney's Office has a specific unit dedicated to Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud that consists of one full-time criminal investigator and one full-time assistant district attorney (ADA).

In 2009, the county saw a 25% decrease in stolen vehicles, to 235. A total of 140 vehicles were logged as recovered, which is approximately 60% of vehicles reported stolen. During, vehicle fires seem to have been on the rise in the fall. Typically, a vehicle reported stolen was later located hidden on the Tuscarora Reservation, usually burned. There also have been several instances of vehicles found burning in rear alleys in Niagara Falls area. It has been surmised that some vehicles burned on the Reservation had not been discovered soon enough and burning them in the city resulted in them being discovered much sooner, ensuring a quicker insurance payoff.

In 2009, the Niagara County District Attorney's Office was involved in the prosecution and arrests of 162 individuals involving auto theft and larcenies from vehicles and the prosecution and arrest of eight individuals involving auto insurance fraud cases.

Strategies utilized by the Niagara County District Attorney's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Unit involved long term, multijurisdictional agencies. Major cases involved a long-term investigation into the Myles Salvage Yard and a case involving two defendants stealing vehicles in Niagara County and disposing of them in salvage yards in Erie County. Both defendants pleaded guilty as charged to dismantling vehicles without a license, both felonies. The Niagara County District Attorney's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Unit has developed excellent working relationships with many law enforcement agencies, including the state Insurance Bureau, the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, the state Department of Motor Vehicles, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, many local insurance companies and investigators, various agencies from within the Department of Homeland Security, in addition to local, county, town and village law enforcement agencies. These relationships have been instrumental in developing leads, uncovering illegal activities and have resulted in many successful prosecutions. A major obstacle in the prosecution of vehicle crime cases is the fact that agencies do not routinely require stolen vehicle reports to be signed by the

complainant; this is now happening more frequently. Low-level arrests also are being closely monitored, and arresting officers are utilizing more charges such as unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and auto stripping, before the case is in a negotiation phase.

Strategies also will include periodic checks of salvage/scrap yards to identify reoccurring names of car owners scrapping cars. The types and VINs of cars will continue to be checked against stolen property police reports. The checking of salvage/scrap yards will become more common as the warmer weather arrives and persons are more likely to haul vehicles etc. to a scrap yard for money. Also the price of scrap metal has been on the rise going into the spring time months, which will encourage more people to scrap cars for more profit.

Niagara County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
Investigations initiated	135	MVT misdemeanor convictions	46
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	0	MVT felony convictions	4
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Warrant issued	6
MVT-related misdemeanor prosecutions	95	MVIF investigations initiated	32
MVT-related felony prosecutions	67	MVIF-related misdemeanor arrests	7
Confidential informants developed	7	MVIF-related felony arrests	1
Indictments	3	Confidential informants developed	1

Niagara County Office of the Sheriff

In 2009, the Niagara County Sheriff’s Office Stolen Vehicle Task Force continued to combat vehicle theft, vehicle parts theft, and insurance fraud through full utilization of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud grant. The task force is comprised of deputies, investigators, and supervisors who have participated in many training opportunities in order to increase their knowledge of vehicle theft. The task force meets on a regular basis formally and constantly is in contact with each member for information sharing purposes.

In 2009, 189 stolen vehicle reports were made to the office and towns and villages under our jurisdiction, an increase over the 141 reported in 2008. The office also recovered 113 reported stolen vehicles, more than double the 52 we recovered in 2008. The estimated value of these recovered vehicles is \$320,506. It appears older, and lesser valued vehicles are being reported stolen as the value from 2008 decreased by \$105,000. Newer vehicles are more difficult to steal due to enhanced security locks, ignition entry and GPS and the older vehicles may have more value for their parts than as a whole.

The Sheriff’s Office opened 10 insurance fraud cases this year, taking a harder look at some reported stolen vehicle claims that seemed suspicious. This more than doubled the 2008 numbers. Between the theft and insurance fraud investigations, the office made 38 misdemeanor arrests and eight felony arrests. We developed seven confidential informants and made two SAFETNet entries.

In 2009, two trends were identified as being the most prevalent in relation to auto theft and insurance fraud: larceny from motor vehicles and fraudulent stolen car claims. At first, vehicle larcenies were centered in the southern part of the county in the towns of Pendleton and Wheatfield, but soon spread north and affected the areas of Wilson and Ransomville. Most cases involved unlocked vehicles that were parked overnight in the victim's driveway.

In 2009, there was an increase in stolen vehicle insurance claims but not any large-scale, organized crime ring associated with the thefts. There was a small group on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation operating in the Lewiston area, but for most of the county individual claims were being made. It is possible that the bad economy may have played a major role in these crimes, with individuals not being able to afford their payments and attempting to rid themselves of their vehicles. A percentage of these crimes in the Lockport area were identified as drug related.

The office has now started a concentrated effort to fight both of the above trends by deploying extra patrols in the areas that experienced a high frequency of reported stolen vehicles (the towns of Lewiston and Niagara with special concentration on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation). Vehicles equipped with license plate readers were deployed on weekends and overnights. LPR patrols also were deployed in Lockport and Newfane areas, which also have elevated rates of vehicle theft. The LPR is a terrific tool to identify stolen vehicles, suspect vehicles, and suspensions/revocations especially in higher crime areas such as the reservation. The office also started a new strategy this year in concert with the Niagara County District Attorney's Office, to combat insurance fraud as related to motor vehicle theft. It was becoming apparent that reports of theft were increasing that involved suspicious reporting/activity on the part of the vehicle owner. The office required that owners sign an affidavit, swearing that all the information they were providing was truthful and if not, they were subject to arrest for falsely reporting. Two arrests were made for falsely reporting after this document went into effect and some reporting victims refused to sign it.

In 2009, 14 individuals arrested by the office for a major crime spree in 2008 were successfully prosecuted. These individuals were involved in multiple residential burglaries, vehicle thefts, and a robbery in the northern and eastern part of Niagara County. These individuals received penalties ranging from probation to several years in state prison.

Niagara County Office of the Sheriff			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	214	Reported motor vehicle thefts	183
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	1	Stolen parts recovered	0
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Stolen vehicles recovered	113
MVT-related misdemeanor arrests	37	Value of parts recovered	500
MVT-related felony arrests	8	Value of vehicles recovered	320,506
Confidential informants developed	7		

Niagara Falls City Police Department

The project is managed as a special operation under the direction of the captain of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and emphasis is placed on investigations, follow-ups and insurance fraud cases. Crime reports are generally taken by the Patrol Division and forwarded to the Criminal Investigation Division, where they are reviewed by supervisors and assigned to a criminal investigator or to patrol division personnel for follow-up or continued investigation. Copies of auto-theft / insurance fraud-related reports are then forwarded to the Police Planning/Computer Division for statistical analysis. This information is then forwarded to the superintendent of police and captain of C.I.D. to be used at the weekly meeting attended by all division supervisors.

Within Niagara Falls, motor vehicle theft has decreased 20.5% from 2008 to 2009. Most motor vehicle thefts are being reported between 8a.m. and noon, with the most thefts reported on Saturday and Sunday. Of the 188 vehicles reported stolen in 2009, 88 vehicles were recovered (47%) with a recovery value of \$302,578. The MVTIF Unit made 23 misdemeanor arrests for motor vehicle theft and five felony arrests.

Three factors continue to contribute to the motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud problem in the city. First, the city borders the Canadian Province of Ontario and has two international bridges and a New York State Park within its jurisdiction. Each year, Niagara Falls hosts between 10,000,000 - 12,000,000 tourists visiting in the downtown, south end, of the city. Due to the popularity of the Seneca Niagara Gambling Casino and Hotel, and the increased economic development around the Casino and State Park, the typical tourist season has been extended and there is an influx of vehicles and people in the downtown area that were not present in previous years. Tourists and vacationers present easy prey for organized criminal activity. Second, Niagara Falls is located adjacent to the city of Buffalo. Past cases have shown that vehicles are often stolen from urban streets and shopping malls and transported to Niagara Falls, where thieves believe that fewer law enforcement officers make it an easier location to chop and dismantle automobiles. Finally, organized youth gangs have operated from the extremely impoverished area of the Tuscarora Indian Reservation for many years, with vehicles often stolen from Niagara Falls and recovered on the reservation.

The project will utilize the following enforcement strategies to address the problem: crime analysis, surveillance, sting operations, development of confidential informants, patrol-level training, investigator level training, follow-up investigations, and public education.

The primary components of the project will be criminal investigations assigned by the supervisors of the Criminal Investigations Division, with investigations analyzed to predict crime pattern indicators and will focus on auto theft, insurance fraud, and false insurance claims. As the situation warrants, the agency will operate surveillance in locations identified through crime analysis as high auto theft crime areas, and stings

and undercover operations will be used if deemed necessary. Inter-agency projects will be encouraged when criminal activity is identified as inter-jurisdictional. This department also intends to expand public awareness of auto theft and insurance fraud and will focus on presenting information to area neighborhood groups on a regular basis. The project will focus on criminal investigations in the north end of the city which experiences the greatest number of vehicle thefts. The south end of the city (tourist area) also shows a considerable number of vehicle thefts and vehicle break-ins. Known auto-theft gangs, individuals and chop-shops will also be targeted by investigators. Any areas that show patterns of auto theft will come under increased patrols and will be investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division. The Niagara Falls Police Department also is part of the county-wide Motor Vehicle Task Force and its investigators work closely with representatives of the New York State Insurance Fraud Bureau. Task Force members assist each other in surveillance and recovery operations and the exchange of intelligence information. The Niagara Falls Police Department has expanded the task force to include the U.S. and Canadian Customs and Canadian Police to address the auto theft related problems that the three international bridges with Canada pose.

Niagara Falls City Police Department			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
Stolen vehicles reported	188	Misdemeanor arrests (SV)	23
Vehicles recovered	88	Felony arrests (SV)	5
Recovery rate	47%	Misdemeanor arrests (IF)	3
Value of recovered vehicles	\$302,578	Felony arrests (IF)	2
		Confidential informants	9



Finger Lakes Region

Monroe County Office of the District Attorney
 Monroe County Office of the Sheriff
 Rochester City Police Department

Monroe County Office of the District Attorney

The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office established a Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Bureau in mid-2004, under the supervision of the Economic Crimes bureau chief. The majority of stolen vehicle and insurance fraud cases involving

motor vehicles are assigned to this unit and misdemeanor auto theft cases continue to be prosecuted by various ADAs assigned to the local criminal courts but the members of the MVTIFP unit advise these ADAs on procedures and prosecution strategies, and intelligence gained as a result of misdemeanor prosecutions is provided to the unit to assist with its investigations.

The ADA assigned to the MVTIFP unit, fully evaluates all of the cases referred to the program by police agencies, advises police on procedures, and meets with officers to discuss programmatic issues of mutual concern. The Investigator assigned to the MVTIFP unit enhances the prosecution of cases by interviewing witnesses, evaluating evidence, serving subpoenas, checking defendant prior criminal histories to identify repeat offenders, and works closely with police agency personnel assigned by their respective departments to investigate the target crimes. The Economic Crimes bureau chief advises and supervises both of the personnel assigned to the program, chairs meetings with New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and local representatives of the Insurance Frauds Bureau of the New York State Insurance Department, and provides input in developing strategies and setting priorities for the program. The principal members of the Auto Theft Task Force include the District Attorney's Office, the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the Greece Police Department, the Gates Police Department, the New York State Police, the state Insurance Fraud Bureau, and the state Department of Motor Vehicles. The Auto Theft Task Force assists other department members as well as outside agencies with any motor vehicle-related theft or motor vehicle insurance fraud investigation. The Task Force also utilizes intelligence information to initiate investigations into chop shop locations, retagging operations and motor vehicle theft rings.

A DCJS comparison of reported motor vehicle thefts during 2008 and 2009 shows a 21% decrease from 1,698 to 1,341 and appears to support the idea that the anti-auto theft program first begun in 2004 under this grant program is having an impact on the incidence of this type of crime in Monroe County.

The 2009 Statewide Plan of Operation for Motor Vehicle Theft reported that there were 209 suspected instances of motor vehicle insurance fraud in Monroe County in 2008, as opposed to 309 such suspected incidents in 2004, a decrease of 32% since the start of project operations. In 2009, seven new cases were referred to the DA's office.

Monroe County has experienced an increase in the number of larcenies from locked and unlocked vehicles. Numerous arrests have been made, with some offenders receiving state prison time.

Law enforcement agencies in the county also have been directed to charge defendants with auto stripping, when appropriate, in cases of auto theft as well as larcenies from vehicles.

In June of 2009, members of the Task Force received information regarding the possible whereabouts of motorcycles, and assorted motorcycle parts, that may have been taken during the commission of a burglary nine months earlier in a residential garage in the city of Rochester while the victim was serving in Iraq as a member of the U.S. Army.

Acting on this new information the District Attorney investigator assigned to the Task Force assisted other Task Force members in conducting interviews, and obtaining depositions, which subsequently led to the issuance of a search warrant for the location where it was believed that the stolen property might be.

On June 19, 2009, the District Attorney investigator, along with other members of the Task Force, executed the search warrant at a single-family residence located in the town of Irondequoit. Recovered as a result were six motorcycles (Triumph, Honda, Suzuki), seven motorcycle frames (BSA, Honda, Triumph), six swing arms, as well as other assorted parts from these motorcycles.

For the second consecutive year, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office also hosted the Western Region Work Group meeting of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Statewide Work Group.

Monroe County MVTIFPP Operational Strategy

The Auto Theft Task Force in Monroe County utilizes intelligence information and collaboration among its members to initiate investigations into chop shop locations, retagging operations and motor vehicle theft rings. The District Attorney's MVTIFP Program also involves a coordinated effort with the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the various town and village police departments, and the State Police in collecting and sharing intelligence on motor vehicle theft trends countywide. All of the local police agencies, along with the District Attorneys Office already share a common offender database (the MoRIS system), thus further streamlining the sharing of information. All of the police agencies involved will also utilize SAFETNet. Since 2004, the District Attorney's Office has had a policy that severely restricts plea reductions in serious felony cases, and this policy has been extended to repeat offenders charged with the types of crimes targeted by this program. By continuing to seek stiffer penalties for auto-related offenses, and by reducing the number of plea reductions, the District Attorney's Office reinforces the work of police in trying to reduce the incidence of these offenses. The police agencies involved also implement their own additional programs to educate the public on ways to reduce motor vehicle thefts. Information is also solicited from citizens willing to disclose any knowledge they have about persons committing the targeted crimes.

The overall strategy also utilizes public service announcements as well as other media to advise the public about the high number of vehicle thefts due to keys left in vehicles. In conjunction with this, citations will be issued for this offense in an effort to curb this practice.

The District Attorney's Office spearheaded the effort that introduced a standard supporting deposition form used by all police agency personnel when responding to reported incidents of motor vehicle theft. By standardizing the information that is collected concerning each incidence of motor vehicle theft, Task Force Investigators are better able to analyze the nature of such thefts countywide, including offender profiles, methods used, gang affiliations, most vulnerable vehicle models, and the most common times and locations of incidents.

The strategy used to combat auto insurance fraud utilizes the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau as the primary source for insurance frauds cases. At each regular monthly Task Force meeting, new referrals received by the Insurance Frauds Bureau are reviewed by those in attendance, and assigned to investigators working under the grant. This close working relationship with IFB Investigators has proven to be essential when conducting these investigations.

Monroe County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT felony arrests	193	MVIF felony arrests	7
MVT misdemeanor arrests	223	MVIF misdemeanor arrests	0
MVT SAFETNet targets RPD	37	MVIF SAFETNet targets RPD	11
MVT indictments/SCI's	64	MVIF indictments	5
MVT felony convictions	45	MVIF felony convictions	2
MVT misdemeanor convictions	152	MVIF misdemeanor convictions	5
Task force meetings held	19		

Monroe County Office of the Sheriff

Monroe County has strategically implemented a countywide Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force. The Task Force is made up of the Monroe County DA's Office, Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), City of Rochester Police Department, New York State Police, New York Insurance Fraud Bureau, and state Department of Motor Vehicles. Informational and intelligence sharing meetings are held in order to analyze trends in motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. By working with the Monroe County Analysis Center (MCAC), MCSO is now able to quickly access reports submitted by various county agencies that do not directly participate in the Auto Theft Task Force. By working with MCAC, the office has also greatly improved its ability to disseminate information throughout the state. The improved system of multi-agency communication has greatly enhanced the speed of pattern crime investigations.

During the past year, the MCSO auto theft investigators and the Monroe County Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force have gained many new contacts within the greater Rochester law enforcement community. The improved contacts are helping to facilitate the interagency cooperation, thereby speeding the identification of persistent offenders which in turn produces faster arrests. By identifying emerging trends quickly,

the office has been able to greatly decrease the length of time an offender is free to victimize the community. In 2008, there were 1,838 stolen vehicles in Monroe County with 600 vehicles stolen from agencies outside the city of Rochester. In 2009, there were 956 stolen vehicles in Monroe County, with 385 vehicles being stolen outside the city of Rochester. The result is a 46% decrease in stolen vehicles from county agencies. The one area of crime that has seen a significant increase was the theft of dash-mounted GPS units.

GPS Thefts	MSCO	All County Agencies
2007	66	107
2008	159	388
2009	465	1,114

The auto theft crime category that dominated in Monroe County was the theft of property from both locked and unlocked motor vehicles and trailers. Many vehicles also were stolen when the suspect found keys hidden in the unattended vehicle. As noted, GPS device thefts are most common; other frequently targeted items include; loose change, iPods, cameras, portable DVD players and laptop computers. Another category of theft was construction/landscaping equipment stolen from work trailers and work vehicles.

During the past year, the stolen vehicle task force was successful in identifying suspects based on the method of theft, location of theft, time of day of theft and the items stolen. Throughout this year's investigations we are able to identify specific trends based on the above criteria, which were then linked to specific suspects who have demonstrated a preference to steal according their own unique method of operation. The task force utilized the above criteria to isolate persistent offenders then formulated an investigative plan based on the suspect's activity. During 2009, the task force pursued 13 major investigations, some involving targeted surveillance and some the mass distribution of suspect information coupled with targeted marked and unmarked patrol saturation. All of those 13 major investigations have been closed, with more than 25 suspects arrested and either convicted or awaiting trial.

The suspects involved in these cases demonstrated method of operations that can be broken into three main categories of theft:

- **Parking lots (day time and night time)** - These suspects targeted unattended vehicles in residential and commercial parking lots, frequently returning to a parking lot multiple times if they had success. They preferred parking lots located at county hiking parks, churches, health clubs and retail areas. These suspects tended to be lifelong, older criminals with drug addiction or gambling problems who preferred to enter the vehicles by breaking car windows. The most common item stolen by these suspect was purses, but laptops and GPS units were also stolen if they were visible. Older suspects rarely used stolen credit cards and would throw the purses away soon after leaving the crime

scene; younger suspects would use the stolen credit cards. Physical evidence was rarely left at the scene.

- **Residential Driveways (night time)** – These suspects were typically teenagers who would steal loose change and anything else that was left in primarily unlocked cars in driveways and apartment complexes. These suspects would frequently steal personal items that had no resale value, and would frequently be caught weeks after a theft, still in possession of the stolen property. These suspects would steal for the thrill of it and often had no plan for getting rid of the stolen property.

- **Residential Garages (night time)** – Two types of suspects realized that vehicles parked in residential attached garages would frequently have high-value items and cash in them. Entry was usually gained through an unlocked rear or side door. These suspects would frequently take items, such as golf clubs, that were in the garage and would occasionally venture into the unlocked house to steal valuables, such as computers, that were left near the entrance door from the garage. These suspects would also take car keys that were left in the car or near the entrance door, so they could steal the car and commit other crimes. This theft group would also steal bicycles, which were then used to get to a part of town they wouldn't normally be able to access. There were two suspect types identified: The first were males, 40 years of age or older, who had long criminal records and were on drug binges. These individuals preferred to work alone or would have a fellow drug addict to drive them around. The second was well organized groups of teens who worked together with different combinations of thieves each time they went out. This is the only group encountered that frequently had females participating, and this group was responsible for the most thefts during 2009. This group had one individual who was responsible for selling the items on the Internet, and would then distribute the money to the thieves. This group had three members who made a living for close to 10 months off "car shopping." This suburban group was responsible for the theft of over 300 GPS units, seven stolen cars and numerous residential burglaries and identity thefts.

The insurance frauds encountered in 2009 involved many fewer crimes than expected. The insurance thefts investigated by MCSO involved the destruction of a house by the homeowner with financial problems, fraudulent car repairs and fraudulent health insurance claims. The office also worked with DMV inspectors assigned to the task force on a major ATV and motorcycle theft investigation involving VIN plate alterations. Four arrests have been made in the case and the investigation is continuing into Florida, Vermont and South Carolina. Another investigation with the DMV inspectors involved the recovery of stolen truck plows and construction equipment, including a construction trailer that was stolen two years ago and was subsequently registered with DMV as homemade. The suspected trailer was never visually inspected when it was registered, it is unclear at this time how many other stolen trailers have been registered as homemade, but was a new area of investigation in 2010.

Monroe County Sheriff's Office			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	154	Reported motor vehicle thefts	189
MVT related misdemeanor arrests	32	Stolen vehicles recovered	141
MVT related felony arrests	2	Value of parts recovered	\$7,868
MVIF investigations initiated	2	Value of vehicles recovered	\$949,530

Rochester City Police Department

The Auto Theft Unit of the Rochester Police Department Special Operations Division is responsible for work relating to the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Grant. The Auto Theft Unit investigator is assigned full time to the multi-agency Auto Crimes Task Force. This member coordinates investigations and auto theft initiatives utilizing personnel from a cross-section of the department including: school resource officers, Tactical Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit, Major Crimes Unit, as well as the East and West Patrol Divisions. Throughout the year, a total of 85 members have utilized grant funds to conduct follow-up investigations to stolen vehicle reports and initiate investigations into chop shops and theft rings. Activities include search warrant execution, physical and electronic surveillance, license plate reader and unattended vehicle details. Cases of suspected motor vehicle-related insurance fraud are initiated based on referrals submitted to the state Insurance Frauds Bureau by insurance companies. In 2009, eight members were involved in grant-funded insurance fraud investigations.

In 2009, there were 956 reported stolen vehicles in Rochester, a decrease of more than 22% from the reported 1238 thefts in 2008. Conversely, suspected cases of motor vehicle related insurance fraud in Monroe County referred to the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau was up 10% in 2009 (226 referrals as compared with 205 referrals in 2008).

Theft for Joy Ride or Transportation

More than 70% of all motor vehicles stolen are taken for joy riding. In 2009, grant funding allowed us to initiate 27 investigations into these crimes. During three of these investigations, it was learned that the suspects were also using the vehicles to commit burglaries and in four cases, the suspects were also involved in re-tagging vehicles for resale.

The strategies utilized for these investigations included physical and electronic surveillance of known active offenders. License plate readers were also utilized in areas determined by the Monroe Crime Analysis Center to be "hot spots" for recent vehicle thefts and recoveries.

One theft for transportation investigation targeted a group of suspects who were believed responsible for more than 70 motor vehicle thefts in a five-month period. Most of the thefts occurred within the city of Rochester but some were in the surrounding towns of Monroe County. Some of the vehicles were also being used to commit burglaries.

On several occasions, members conducting surveillance observed criminal acts committed by individuals other than those being investigated and were required to intervene. That involvement resulted in arrests and included the recovery of a .22 caliber rifle, 140 grams of marijuana and seizure of 2,398.

Theft for Retag or Resale

In 2009, 15 cases where vehicles were stolen and retagged for resale or for personal use were investigated. Associated with this type of theft was a dramatic rise in motorcycle thefts during the year within the city of Rochester and in Monroe County.

Theft for Parts

Department members also conducted 12 investigations in 2009 related to the theft of vehicles for parts. Some of their investigations show that the a street racing group is not only involved in retagging vehicles and motorcycles, but are also suspected of selling stolen parts.

Theft for Scrap

In 2009, the department investigated 10 cases of vehicles stolen and sold for scrap. This was a decrease from the 15 cases investigated in 2008.

In previous years, these crimes almost always involved the use of DMV MV 37 forms (Statement of Abandoned Vehicle) for disposal of the vehicle. Changes in the form and scrap processors being told not to accept vehicles on these forms except from registered itinerant vehicle collectors has resulted in a change in this crime. Suspects are now using DMV MV 35 forms (Statement of a Vehicle Owner Who Does Not Have a Valid Title)

The suspects in these cases are scrappers who scout neighborhoods for apparent junk or unregistered vehicles on residential properties.

Larcenies to Vehicles

In 2009, Rochester was plagued by an increase in larcenies to vehicles. There were 2,663 reported vehicle larcenies during the year and many included damage to vehicle windows, locks, dashboards or doors to facilitate the larceny. GPS units, cell phones, digital cameras, purses and golf clubs were some of the more common items stolen from inside vehicles.

Insurance Frauds

Insurance frauds were varied: Five investigations involved vehicles being reported as stolen in attempt to cover up the insured's vehicle being involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Another fraud investigation involved a vehicle being reported as stolen that was later recovered burned. The investigation revealed that several days after purchasing the vehicle, the insured found mechanical problems and difficulty obtaining a title.

Additional fraud cases include the reported theft of a vehicle to hide the insured's involvement in a shoplifting incident, a case where the insured filed a claim for accident damage for which he had already been paid for but did not have repaired, and the reported theft of a vehicle where the insured was having financial difficulties.

Coordinated Efforts

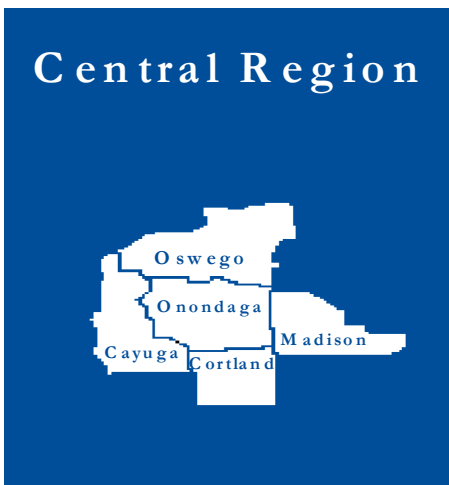
The Rochester Police Department continues to work closely with other local law enforcement agencies on motor vehicle related investigations. Each month members attend a meeting hosted by the Monroe County DA's office. All local agencies are invited regardless of their involvement with the Auto Theft Task Force. Recent trends and active cases are discussed by the group. Suspected fraud referrals from insurance companies to the state Insurance Fraud Bureau are read and discussed. A second meeting of Task Force member agencies is held later in the month. Members have attended 20 such meetings this year. Additionally, 15 intra-departmental command staff meetings were attended by members of the Auto Theft Task Force in 2009 to discuss motor vehicle theft patterns and strategy implementation. Task Force members also attended two MVTIFP Board Statewide Advisory Group meetings this year.

Training

Members continue to provide motor vehicle theft and vehicle identification training to all police recruits attending the Monroe Community College Public Safety Training Facility. A total of 50 recruits from Rochester Police Department and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office received the training in 2009.

In 2010, the member assigned to the Auto Theft Task Force attended a DCJS-sponsored latent fingerprint school to enable recovered vehicles to be processed for prints. Other training included four members attending the Northeast International Association of Auto Theft Investigators training seminar in Buffalo, two members attending the DCJS- LPR seminar in Batavia and one member attending the New York Prosecutors Training Institute/New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association training in Buffalo.

Rochester Police Department			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	67	Stolen vehicles recovered	39
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	37	Value of parts recovered	\$8,850
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	3	Value of vehicles recovered	\$222,300
MVT misdemeanor arrests	18	MVIF investigations initiated	15
MVT felony arrests	14	MVIF investigations filed with SAFETNet	11
Confidential informants	2	Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0
Reported motor vehicle thefts	963	MVIF misdemeanor arrests	3
Stolen parts recovered	29	MVIF felony arrests	4



Central Region

Syracuse City Police Department

Syracuse City Police Department

The Motor Vehicle Theft Grant is administered by the commanding officer of the Patrol Services/Special Events Division. Officers and detectives that are actively involved with the prevention and recovery of stolen vehicles are assigned to the overtime detail. These members, for the most part, are assigned to the Patrol Division. A detective from the Stolen Vehicle Section participates in the directed motor vehicle details and reviews all stolen vehicle reports for possible Insurance Fraud.

Motor vehicle thefts decreased approximately 25% in 2009 as compared to 2008 (369 motor vehicles were stolen vs. 496). Insurance fraud remained flat, with one case of insurance fraud in 2009 resulting in a misdemeanor arrest.

Joyriding still appears to be the most common reason for vehicles to be stolen in Syracuse. When recovered, vehicles do not appear to have been stolen to commit additional crimes. When arrests are made, the defendant is under the age of 18 and often, under the age of 16. During 2009, there were 24 vehicles stolen because the owner left the vehicle unattended and running, or left the keys in the vehicle. Many

times, other vehicles in the area were found to have had their interior ransacked, which also points to juveniles looking for something to steal and finding a spare key.

In years past, ignition by-pass was a common method of theft, but in 2009 only 11 vehicles were stolen using this method as compared to 64 in 2008. The majority were Chrysler products, primarily older model Dodge Caravans.

Six motor vehicles were stolen through the use of a tow truck; all six were older models and were not recovered. Another nine older motor vehicles ranging from a 2000 to a 1971 model were stolen and never recovered. It appears all these vehicles were stolen for scrap. The number of motor vehicles stolen for this purpose is down from 2008, possibly because the price of scrap metal has dropped and the revised DMV scrap metal forms that are now in use.

Syracuse experienced a slight increase in carjacking cases, with 10 in 2009 compared to six the year before. One case was closed by arrest and the others are all pending. Victims were not cooperating fully with the police investigation into the crime.

A number of years ago, the department implemented the "attempt to locate" classification for motor vehicles that were reported to the 911 Center as stolen, but was actually traded for drugs. Officers were instructed to broadcast an attempt to locate message and change the classification from stolen vehicle to attempt to locate. During 2009, there were only a few "drug trades" wrongly classified as stolen vehicles, which may account for some of the decrease in motor vehicle theft for 2009. Another possible reason for the decrease in stolen vehicles is the increased number of officers assigned to Patrol and Command staff using crime analysis and mapping to target high-crime areas. Many of the high motor vehicle theft areas of the city are also the areas of high drug activity. Placing additional officers in these areas may have reduced the motor vehicle thief's ability to find a vehicle to steal. Additionally, the Syracuse Police Department participates in Operation IMPACT, which puts the State Police and the Onondaga County Sheriff, as well as additional Syracuse police officers, on the streets to actively stop vehicles for petty offenses and/or crimes in high-crime areas of the city.

In 2009, Syracuse police investigated a rash of burglaries involving car dealerships and auto repair shops, during which at least seven vehicles were stolen. Similar crimes were also being committed outside the city. As a result of the Syracuse police investigation, two individuals were arrested in connection with these crimes. In one case, the suspect stole two vehicles. The police had few leads until the burglars stole two vehicles from separate dealerships, both equipped with ONSTAR. Both vehicles were found in the Town of Dewitt, one parked on the street and the other parked in a driveway. One of the occupants of the home where the vehicle was parked in the driveway confessed to the burglary spree and proceeds from burglaries in and outside of the city were recovered. Five city burglaries were cleared by this arrest, as were additional burglaries from within Onondaga County. Onondaga County Sheriff's were also able to clear some construction site larcenies and a restaurant/bar burglary.

Both agencies are continuing the investigation and additional cases may be cleared in the future.

Another motor vehicle crime spree that occurred throughout 2009 was the theft of six rental vehicles from the Avis Car Company. Each stolen vehicle was missing for at least two months before Avis discovered the theft; all six vehicles were recovered, one in the city and the other five in the county. A former employee was charged in connection with two of the thefts. The other cases are closed, due to a lack of evidence linking the employee to the crime.

The Syracuse Police Department had a stolen vehicle recovery rate of approximately 86% during 2009. This recovery rate is due to aggressive patrol officers who, when not busy taking calls, are actively looking for the stolen vehicles; 86 different officers recovered at least three stolen vehicles during 2009. Officers assigned to the Stolen Vehicle Detail also contributed to the high recovery rate, working before or after their normal shift which allows them to check areas of the city that they could not during their regular shift. Lastly, 29% of the stolen vehicle investigations initiated by the Syracuse Police Department resulted in arrest.

The Department continues to use dedicated motor vehicle theft details to target areas of the city with high theft and recovery rates to deter theft and recover stolen vehicles. Officers are sent to motor vehicle theft trainings and conferences and they are expected to pass their information on to fellow officers. The agency also works with the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, the state Insurance Frauds Bureau, the State Police, Onondaga County Sheriffs Department and area Towns and Village Police Departments, as well as the department's Forgery and Fraud section. At this time, the department plans to continue with Operation IMPACT, which allows it to work with the aforementioned agencies as well as the Onondaga County Probation Department, US Marshals Office, state Parole and other federal agencies.

Syracuse City Police Department			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	369	Reported motor vehicle thefts	369
Investigations filed with SAFETNet	0	Stolen vehicles recovered	342
Hits resulting from SAFETNet	0	Value of vehicles recovered	\$2,559,0350
MVT-related misdemeanor arrests	169	MVIF investigations initiated	1
MVT-related felony arrests	126	MVIF-related misdemeanor arrests	1
Warrant issued	40		



Capital District Region

Albany City Police Department
Albany County Office of the District Attorney
Schenectady County Office of the District Attorney

Albany City Police Department

The Albany Police Department's Auto Crimes Task Force primary objective is to conduct investigations for all auto thefts, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possible motor vehicle insurance fraud.

During 2009, the department saw about an 8% increase from 2008 in stolen motor vehicles, but its recovery rate went up, from 77% in 2008 to 90% in 2009. Most of the vehicles stolen were a result of victims leaving their vehicles running unattended or leaving spare keys in an unlocked vehicle. This year's recovery rate is on par with prior years. The majority of crime is located in the city's population centers: Arbor Hill, Pine Hills, and within the North and South End of Albany. Thefts occurs in the later hours of the evening and during the overnight hours, and vehicles appear less likely to be stolen in the middle of the week. The two vehicles types which were stolen the most were both made by Honda (the Accord and Civic) followed by the Nissan Sentra and the Ford Explorer.

Resources such as crime mapping, license plate readers and relationships with scrap yards such as A1 Auto Crushers have helped us recover many vehicles. Scrap metal has remained just as much of a hot commodity as last year, but proactive efforts and working relationships with scrap yards have helped us identify stolen vehicles as well as the people who are scrapping them.

Theft From Motor Vehicles

Toward the end of 2009, the Albany Police Auto Crimes Task Force ran a number of details targeting theft from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicles, and illegal repair shops (possible chop shops):

October 2009- A detail target in areas that had a high occurrence of thefts from motor vehicles, during the house those thefts were reported to have happened. One arrest was made during this detail.

November 2009 – A targeted patrol of the Delaware Avenue and Whitehall Road areas for a rash of larceny of, and from, motor vehicle. Three arrests for stolen motor vehicles were made, and those suspects were also found to have committed – and were arrested for – eight burglaries.

November 2009 – A detail surveiling known offenders of vehicle theft and larcenies resulted in one arrest.

Crime mapping has allowed the department to identify areas that have a high occurrence of motor vehicle theft as well as a map where these vehicles are being recovered. Crime mapping also provides police with a snapshot of the most common types of stolen vehicles. Along with trends, crime mapping also helps the agency track decreases in crime after arrests of known offenders in a particular area (generally areas that known offenders reside). This in turn provides us with ideal areas to focus our enforcement (vehicles running unattended), recovery and educational (“Take Your Keys With You”) efforts.

The Albany Police and the Crime Analysis Center noticed an unusually high occurrence of stolen vehicles from the area of Whitehall Road/Hackett Boulevard being recovered in the South End of the city. As an officer was taking a report for a stolen vehicle from the area of Whitehall Road, several officers were steadily patrolling the neighborhood and subsequently located the vehicle occupied. After a short pursuit, subject was taken into custody and admitted to several larcenies of motor vehicles as well as larcenies from motor vehicles. Crime mapping also allows the agency to locate known offenders of particular crimes and their proximity to areas where similar crimes are occurring.

Task Force Meeting/Training

This year, representatives from the Albany Police continued to attend several meetings and held several training sessions that have helped the agency develop best practices when dealing with Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud. In March the Albany Police Department hosted the Capital District Auto Theft meeting which was held at the Albany Jewish Community Center. Speakers included Albany District Attorney Brad Sherman who provided an overview of the theft of catalytic converters, which occurred in the Town of Colonie. The IFB presentation covered updates regarding insurance fraud. Also covered were the capability/ limitations of GPS systems such as Tom Tom and Garmin. During the 2nd Qtr of 2009 representatives from the Albany Police Department attended meetings with the MVTIFB to discuss investigative strategies. During these meeting select department members received training which was disseminated to other Albany PD Auto Crimes members to enhance their investigative techniques. During the 3rd Qtr of 2009 select members also attended separate meetings with the Albany Count DA's office regarding insurance fraud and policy development. Seven officers were added to the Albany Police Departments Auto Crimes Unit after they attended a 4 day Auto Crimes School which was held at the NYSP Academy in Albany, NY. All members of the Albany Police Department received formal training on the ELSAG License Plate Reader. During the 4th Qtr of 2009

seventeen members of the Albany PD's Auto Crimes unit received training from the NYS DMV, IFB and the Albany County DA's office regarding best practices to assist in increasing prosecution rates for auto crimes/ insurance theft.

Albany City Police Department			
<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT investigations initiated	54	Motor vehicle thefts reported	274
MVT-related felony arrests	26	Stolen vehicles recovered	247
MVT-related misdemeanor arrests	73	Value of recovered vehicles	\$2,236,124
MVIF-related misdemeanor arrests	2	Vehicles recovered for other jurisdictions	48

Albany County Office of the District Attorney

Throughout 2009, the Albany County District Attorney's Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Unit employed widespread efforts to identify and prosecute motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle related insurance fraud. Through goal-oriented meetings with multiple agencies and task forces, the unit has utilized the expertise of professionals to combat the criminal activities of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

The Unit participates in various task forces and associations, including the Capital District Financial Crime Network, the Capital District Auto Theft Task Force, New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association (NYACT), Northeast Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (NE-IAATI), and the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI). The prosecutors that handle these specific cases have been responsible for the successful criminal prosecution of motor vehicle related crimes.

In 2009, the unit was successful in identifying certain trends relating to the problem of motor vehicle insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft in Albany County, and was able to implement strategies for both widespread vehicle-related crime and also specific cases that were reported. The unit has continued with effective programs designed to collaborate and share resources and intelligence with law enforcement agencies and District Attorney's offices from neighboring counties and state agencies.

Current Statistics of Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud

In 2009, the unit not only saw a higher concentration of motor vehicle thefts in and around the two largest Albany County jurisdictions (city of Albany and the town of Colonie) but also in the mainly residential suburban town of Bethlehem, city of Watervliet, and the rural outlying area of the town of Knox. A large number of motor vehicle thefts in Albany County are crimes of opportunity.

In 2009, there also were many reported crimes of motor vehicle theft that were specifically targeted and not opportunistic. These include targeted auto businesses

where defendants seek specific parts for re-sale, such as catalytic converters that contain valuable titanium.

One increase of crime noted in this area stems from online criminal activity where a defendant poses as the seller of a car part product and does not deliver said product after receiving payment, or offers repairs of auto parts that are sent along with payment. The victim then finds that the item is not returned to them and the money has already been obtained by the defendant.

As continuing from previous reporting years, Albany County District Attorney's Office is uniquely positioned to conduct investigations and prosecute methods of auto theft based upon Albany County having jurisdiction over every crime which involves filing paperwork with the state Department of Motor Vehicles, and many investigations were opened in 2009 that focused on the alteration, production, sale and possession of illegal documents such as titles, registrations and insurance cards. The unit continues to work with investigators from all agencies, including DMV, in investigating and prosecuting these types of scams: counterfeit/altered title, title washing, fraudulent manufacturer's certificate of origin, identity theft, fraudulent license/insurance cards/inspection stickers, and use of internet/computers.

Strategies Implemented

In addition to opportunistic and targeted crime, there can be other factors that lead to the detection of crimes involving vehicles. As noted in the tracking of trends over 2009, the activity that alerts police agencies to offenders does not always stem from criminal activity involving a vehicle, but can result in motor vehicle theft or insurance fraud arrests and investigations. Conversely, motor vehicle theft detection can also lead to the discovery of other criminal activity. It is important to consider all of these factors when implementing strategies to combat motor vehicle and insurance crime.

The unit has continued to reach out to every law enforcement agency in the county to conduct training/information sessions for local law enforcement in issues relating to both motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Formal meetings/training sessions were conducted throughout 2009. In 2009, investigation meetings and conferences often included:

- initial case review and/or grand jury, hearing and trial preparation on new arrests and pending cases;
- regular meetings connected to ongoing open investigations in particular cases;
- training and education on various trends and methods of auto-related insurance fraud and auto theft matters;
- meetings held to address a particular trend or a particular defendant or group of defendants; and

- meetings held to inform agencies of an ongoing investigation and to request assistance and/or information in support of a particular investigation or pending matters.

These meetings and evaluations resulted in important sharing of information and review of implemented policies and practices. One such practice is the success of the “hot sheet” that is printed out at roll call and given to officers to be on the lookout for stolen vehicles. Another success discussed at these review meetings is the continued use of license plate readers that allow for officers to search DMV and police agency databases on passing cars in routine traffic. Currently the Albany Police Department, the Albany County Sherriff’s Department and the State Police use them in their patrol vehicles.

Albany County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT / MVIT cases opened	143	Warrants issued / subpoenas executed	3
MVT / MVIF indictments	20	Type of sentences:	
MVT / MVIF felony pleas	23	Local jail	6
MVT / MVIT misdemeanor pleas	1	State prison	15
Confidential informants	2	Probation	1
Victim conferences	7	Case conferences*	157
* Case conferences includes meeting with: local law enforcement, NYS DMV, loss prevention officers from car rental companies, NYS IFB, judges and defense attorneys.			

Schenectady County Office of the District Attorney

The Schenectady County District Attorney’s Office Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Crimes Unit is administered and prosecuted by an assistant district attorney, who specializes in the investigation and prosecution of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases, working in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies to assist in investigations to improve the rate of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud apprehension. The primary goals of the unit are to further enhance the prosecution of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud-related cases, and to continue improving the arrest rate for these crimes.

In 2009, case data continues to suggest that the majority of motor vehicle thefts in Schenectady County are unauthorized use crimes arising from domestic or “crack lease” situations and transportation for theft and joyriding, as opposed to crimes of organized theft for profit.

According to DCJS statistics as of August 2009, Schenectady County has the highest Index Crime rate per capita in New York State. A large majority of the motor vehicle theft cases in Schenectady are directly linked to the city’s high volume of drug activity. In 2009, the unit focused on the investigation of many cases that came in as “crack leases”: a common case will involve a vehicle that is taken by a family member of the victim, and leased out for drugs. Actually proving that the driver (at time of arrest)

had knowledge that the car was stolen requires more information than the original case file contains. Gathering this information requires additional interviews, collaborative efforts by local law enforcement and cooperation of defendants when several people are accused.

Cases are also beginning to suggest a more organized, illegitimate rental system in the city of Schenectady. Individuals are not only using stolen vehicles in exchange for drugs, but are involved in a continuous rental of the car for cash until the vehicle is found by the police. With the help of modern surveillance resources such as license plate reader recognition systems, these vehicles can easily be detected.

The office not only collaborates with local agencies to make arrests and prosecute cases, but also investigates connections to other cases pending prosecution. As previously mentioned, motor vehicle theft crimes tend to occur in conjunction with other crimes, such as drug crimes. Many of the suspects or potential witnesses those cases also have other cases pending within the county. In such situations, the unit will attempt to resolve cases in a global fashion to give witnesses or defendants incentive to provide us with information necessary to prosecute motor vehicle and other types of cases.

Schenectady County Office of the District Attorney			
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>Total</i>
MVT cases	61	MVIF cases	3
MVT arrests	61	MVIF arrests	1
MVT felonies	41	MVIF felonies	3
MVT misdemeanors	25	MVIF misdemeanors	0
MVT indictments	10	MVIF indictments	0
MVT convictions	23	MVIF convictions	0

Appendix – Statistics 2009

Reported Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft - 2009

Rank	COUNTY	MV THEFTS		Rank	COUNTY	MV THEFTS
1	Kings	3,459			Genesee	37
2	Queens	3,300		33	Putnam	36
3	Bronx	2,425		34	Ontario	34
4	Erie	2,018			Sullivan	34
5	Suffolk	1,648			Clinton	34
6	Nassau	1,548		37	Tompkins	33
7	Monroe	1,341		38	Washington	30
8	New York	1,082		39	Cortland	29
9	Westchester	896		40	Franklin	28
10	Onondaga	488		41	Warren	25
11	Richmond	428		42	Cayuga	23
12	Albany	351		43	Steuben	22
13	Niagara	264			Greene	22
14	Orange	262			Madison	22
15	Schenectady	258		46	Seneca	19
16	Rensselaer	175			Livingston	19
17	Dutchess	162		48	Otsego	18
18	Rockland	152			Chenango	18
19	Oneida	141		50	Tioga	17
20	Ulster	117			Alleghany	17
21	Broome	106		52	Lewis	16
22	Oswego	78		53	Montgomery	15
23	Saratoga	63		54	Columbia	14
24	Chautauqua	60		55	Herkimer	12
25	Jefferson	54*			Essex	12
26	Wayne	48		57	Delaware	11
27	Chemung	45		58	Wyoming	10
28	Fulton	43		59	Schoharie	9
29	Orleans	41		60	Schuyler	5
30	Cattaraugus	37		61	Yates	1
	St. Lawrence	37		62	Hamilton	0

Motor Vehicle Theft Trends 2005 - 2009

<i>Incidence of Motor Vehicle Thefts: January 2005 - December 2009</i>							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	5 Yr Average	Ranking on 5 YR Average
Albany	570	443	427	331	351	424	12
Allegany	21	16	16	18	17	18	53
Bronx	4,130	3,431	2,991	2,927	2,425	3,181	3
Broome	104	128	119	127	106	117	21
Cattaraugus	64	49	60	52	37	52	31
Cayuga	22	44	41	24	23	31	40
Chautauqua	107	105	105	88	60	93	22
Chemung	65	63	70	39	45	56	29
Chenango	21	16	24	19	18	20	51
Clinton	26	34	44	37	34	35	36
Columbia	15	26	38	20	14	23	48
Cortland	44	26	34	30	29	33	39
Delaware	13	21	19	15	11	16	56
Dutchess	259	234	263	211	162	226	16
Erie	2,932	2,592	2,771	2,362	2,018	2,535	4
Essex	10	14	21	6	12	13	58
Franklin	25	30	33	14	28	26	44
Fulton	66	81	50	46	43	57	28
Genesee	27	37	45	43	37	38	33
Greene	23	31	33	41	22	30	41
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
Herkimer	29	27	16	20	12	21	50
Jefferson*	34	36	29	27	18	29	42
Kings	6,016	5,176	4,292	3,879	3,459	4,564	1
Lewis	14	14	12	13	16	14	57
Livingston	30	27	27	15	19	24	46
Madison	19	25	30	23	22	24	45
Monroe	2,855	3,030	2,121	1,698	1,341	2,209	5
Montgomery	18	16	23	15	15	17	54
Nassau	2,008	1,593	1,586	1,446	1,548	1,636	7
New York	2,087	1,737	1,506	1,333	1,082	1,549	8
Niagara	433	383	370	297	264	349	13
Oneida	202	258	269	207	141	215	18

Incidence of Motor Vehicle Thefts: January 2005 - December 2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	5 Yr Average	Ranking on 5 YR Average
Onondaga	1,130	931	771	687	488	801	10
Ontario	62	85	39	37	34	51	32
Orange	389	321	340	326	262	328	15
Orleans	26	25	41	48	41	36	35
Oswego	74	55	62	71	78	68	25
Otsego	32	21	22	21	18	23	47
Putnam	59	30	33	31	36	38	34
Queens	5,592	4,964	3,945	3,831	3,300	4,326	2
Rensselaer	286	236	233	164	175	219	17
Richmond	556	628	522	470	428	521	11
Rockland	176	184	179	138	152	166	19
Saratoga	108	100	86	82	63	88	23
Schenectady	367	395	358	288	258	333	14
Schoharie	11	13	12	12	9	11	59
Schuyler	6	8	4	4	5	5	60
Seneca	15	16	7	24	19	16	55
St Lawrence	68	74	43	48	37	54	30
Steuben	53	31	32	32	22	34	37
Suffolk	2,378	2,484	2,260	2,093	1,648	2,173	6
Sullivan	79	93	101	58	34	73	24
Tioga	23	22	25	19	17	21	49
Tompkins	79	73	53	55	33	59	27
Ulster	166	154	129	97	117	133	20
Warren	25	35	32	17	25	27	43
Washington	37	38	37	24	30	33	38
Wayne	83	86	50	48	48	63	26
Westchester	1,266	1,087	969	841	896	1,012	9
Wyoming	26	28	20	13	10	19	52
Yates	2	9	6	3	1	4	61

New York State	35,463	31,970	27,900	25,019	21,725	28,415
New York City	18,381	15,936	13,256	12,440	10,694	14,141
Non-New York City	17,082	16,034	14,644	12,579	11,031	14,274

Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime/Incident-Based Reporting systems (7/10).

Motor Vehicle Thefts by Region 2008 - 2009

<i>REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS: 2008-2009</i>					
Region	Counties	2008	2009	# Change	% Change
New York City Region		12,440	10,694	-1,746	-14.0%
	Bronx	2,927	2,425	-502	-17.2%
	Kings	3,879	3,459	-420	-10.8%
	New York	1,333	1,082	-251	-18.8%
	Queens	3,831	3,300	-531	-13.9%
	Richmond	470	428	-42	-8.9%
Long Island Region		3,539	3,196	-343	-9.7%
	Nassau	1,446	1,548	102	7.1%
	Suffolk	2,093	1,648	-445	-21.3%
Mid Hudson Region		1,702	1,659	-43	-2.5%
	Dutchess	211	162	-49	-23.2%
	Orange	326	262	-64	-19.6%
	Putnam	31	36	5	16.1%
	Rockland	138	152	14	10.1%
	Sullivan	58	34	-24	-41.4%
	Ulster	97	117	20	20.6%
	Westchester	841	896	55	6.5%
Southern Tier Region		331	275	-56	-16.9%
	Broome	127	106	-21	-16.5%
	Chemung	39	45	6	15.4%
	Chenango	19	18	-1	-5.3%
	Delaware	15	11	-4	-26.7%
	Otsego	21	18	-3	-14.3%
	Schuyler	4	5	1	25.0%
	Steuben	32	22	-10	-31.3%
	Tioga	19	17	-2	-10.5%
	Tompkins	55	33	-22	-40.0%

REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS: 2008-2009

Region	Counties	2008	2009	# Change	% Change
Western Region		2,817	2,396	-421	-14.9%
	Allegany	18	17	-1	-5.6%
	Cattaraugus	52	37	-15	-28.8%
	Chautauqua	88	60	-28	-31.8%
	Erie	2,362	2,018	-344	-14.6%
	Niagara	297	264	-33	-11.1%
Capital District Region		967	938	-29	-3.0%
	Albany	331	351	20	6.0%
	Columbia	20	14	-6	-30.0%
	Greene	41	22	-19	-46.3%
	Rensselaer	164	175	11	6.7%
	Saratoga	82	63	-19	-23.2%
	Schenectady	288	258	-30	-10.4%
	Warren	17	25	8	47.1%
	Washington	24	30	6	25.0%
Mohawk Valley Region		300	220	-80	-26.7%
	Fulton	46	43	-3	-6.5%
	Herkimer	20	12	-8	-40.0%
	Montgomery	15	15	0	0.0%
	Oneida	207	141	-66	-31.9%
	Schoharie	12	9	-3	-25.0%
North Country Region		145	145	0	0.0%
	Clinton	37	34	-3	-8.1%
	Essex	6	12	6	100.0%
	Franklin	14	28	14	100.0%
	Jefferson	27	18	-9	-33.3%
	Lewis	13	16	3	23.1%
	St Lawrence	48	37	-11	-22.9%

REPORTED MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS: 2008-2009

Region	Counties	2008	2009	# Change	% Change
Finger Lakes Region		1,929	1,550	-379	-19.6%
	Genesee	43	37	-6	-14.0%
	Livingston	15	19	4	26.7%
	Monroe	1,698	1,341	-357	-21.0%
	Ontario	37	34	-3	-8.1%
	Orleans	48	41	-7	-14.6%
	Seneca	24	19	-5	-20.8%
	Wayne	48	48	0	0.0%
	Wyoming	13	10	-3	-23.1%
	Yates	3	1	-2	-66.7%
Central Region		835	640	-195	-23.4%
	Cayuga	24	23	-1	-4.2%
	Cortland	30	29	-1	-3.3%
	Madison	23	22	-1	-4.3%
	Onondaga	687	488	-199	-29.0%
	Oswego	71	78	7	9.9%
Suburban		4,518	4,244	-274	-6.0%
	Nassau	1,446	1,548	102	7.1%
	Rockland	138	152	14	10.1%
	Suffolk	2,093	1,648	-445	-21.3%
	Westchester	841	896	55	6.5%
New York State		25,019	21,763	-3,294	-13.2%
New York City		12,440	10,694	-1,746	-14.0%
Non-New York City		12,579	11,069	-1,548	-12.3%

Motor Vehicle Thefts Rates per Population

<i>Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts: 2009 Rates per 100,000 Population</i>				
Rank	County	2009	Population	Rate/100,000
1	Erie	2,018	905,273	222.9
2	Monroe	1,341	731,849	183.2
3	Bronx	2,425	1,398,093	173.5
4	Schenectady	258	151,942	169.8
5	Queens	3,300	2,303,205	143.3
6	Kings	3,459	2,567,968	134.7
7	Niagara	264	213,831	123.5
8	Albany	351	298,400	117.6
9	Nassau	1,548	1,352,956	114.4
10	Rensselaer	175	155,511	112.5
11	Suffolk	1,648	1,521,962	108.3
12	Onondaga	488	451,917	108.0
13	Orleans	41	41,904	97.8
14	Westchester	896	956,850	93.6
15	Richmond	428	489,575	87.4
16	Fulton	43	54,912	78.3
17	Orange	262	383,829	68.3
18	New York	1,082	1,642,066	65.9
19	Genesee	37	57,420	64.4
20	Oswego	78	121,238	64.3
21	Ulster	117	182,041	64.3
22	Lewis	16	26,082	61.3
23	Oneida	141	231,141	61.0
24	Cortland	29	48,257	60.1
25	Seneca	19	34,162	55.6
26	Franklin	28	50,448	55.5
27	Dutchess	162	294,145	55.1
28	Broome	106	194,381	54.5
29	Wayne	48	91,270	52.6
30	Chemung	45	87,431	51.5
31	Rockland	152	299,944	50.7

<i>Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts: 2009 Rates per 100,000 Population</i>				
Rank	County	2009	Population	Rate/100,000
32	Cattaraugus	37	77,397	47.8
33	Washington	30	62,991	47.6
34	Chautauqua	60	133,112	45.1
35	Greene	22	49,071	44.8
36	Sullivan	34	76,387	44.5
37	Clinton	34	82,153	41.4
38	Warren	25	66,247	37.7
39	Putnam	36	99,574	36.2
40	Chenango	18	50,830	35.4
41	Allegany	17	49,605	34.3
42	Tioga	17	49,986	34.0
43	St Lawrence	37	109,430	33.8
44	Essex	12	36,495	32.9
45	Tompkins	33	101,616	32.5
46	Ontario	34	104,919	32.4
47	Madison	22	69,784	31.5
48	Montgomery	15	48,557	30.9
49	Livingston	19	63,003	30.2
50	Otsego	18	61,976	29.0
51	Cayuga	23	79,569	28.9
52	Saratoga	63	218,936	28.8
53	Schoharie	9	31,936	28.2
54	Schuyler	5	18,839	26.5
55	Delaware	11	45,075	24.4
56	Wyoming	10	41,453	24.1
57	Steuben	22	96,303	22.8
58	Columbia	14	61,871	22.6
59	Herkimer	12	61,943	19.4
60	Jefferson*	18	118,766	15.2
61	Yates	1	24,634	4.1
62	Hamilton	0	4,980	0.0

New York State	21,725	19,537,441	111.2
New York City	10,694	11,136,534	96.0
Non-New York City	11,031	8,400,907	131.3

Motor Vehicle Thefts Rates per Registration

<i>Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts: 2009 Rates per 100,000 Registrations</i>				
Rank	County	2009 MV Theft	Registrations	Rate/100,000
1	Bronx	2,425	228,207	1,062.6
2	Kings	3,459	398,696	867.6
3	Queens	3,300	663,487	497.4
4	New York	1,082	220,822	490.0
5	Erie	2,018	553,763	364.4
6	Monroe	1,341	466,580	287.4
7	Schenectady	258	104,790	246.2
8	Albany	351	180,522	194.4
9	Niagara	264	136,657	193.2
10	Rensselaer	175	99,558	175.8
11	Onondaga	488	279,830	174.4
12	Richmond	428	245,651	174.2
13	Nassau	1,548	898,417	172.3
14	Orleans	41	25,375	161.6
15	Suffolk	1,648	1,060,842	155.3
16	Westchester	896	597,420	150.0
17	Fulton	43	35,170	122.3
18	Oswego	78	71,842	108.6
19	Orange	262	244,020	107.4
20	Cortland	29	27,339	106.1
21	Lewis	16	15,372	104.1
22	Oneida	141	136,830	103.0
23	Genesee	37	37,576	98.5
24	Franklin	28	28,671	97.7
25	Seneca	19	20,488	92.7
26	Ulster	117	128,457	91.1
27	Broome	106	126,629	83.7
28	Chemung	45	54,561	82.5
29	Cattaraugus	37	46,121	80.2
30	Rockland	152	192,411	79.0
31	Wayne	48	61,790	77.7

Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts: 2009 Rates per 100,000 Registrations

Rank	County	2009 MV Theft	Registrations	Rate/100,000
32	Dutchess	162	209,345	77.4
33	Washington	30	39,001	76.9
34	Chautauqua	60	78,273	76.7
35	Clinton	34	50,294	67.6
36	Allegany	17	26,199	64.9
37	Sullivan	34	52,818	64.4
38	Tompkins	33	51,624	63.9
39	St Lawrence	37	60,608	61.0
40	Greene	22	36,605	60.1
41	Chenango	18	32,976	54.6
42	Warren	25	46,279	54.0
43	Madison	22	41,084	53.5
44	Tioga	17	33,481	50.8
45	Cayuga	23	45,827	50.2
46	Essex	12	24,049	49.9
47	Ontario	34	69,104	49.2
48	Livingston	19	39,393	48.2
49	Otsego	18	37,932	47.5
50	Montgomery	15	31,811	47.2
51	Putnam	36	79,090	45.5
52	Wyoming	10	24,062	41.6
53	Schuyler	5	12,075	41.4
54	Saratoga	63	153,396	41.1
55	Schoharie	9	22,161	40.6
56	Steuben	22	61,139	36.0
57	Delaware	11	32,861	33.5
58	Herkimer	12	36,985	32.4
59	Columbia	14	45,730	30.6
60	Jefferson*	18	62,211	28.9
61	Yates	1	14,031	7.1
62	Hamilton	0	3,977	0.0

New York State	21,725	8,942,315	242.9
New York City	10,694	1,756,863	608.7
Non-New York City	11,031	7,185,452	153.5

Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Suspected Incidents 2009

Rank	COUNTY	MV INSURANCE FRAUD	Rank	COUNTY	MV INSURANCE FRAUD
1	Kings	4,908	32	Essex	12
2	Queens	3,483		Greene	12
3	Bronx	2,336		Madison	12
4	New York	1,722		Otsego	12
5	Suffolk	1,396	36	Columbia	11
6	Nassau	1,369		Ontario	11
7	Richmond	544	38	Chenango	10
8	Erie	429		Jefferson	10
9	Westchester	424		Livingston	10
10	Monroe	226		St. Lawrence	10
11	Rockland	172		Tompkins	10
12	Orange	168	43	Chemung	9
13	Albany	111		Herkimer	9
14	Onondaga	102	45	Delaware	8
15	Niagara	68		Franklin	8
16	Dutchess	67		Fulton	8
17	Schenectady	57		Genesee	8
18	Oneida	53		Steuben	8
19	Cayuga	47		Schoharie	8
20	Rensselaer	40	51	Montgomery	7
21	Ulster	34	52	Clinton	6
22	Saratoga	28		Washington	6
23	Sullivan	24	54	Cortland	5
24	Broome	22		Lewis	5
25	Chautauqua	18	56	Orleans	4
26	Oswego	16		Seneca	4
27	Putnam	15		Wyoming	4
	Warren	15	59	Schuyler	3
29	Allegany	14	60	Tioga	2
	Cattaraugus	14	61	Hamilton	1
31	Wayne	13		Yates	1

Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Suspected Incidents 2009 Rate per Population

<i>MVIF 2009 Rate per Population</i>				
Rank	County	2009 MVIF	Population	Rate/100,000
1	Kings	4,908	2,567,968	191.1
2	Bronx	2,336	1,398,093	167.1
3	Queens	3,483	2,303,205	151.2
4	Richmond	544	489,575	111.1
5	New York	1,722	1,642,066	104.9
6	Nassau	1,369	1,352,956	101.2
7	Suffolk	1,396	1,521,962	91.7
8	Cayuga	47	79,569	59.1
9	Rockland	172	299,944	57.3
10	Erie	429	905,273	47.4
11	Westchester	424	956,850	44.3
12	Orange	168	383,829	43.8
13	Schenectady	57	151,942	37.5
14	Albany	111	298,400	37.2
15	Essex	12	36,495	32.9
16	Niagara	68	213,831	31.8
17	Sullivan	24	76,387	31.4
18	Monroe	226	731,849	30.9
19	Allegany	14	49,605	28.2
20	Rensselaer	40	155,511	25.7
21	Schoharie	8	31,936	25.1
22	Greene	12	49,071	24.5
23	Oneida	53	231,141	22.9
24	Dutchess	67	294,145	22.8
25	Warren	15	66,247	22.6
	Onondaga	102	451,917	22.6
27	Hamilton	1	4,980	20.1
28	Chenango	10	50,830	19.7
29	Otsego	12	61,976	19.4
30	Lewis	5	26,082	19.2
31	Ulster	34	182,041	18.7

<i>MVIF 2009 Rate per Population</i>				
Rank	County	2009 MVIF	Population	Rate/100,000
32	Cattaraugus	14	77,397	18.1
33	Columbia	11	61,871	17.8
34	Delaware	8	45,075	17.7
35	Madison	12	69,784	17.2
36	Schuyler	3	18,839	15.9
	Livingston	10	63,003	15.9
	Franklin	8	50,448	15.9
39	Putnam	15	99,574	15.1
40	Fulton	8	54,912	14.6
41	Herkimer	9	61,943	14.5
42	Montgomery	7	48,557	14.4
43	Wayne	13	91,270	14.2
44	Genesee	8	57,420	13.9
45	Chautauqua	18	133,112	13.5
46	Oswego	16	121,238	13.2
47	Saratoga	28	218,936	12.8
48	Seneca	4	34,162	11.7
49	Broome	22	194,381	11.3
50	Ontario	11	104,919	10.5
51	Cortland	5	48,257	10.4
52	Chemung	9	87,431	10.3
53	Tompkins	10	101,616	9.8
54	Wyoming	4	41,453	9.6
55	Orleans	4	41,904	9.5
56	Washington	6	62,991	9.5
57	St Lawrence	10	109,430	9.1
58	Jefferson	10	118,766	8.4
59	Steuben	8	96,303	8.3
60	Clinton	6	82,153	7.3
61	Yates	1	24,634	4.1
62	Tioga	2	49,986	4.0
	New York State	18,368	19,537,441	94.0
	New York City	12,435	11,136,534	111.7
	Non-New York City	5,933	8,400,907	70.6