



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

# **2024 Annual Report**

**New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services**  
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[www.criminaljustice.ny.gov](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov)

**New York State**  
**Motor Vehicle and Insurance Fraud Prevention**  
**2024 Annual Report**

This report is submitted as required by Section 846-1(3)(h) of the New York State Executive Law by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services on behalf of the Motor Vehicle and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services provides staff support to the Board.

Issued December 2025

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*Governor*  
State of New York

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*Commissioner*  
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

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**Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention**  
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*Deputy Commissioner*

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## I. Introduction

Motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud have a substantial impact on insurance rates in New York State and across the country. These crimes are highly sophisticated and cost law-abiding motor vehicle owners and insurance policy holders hundreds of millions of dollars in increased business expenses and significantly higher annual insurance rates.

The *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Program* (MVTIFP) is designed to reduce the overall cost of motor vehicle insurance in the state by targeting theft and fraud and is funded by a statutorily required fee assessed on each motor vehicle insurance policy issued in New York State. The 2024-2025 state budget appropriated \$3.7 million for the program, which was used to support grants to law enforcement agencies and other entities to combat theft and fraud during the calendar year 2024, which are detailed in this report.

A 12-member *Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* (board), which includes representatives of law enforcement, consumers of motor vehicle insurance, insurance carriers and relevant state agency representatives who are appointed by the Governor, is responsible for overseeing the program. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides staff support to the board and the program's participating agencies.

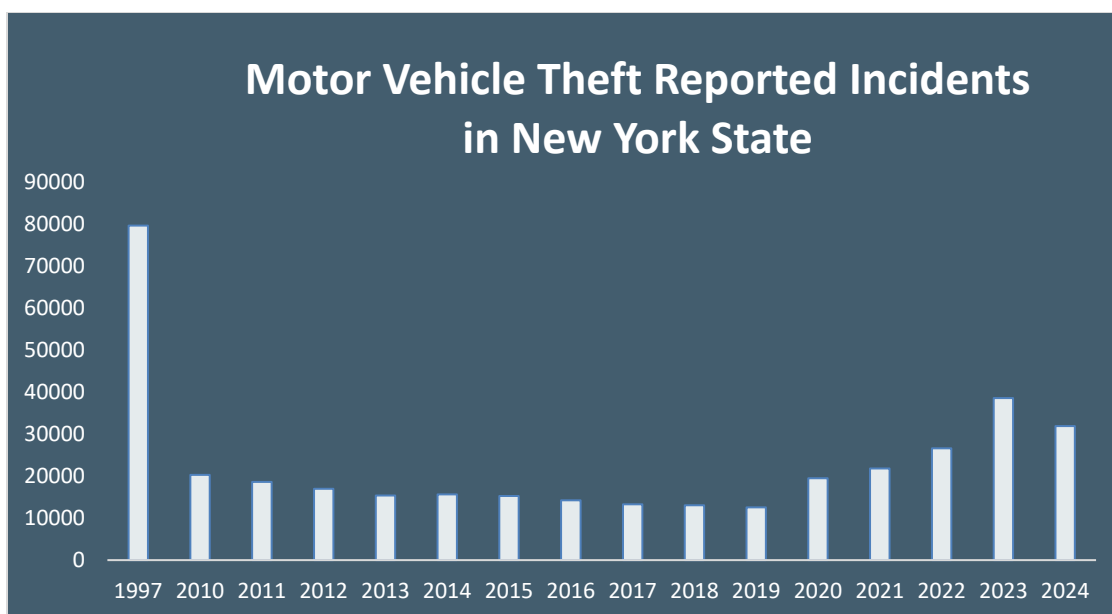
### A. Motor Vehicle Theft

Great strides have been made in reducing motor vehicle theft in New York. From 1997 through 2024, reported thefts decreased significantly. In 2022, however, there was a dramatic increase in vehicles reported stolen: 26,994, representing a 115% increase from the 12,573 reported stolen in 2019.<sup>1</sup> This represents the first year with a significant increase in motor vehicle theft since the inception of the program in 1994. In 2023 there was a continued increase in vehicle thefts with 38,620 reported motor vehicle thefts compared to 26,994 in 2022. However, 2024 saw a 27% decrease in motor vehicle thefts in New York with 28,272 recorded. New York is still in the top 10 states with the highest number of thefts by volume (ranked #6).

Many counties continue to report the prevalence of thefts of Hyundai and Kia vehicles. Due to a TikTok posting, Hyundai and Kia vehicles dominated the top 10 vehicle makes and models stolen since 2023. The social media post demonstrated in detail how to steal these vehicles by bypassing the key and security system in the vehicle. Nationwide, the Hyundai Elantra and Hyundai Sonata had the highest number of thefts, with 58,432 vehicles reported stolen in 2024. Full-size pickups including the Chevrolet Silverado 1500 and Ford F150 were also included among the top 10 stolen makes and models in 2024. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the Hyundai Elantra remained the most stolen vehicle model this year, followed by the Kia Sportage and Chevrolet Silverado 1500.

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<sup>1</sup> Motor Vehicle Theft data are from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) as of 2/14/2025.



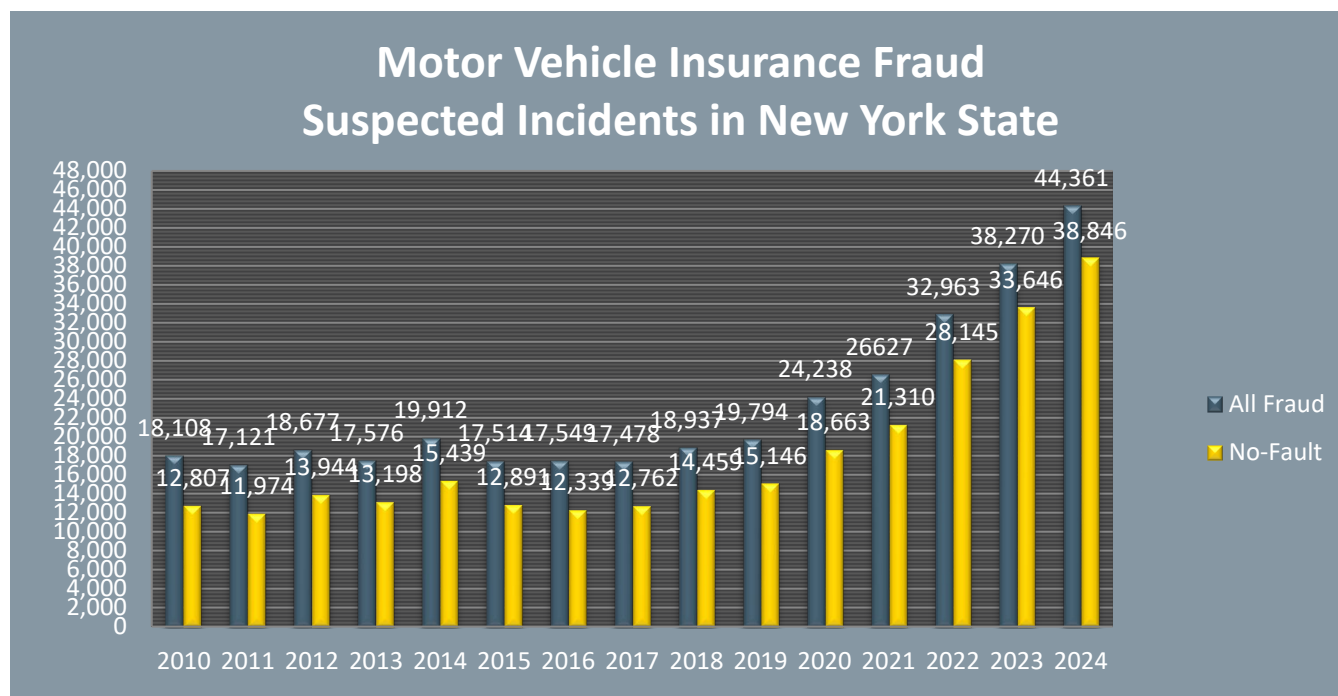
Motor Vehicle Theft 2023 vs. 2024 Top Ten Counties			
County	2023	2024	% Change
Queens	5,151	5,265	+2
Bronx	5,513	4,610	-16
Kings	4,388	4,525	+3
Erie	5,500	4,035	-27
Monroe	6,763	3,998	-41
New York	2,281	1,735	-24
Onondaga	1,479	1,686	+14
Suffolk	1,535	1,241	-19
Westchester	971	812	-16
Nassau	889	551	-38

While much of the motor vehicle theft continues to occur in the New York City region, 3 out of 5 of the NYC counties reported a decrease in motor vehicle thefts in 2024. Bronx County, New York County, and Richmond County had significant decreases in motor vehicle theft. The two NYC-region counties that did have an increase in theft were Kings County and Queens County, who both saw an increase of less than 5%. The five non-New York City counties – Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk, and Westchester – rank among the top 10 counties for reported motor vehicle thefts. Seven of the top 10 counties experienced moderate decreases in reported vehicle thefts in 2024, while the remaining three counties reported moderately small increases in thefts for the same period. Statewide, 42 of the 62 counties saw decreases in thefts, while 19 counties recorded increases and 1 remained the same from 2023.

## B. Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud

New York State drivers are statutorily required to have automobile insurance that includes coverage for the following:

- **No-Fault Personal Injury Protection:** To pay medical expenses, lost earnings and other reasonable and necessary expenses for a driver or passenger injured in, or a pedestrian injured by, their vehicles.
- **Liability:** To protect against the harm their vehicles – or any vehicle they drive with the owner’s permission – might do to other people and their property.
- **Uninsured Motorists:** To protect against the injuries that they, their family members or their passengers might suffer in a hit-and-run accident or in an accident with an uninsured vehicle.



Insurance carriers reported 44,361 incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud to the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) Insurance Frauds Bureau in 2024, including no-fault, motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle arson, larceny from motor vehicles, motor vehicle vandalism, motor vehicle collision damage, falsified motor vehicle invoices and fraudulent motor vehicle insurance cards. This represents an all-time high in incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud and an increase of approximately 83% from levels reported in 2020. In 2024 the reported number of no-fault claims went up to 38,846. That is a 15.5% increase from the previous year.

No-fault motor vehicle insurance fraud typically accounts for more than half of all reports of insurance fraud and three-quarters of reports of motor vehicle insurance fraud reports. In 2023, no-fault fraud accounted for approximately 88% of all suspected incidents of motor vehicle insurance fraud reported. No-fault insurance fraud reports went up from 33,646 in 2023 to 38,846 in 2024.

## II. Program Goals

The goal of the MVTIFP is to provide an integrated means to prevent, deter and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. The program provides funding for initiatives that include theft and fraud prevention education and the establishment and maintenance of specialized law enforcement units to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Eligible applicants for funding include local law enforcement agencies and not-for-profit organizations that administer one

or more motor vehicle theft or insurance fraud prevention programs or driver safety programs conforming to a plan approved by the board.

As required by Executive Law Article 36-A, statewide Motor Vehicle Theft and Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Plans of Operation are updated periodically on recommendations from the board. These separate plans of operation include assessing the scope of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud problems, including a regional analysis of motor vehicle theft and/or motor vehicle insurance fraud incidents and related activities, and analyses of various methods of combating problems associated with motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

Both plans of operation are available under [Annual Reports and Publications](#) and provide guidance on the types of projects supported by program funding.

### **III. Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board**

The MVTIFP is administered by a 12-member Board with the DCJS commissioner or designee serving as its chair. All board members are appointed by the governor: three are recommended by the speaker of the New York State Assembly, three by the temporary president of the New York State Senate, and the remaining five by the governor. Members serve four-year terms and are not considered public officials. The board includes representatives of consumers of motor vehicle insurance, motor vehicle insurance companies, law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. However, there are not an adequate number of Board members for a legal quorum, therefore no changes whatsoever can be made to this program or grant.

The board is charged with developing and recommending coordinated plans of operation that provide for the statewide reduction of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Elements of the plans must include:

- Assessments of the magnitude and scope of the problems, including an analysis of theft and fraud by region
- Methods for combating the problems.
- Information relevant to the development of competitive request for proposals (RFPs) to fund local programs to combat both problems.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the board, Executive Law Article 36-A authorizes the DCJS Commissioner to:

- Execute contracts.
- Accept grants and other contributions.
- Make grants through an RFP process.
- Appoint employees and affix compensation.
- Request assistance and information from the New York State Police, police departments throughout the state, DFS, state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), state Office of Court Administration, any New York state agency or from any insurer.
- Assist municipalities in the development of local programs.
- 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)
- Annually submit to the governor and chairs of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees a report on the board's activities, the activities of grant recipients and the results or impact of those activities.



## A. Board Activity

A lack of quorum due to several unfilled vacancies prevented the board from meeting in 2024.

## B. Programs Funded by The Board for Calendar Year 2024

In 2020, renewal grants were issued in the following award amounts for calendar year 2024:

<b>New York City</b>	<b>Award</b>
Bronx County District Attorney	\$329,991
Kings County District Attorney	\$250,873
New York County District Attorney	\$263,445
Queens County District Attorney	\$560,625
Richmond County District Attorney	\$ 50,144
NYPD Auto Crime Division	\$199,000
NYPD Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad	\$100,000
NYPD Auto Larceny Fraud Investigation Unit	\$ 24,873
Fire Department of New York City (FDNY)	\$124,800
<b>New York City Suburban Region</b>	<b>Award</b>
Nassau County District Attorney	\$114,300
Nassau County Police Department	\$145,869
Suffolk County District Attorney	\$283,210
Suffolk County Police Department	\$123,556
Westchester County District Attorney	\$277,963
Yonkers City Police Department	\$122,414
<b>Capital Region/Hudson Valley</b>	<b>Award</b>
Albany City Police Department	\$33,000
Albany County District Attorney	\$65,050
<b>Western Region</b>	<b>Award</b>
Buffalo City Police Department	\$106,884
Cheektowaga Town Police Department	\$36,542
Erie County District Attorney	\$104,758
Niagara County District Attorney	\$109,443
Niagara County Sheriff Department	\$20,000
Niagara Falls City Police Department	\$23,400
<b>Finger Lakes Region</b>	<b>Award</b>
Monroe County District Attorney	\$87,000
Monroe County Sheriff Office	\$36,500
Rochester City Police Department	\$49,520
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>Award</b>
New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc.	\$65,100
New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.	\$40,740

## IV. 2024 Grant Program Descriptions

### New York City Region

- Bronx County District Attorney's Office
- Kings County District Attorney's Office
- New York County District Attorney's Office
- Queens County District Attorney's Office
- Richmond County District Attorney's Office
- NYPD Auto Crime Division, Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad, and Patrol Borough Queens South Auto Larceny Fraud Investigations Unit
- FDNY

#### Bronx County District Attorney's Office

The Bronx District Attorney's Office Anti-Auto Theft Unit received a grant of \$329,991 for 2024, which partially funded salaries of seven assistant district attorneys and two investigators. The Anti-Auto Theft program aims to increase the number of successful prosecutions of defendants charged with grand larceny of a motor vehicle, criminal possession of stolen property, motor vehicle fraud, auto stripping and/or unauthorized use of vehicles, and insurance fraud.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office, by employing a multitude of both established and advanced techniques, detective investigators and assistant district attorneys collaborate to detect, investigate, prosecute, and punish offenders of motor vehicle theft, insurance fraud and related offenses. In 2024, there were 4,205 reports of grand larceny auto in the Bronx, according to the NYPD--an increase of 55% over the past five years. Prosecutors effected 65 indictments during the year. The District Attorney's Office continued to see a connection of cars with fake temporary plates to violent crimes. We are also seeing cases involving thefts of cars, altering of their VINS and subsequent sales to unsuspecting buyers over social media market sites, such as Facebook. In 2024, 240 stolen vehicles were recovered with a value of \$7,368,170. Detective Investigators opened a case in 2024 involving a 2019 Honda recovered after being completely stripped. Another case involved a company which acquired cars, damaged them, and then submitted insurance claims. Thefts of certain car parts such as wheels and rims, catalytic converters, and airbags are persistent problems.

The office utilizes a vertical prosecution model for vehicle theft and fraud cases. Prosecutors are involved in cases from the earliest stages, working with detectives to review, draft and present search warrant applications and seek cooperation from defendants after arrest.

Investigators and assistant prosecutors at the Bronx District Attorney's Office have maintained relationships and communications with collaborating partners in the fields of auto theft and insurance fraud. In 2024, investigators and prosecutors conferred with the following partner agencies: NICB, the New York City Auto Crime Squad, Auto Larceny Unit and NYPD precinct commands, adjacent and remote local police commands, the New York State Police, DFS, other prosecutors' offices, both inside and outside of New York State DMV, and special investigations units of major motor vehicle insurance carriers.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	9	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	65
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	7	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	275
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	1,667	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

### **Kings County District Attorney’s Office**

The Kings County District Attorney’s Office received a \$250,873 grant in 2024, funding the deputy bureau chief, detective investigator, data analyst, and assistant district attorney. The Kings County District Attorney’s Office (KCDA) continues to implement its successful Five Zone Program, initiated in 2008, which breaks the county’s 23 police precincts into five trial zones. The Five Zone Program uses a three-prong approach to fighting motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The first prong focuses on the prosecution of street level automobile theft and insurance fraud. The second prong calls for the Investigations Division of KCDA to investigate all aspects of the target crimes including: a) fraudulent automobile theft claims; b) inflated or fictitious invoices from collision repair shops; c) fraudulent no-fault claims from staged accidents; d) fraudulent medical claims from unnecessary, or non-existent medical treatment; e) fraudulent medical equipment claims; and f) the interrelationship of persons employed by medical fields and corrupt employees of law enforcement agencies.

An incomplete data and narrative report were provided for 2024.

<b>2023 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	N/A	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	N/A
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	N/A	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	N/A
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	N/A	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

### **New York County District Attorney’s Office**

The New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney’s Office received a \$263,445 grant in 2024, funding over 30 trial assistant district attorneys. This bolsters the District Attorney Office’s ability to investigate and prosecute crimes, such as motor vehicle theft, unlicensed operation of motor vehicles, automobile-part theft rings, fraudulent insurance broker schemes, and combat the production, possession, and use of counterfeit auto insurance and other motor vehicle related documents. The New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney’s Office (DANY) utilized their Investigative and Trial Divisions within the office to ensure to prosecute MVTIF related cases. The Investigative Division attorneys prosecuted large-scale, organized criminal enterprises to root out systemic corruption and criminality in a wide variety of industries. The Trial Division attorneys prosecuted many cases involving fraudulent driver’s licenses, VIN plates, insurance cards, registrations, license plates, and other documents. Both divisions worked closely with the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and other state and federal agencies to investigate fraud patterns and disrupt criminal networks. In addition, the

multi-jurisdictional nature of these crimes, requires DANY to collaborate with law enforcement partners across New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and federal agencies to track and prosecute offenders.

Throughout 2024, a significant focus was placed on identifying fraudulent vehicle registrations and stolen vehicles linked to crimes such as gun violence, organized retail theft, and identity fraud. These strategic efforts have yielded significant results. More than 30 convictions related to motor vehicle theft were secured within the quarter-two period, along with several successful fraud prosecutions that dismantled organized rings engaged in vehicle theft and resale schemes. Most notably, one major investigation uncovered a jewelry and electronics theft ring that operated using stolen vehicles with fraudulent registrations. This case resulted in multiple arrests, the recovery of over 50 electronic devices, and connections to related crimes in multiple states.

DANY also focuses on long term prevention of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud offenders through their Emerging Adult Unit. The unit addresses challenges associated with juvenile offenders involved in vehicle-related crimes, improving coordination with the Family Court to ensure better case management.

The impact of these initiatives extends beyond law enforcement, contributing to broader efforts to reduce fraudulent claims and deter vehicle theft, ultimately influencing insurance rates. Overall, through crime analysis, vertical prosecution, and inter-agency cooperation, DANY made significant strides in reducing these crimes and protecting the public from financial and safety risks associated with vehicle-related fraud.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	11	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	10
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	13
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	1	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

### **Queens County District Attorney's Office**

The Queens County District Attorney's Office received a \$560,625 grant in 2024, paying for two assistant district attorneys, one supervisor, one paralegal, and one full-time Rackets investigator. This unit is comprised of attorneys, investigators, and paralegals with special expertise in auto theft and insurance fraud. The unit focuses on long-term investigations and the handling of specially selected cases for trial and targets organized auto theft and insurance fraud activity. A major emphasis is placed on building enterprise corruption cases to ensure that the foundations of criminal activity are uprooted and to aggressively pursue individual prosecution and obtain maximum sentencing.

The Queens County District Attorney's Office has a comprehensive approach to auto crimes and insurance fraud by continuing their efforts of strong partnership and coordination with local, state, federal law enforcement, and insurance agencies. One instance of this continued collaboration in 2024 was with the District Attorney's Offices Auto Crime and Insurance Theft unit and NYPD, who were involved in an investigation/arrest conducted by the NYPD's Auto Crime Unit where the subject/defendant sold a stolen 2019 Honda CR-V after advertising on Facebook Marketplace for \$14,700 and provided the complainant with a fraudulent New Hampshire title. The case was presented to the Grand Jury, and an indictment was returned on a top count of Grand Larceny in the third degree and other related charges. On October 17,

2024, the defendant pled guilty to a felony, Attempted Grand Larceny in the third degree and was sentenced to conditional discharge. The office also worked alongside other agencies such as the NYPD-HSI Best III - Trademark Enforcement and Interdiction Group who jointly investigated counterfeit vehicle rims and uncovered a money-laundering scheme. On December 3, 2024, the subject pled guilty to a misdemeanor and the District Attorney's Office negotiated a forfeiture agreement, that included liquidation of the subject's assets.

Additionally, attorneys continued to investigate and prosecute cases of insurance fraud in Queens County. On December 5, 2024, a subject filed a claim with Progressive Insurance claiming that he was a passenger in a vehicle accident. Medical bills received by Progressive Insurance totaled \$26,000. Witnesses at the scene testified that only one person was in the vehicle; that there was no passenger, only a driver. The Defendant was arrested and charged with Insurance Fraud in the Third, Fourth, and Fifth degrees and Falsifying Business Records in the Second degree. The defendant pled guilty to Disorderly conduct and was sentenced to 105 days of community service. Overall, the 2024 MVTIF grant funds were utilized to investigate insurance fraud, chop-shop/illegal dismantling or medical mill-type operation and other types of organized auto crime activity and/or links to wider networks of auto-related criminal activity.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	51	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	15
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	19	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	25
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	38	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$17,146

### **Richmond County District Attorney's Office**

The Richmond County (Staten Island) District Attorney's Office received a \$50,144 grant in 2024, partially supporting three assistant district attorneys. The Trials Bureau investigates and prosecutes all program felony cases, and the Criminal Court Bureau prosecutes cases with felony charges that have the potential to be pleaded down to a misdemeanor.

The primary goal of the MVTIFP is to provide an integrated means to prevent and reduce incidences of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in Richmond County. The district attorney's approach to case reviews includes interviews of suspects and witnesses to gain intelligence about defendants' typical methods and to learn about the latest technologies employed by criminals. The district attorney's office works closely with its key partners to address insurance fraud-related crimes.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic marked an increase in motor vehicle thefts with 245 thefts in 2020, 513 in 2022, and 436 in 2023 compared to the 178 in 2019 in Staten Island. By 2024, grand larceny was down 30.11% on the island and all the police precincts. However, the Richmond County (Staten Island) District Attorney's Office has noted a continued trend of out-of-state offenders stealing cars in Staten Island.

ADAs report the continuing trend of arrests made due to people leaving keys in vehicles, or defendants taking a relative's or friend's car without permission. Of the 521 vehicles stolen in 2022, at least 339 (65%) of the owners admitted to having the keys inside the vehicle or the car itself at the time of the theft.

During 2023 there were 436 vehicles stolen, and at least 223 owners (51.2%) had their keys in the car at the time of the theft. 54 (12.4%) had their engine running at the time of the theft. In 2024, of the 304 vehicles stolen, 118 vehicles (38.8%) were stolen due to the owner leaving keys in the vehicle. NYPD and RCDA have taken to social media to remind the community to lock their vehicles, and to not leave cars running while heating up, or while at the store.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	238	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	128
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	434
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	238	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

### **New York City Police Department Auto Crime Division**

Part of the Criminal Enterprise Division of the Detective Bureau of the NYPD, the Auto Crime Division's mission is to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud within New York City through a coordinated approach involving law enforcement, crime analysis and prosecution. The Auto Crime Division utilizes an integrated approach to prevent motor vehicle crime as well as to detect, investigate and prosecute these crimes. The Auto Crime Division received a grant of \$199,000 in 2024 to fund police overtime, vehicle forensics training, equipment and rental vehicles for surveillance and investigations.

The Auto Crime Division utilizes several strategies in combatting motor vehicle related crime. The unit utilizes an in-house team of analysts to monitor trends and data related to auto theft and insurance fraud crimes and to disseminate such information throughout the NYPD and other neighboring jurisdictions to help determine locations for targeted enforcement. In 2024, the city saw a decrease in stolen vehicles by 11%, with 14,199 vehicles stolen. The unit has adapted to current patterns with targeted enforcement.

Through investigations into the sale of stolen vehicles and parts on social media and the internet, the Auto Crime Division has gained investigative leads into organized theft rings and has recovered numerous stolen vehicles and parts through buy-bust operations. The use of undercover officers and informants enhances these investigations. The division also maintains extensive interstate and federal law enforcement contacts, which enable investigators to develop information on individuals outside of New York who use the internet for criminal activity.

The use of modern technology – including social media, wiretaps, GPS tracking devices, license plate readers, cameras, and smart phone technology – plays an important role in auto crime investigations. Smart phones allow investigators to obtain immediate information in the field, including important records from DMV, the NICB, E-Justice and vehicle salvage records. In addition, advanced computers are used to view and enhance photos and videos to assist in the identification of stolen vehicles or vehicles used in crimes. In 2020, the Auto Crime School conducted a training class on the use of Berla vehicle forensics technology, providing training and vehicle forensics kits to auto crime investigators and ensuring citywide availability of this technology.



In 2021, New York City established the first in the nation catalytic converter labeling program. This program gives Law Enforcement the ability to identify stolen catalytic converters and enhance prosecution. The theft of catalytic converters in New York City increased more than 300% in 2020. 2022 continued the catalytic converter labeling program in NYC. This program gives Law Enforcement the ability to identify stolen catalytic converters, deters theft by providing car owners with warning window stickers, and enhances prosecution of catalytic converters. The theft of catalytic converters has significantly decreased in NYC because of this initiative.

In addition to its investigative work, the Auto Crime Division also maintains one of only two college accredited courses on auto crime and insurance fraud in the country. This four-day course is conducted twice a month, and 500 attendees were trained in the fundamentals of auto theft and insurance fraud in 2024. These trainings were sponsored by National Insurance Crime Bureau, New York Anti Car Theft & Fraud Association, New York State Department of Motor Vehicle and The International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.

<i><b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b></i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	1063	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	12
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	14,199	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	8,713	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	431

#### **New York Police Department Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad**

The NYPD Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad (FCIS) received a \$100,000 grant in 2024. The grant paid for overtime for uniformed members and investigators, training and rental vehicles for surveillance, search warrants and arrests. Since 2007, FCIS has redeveloped itself into two specific units, the Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad and the Health Care Fraud Task Force, combating No-Fault insurance fraud at the state and federal levels. The FCIS and HCFTF are recognized and acknowledged in law enforcement and the insurance industry for having developed detailed strategies and having conducted both short and long-term No-Fault Fraud investigations. The squad utilized a portion of grant funding to attend training conducted by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The training covered the entire fraud investigation process, including identifying fraud schemes, conducting interviews, preparing documentation, resolving fraud allegations, and fundamental legal concepts involved in a fraud examination.

FCIS focus their investigations on how these individuals are receiving treatment. Many medical facilities are involved with providing treatment without correct paperwork or without ever examining their patients. The successful reduction of insurance fraud is achieved by FCIS because of new training and more experience from networking. During 2024, FCIS utilized grant funding to pay for travel expenses in association with in-person training for two FCIS Detectives. NICB sponsored a four-day training/conference in Chicago, Illinois. The presentations of this conference were extensive and directly correlated with the requirements of the Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad's responsibilities. The

conference featured panels and presentations from renowned doctors, prosecutors, and investigators from throughout the U.S. This training was found to be very valuable and can be applied by the Fraudulent Collision Investigations Squad to help with their daily surveillance investigations.

The FCIS has noted an increase in the trend of “staged accidents,” in which a subject deliberately stages an accident in order to defraud insurance companies and receive a payout. With the help of MVT & IFP Grant funding, FCIS employed overtime expenses to continue its investigation into proving a nexus among “staged accidents,” and insurance fraud claims occurring, along with sham services provided by the same clinics, thereby focusing on determining a specific group(s) who are causing this insurance fraud spike.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	NA*	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	22
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	NA	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	23
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	NA	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	NA	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	23

\*The FCIS responds solely to insurance fraud cases and does not track theft-related statistics

### **New York Police Department Auto Larceny Fraud Investigation Unit**

The NYPD Auto Larceny Fraud Investigation Unit is a specialized unit formed to combat auto theft fraud in Patrol Borough Queens South. The unit consists of six full-time employees, four investigators and two supervisors. The sole function of the unit is to investigate reported vehicle thefts that have indications of fraud. In 2024, the unit received a grant of \$24,873, which was used primarily to support overtime and equipment for the unit’s investigation of fraudulent theft reports.

The Queens North Auto Larceny Unit’s strategy for the detection, prevention, deterrence, and reduction of motor vehicle theft and related crimes is through the analysis and comparison of past and current trends/causes of auto-related crimes, as well as conducting investigations and patrolling areas within the Queens North precincts. Members of the Auto Larceny Unit initiate investigations by first reviewing all GLA (Grand Larceny Auto) complaint reports and utilizing multiple resources—such as DAS, NICB, CarFax, Vigilant, and DMV—to analyze and locate stolen vehicles and identify vehicles or persons of interest. The unit also leverages social media to detect stolen vehicles, stolen parts, and other auto-related criminal trends that may connect to ongoing investigations.

The Auto Larceny Unit maintains constant communication with NYPD FIO teams, the Detective Bureau’s Auto Crime and Grand Larceny units, as well as New Jersey PD, Westchester PD, and Connecticut PD, to obtain and disseminate information regarding auto thefts and related trends. Through the information gathered from these investigations and communications, the unit has successfully located and executed multiple vehicle takedowns, recovering stolen vehicles—including high-value targets wanted at federal, state, and city levels. Additional arrests have generated new investigative leads into organized auto theft rings, enabling us to obtain wiretaps on phones and providing stolen vehicle layup locations for the



Detective Bureau's Auto Crime Unit. This has allowed detectives and the Queens DA's office to build and strengthen ongoing investigations and cases against organized auto theft crime rings.

In 2024, grant funding was instrumental in providing 284 hours of investigative and proactive patrol overtime in high-grand larceny auto (GLA) areas, leading to 24 stolen vehicle recoveries and 24 auto-theft related arrests in the fourth quarter of 2024. Since 2019, there has been a steady increase in GLA crimes in Queens North, continuing through 2023. However, 2024 marked the first year in five years with a decrease in GLA crimes, a trend that can be correlated with the precise deployment locations of the Auto Larceny Unit. Analysis of the unit's deployment locations and times reveals a dramatic decrease in GLA activities in those areas.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	374	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	N/A
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	698	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	N/A
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	24	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	N/A
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	N/A	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	24

### **Fire Department of New York City**

The FDNY received a \$124,800 grant in 2024 to fund fire marshals assigned to the Auto Fraud Squad (AFS). The Auto Fraud Squad continues to screen all motor vehicle fires throughout the five boroughs of New York City to identify priority incidents and incidents of fraud. The focus of these investigations is forensic examination of the fire scene, evidence recognition and collection and thorough examination of vehicle owners' documents. The AFS's strategy is to employ all investigative techniques available in a coordinated effort to identify fraud.

The Auto Fraud Squad continued its focus on citywide vehicle fire activity, specifically focusing on incidents involving staged theft, arson, insurance fraud, conspiracy, and associated crimes. The Squad identified, investigated, and brought to prosecution numerous incidents of arson and insurance fraud, resulting in convictions and/or denied or withdrawn insurance claims.

In 2024, the AFS screened over 1,566 car fires within New York City and were able to selectively target investigations that led to the denial of fraudulent insurance claims, arrest of the fraudulent claimant, and arrest of the initial fire starter(s). The screenings utilized the canvassing of video, witnesses, as well as the screening of investigative data such as: NYPD Real Time Crime info, numerous agency License plate readers, MTA bus cameras, NYCHA Cameras, TBTA Toll rack video, and EZ pass records. During the investigations into car fires, the AFS was able to detect patterns of vandalism and theft.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated	1,566	Responses to Motor Vehicle Fires where Fraud Is Suspected	16
Total Arrests	18	Number of Fire Insurance Claims Cancelled Due to Initiation of Law Enforcement Investigation	11
Responses to Motor Vehicle Fires	159	Total Value of Claims Denied/Withdrawn	\$297,218

## **New York City Suburban Region**

### **Nassau County District Attorney's Office**

The Nassau County District Attorney's Office received a \$114,300 grant in 2024, partially funding one assistant district attorney, one bilingual investigator and a legal secretary dedicated to investigating and prosecuting theft and fraud cases. The office's Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit was created in 2008 to prosecute motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases, while working closely with members of the Nassau County Police Department, the NICB, and other law enforcement and insurance agencies to detect and reduce the incidence of these crimes.

The Nassau County District Attorney's Office ("NCDAO") has 200 attorneys with a total staff of over 423 employed in various roles for the 5th largest prosecutor's office in New York State. In 2022, District Attorney Anne T. Donnelly created the Revenue, Auto, Insurance, and Labor Crime Bureau ("RAIL"). One of RAIL's mandates is to concentrate on and address the problems of motor vehicle related insurance fraud, auto theft and related crimes. DA Donnelly staffed RAIL with prosecutors who each have decades of experience. These ADAs collaborate with agencies such as the Nassau County Police Department ("NCPD"), the National Insurance Crime Bureau ("NICB"), the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV"), and New York State Police ("NYSP") to investigate and prosecute motor vehicle related crimes.

The unit investigates and prosecutes cases relating to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. Staff work with and act as liaisons to other prosecutors' offices, law enforcement, private entities and the public. The office's Just Ware Case Management System allows data analysis in tracking vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases to better follow and report these charges, analyze the types of offenses seen and record dispositions. The unit works closely with the district attorney's technical investigators on technical aspects of investigations, including monitoring and maintaining surveillance equipment and conducting forensic analysis of electronic devices.

The office coordinated with the police department's Major Case Bureau Vehicle Theft Section on the re-arrest and prosecution of numerous defendants who re-offended and faced significantly longer sentences after previously being charged with grand larcenies for theft of unlocked vehicles with the keys left inside overnight.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	5	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	15
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	5	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	176
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	285	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$12,502

### **Nassau County Police Department**

The Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) received a \$145,869 grant in 2024 to pay for overtime and training for officers, detectives, supervisors, and intelligence analysts. This award allows police to conduct numerous operations designed to prevent, deter, and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within Nassau County.

The police department, in collaboration with the district attorney, created strategies to prevent and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within Nassau County. Strategies cover street level enforcement, investigations, and prosecution. The police department strategy involves detectives, police officers, intelligence analysts and supervisors throughout the county and incorporates intelligence-based policing for targeted and comprehensive enforcement and investigations.

The NCPD has created strategies tailored to prevent, deter, and reduce the incidence of MVT&IF within Nassau County. These strategies correspond with the MVTIFP NYS Statewide Plans of Operation, recognizing that a key to success is inter and intra-agency coordination and collaboration. The strategy is crafted as a continuum of services, ranging from street level enforcement to investigations to prosecution. The NCPD strategy, spearheaded by the Major Case Squad, Auto Crime Section (ACS), involves Detectives, Police Officers, Intel Analysts, and Supervisors incorporating intelligence-based policing to perform targeted and comprehensive MVTIF enforcement and investigations.

During 2024, the NCPD employed a variety of techniques to target MVTIF related crime, utilizing approximately 1,350 hours of grant funded overtime hours in addition to the Police Officer, Detective, and Analyst regular duties. NCPD Intelligence Analysts maintained data, mapped locations of MVTIF crimes, and created Intelligence Bulletins used by NCPD personnel to conduct both overt and covert enforcement and investigations, resulting in vehicle recoveries and arrests. NCPD personnel reviewed theft data, examined stolen vehicle reports and field interviews for theft and fraud indicators, conducted database searches for recovery information including parking tickets, plate readers, ISO, CARFAX, and NYSPIN; indexed stolen vehicles with NICB; and much more. Nassau County continues to identify and investigate crime patterns, including thefts of vehicles from both commercial establishments as well as private residences; thefts of catalytic converters; and thefts of vehicles for the use in the commission of other crimes. ACS Detectives are regularly called to utilize their expertise in conducting vehicle examinations in order to identify VIN numbers and other identifying information, particularly in cases of fire and suspected arson.

For much of the year, the Nassau County Police Department, spearheaded through the Major Case Squad - Auto Crime Section, developed several patterns of motor vehicle related crime in the confines of Nassau County. Auto Crime Detectives and Bureau of Special Operations Officers targeted cases in which subjects were targeting residential homes in order to steal the car keys to high end vehicles parked in the driveway. Suspects were increasingly gaining entry into homes through open and doors and

windows, or by causing damage to locked doors and windows, in order to steal vehicle keys. They then stole the vehicles, often leaving other stolen, scout vehicles behind. Detectives worked closely with NICB Investigators regarding License Plate Reader alerts, which led to the recovery of multiple stolen vehicles within the County. In one case, with the assistance of the NYPD, NCPD Detectives utilized LPR information to recover a stolen Porsche 911 with a value of \$200,000.00 that had been being operated with a transporter plate. The police department has been conducting Countywide enforcement details, focusing on high areas of these thefts.

In addition, small vehicle dealerships and mechanic shops are increasingly being burglarized, as only licensed individuals may now make keys. During the course of the investigation, Nassau PD was able to identify suspects involved in similar cases throughout New Jersey and Westchester County, NY. The Nassau Police Department works with other jurisdictions to tie cases together and make arrests.

Through the investigations of multiple robberies and burglaries of jewelry stores, Auto Crimes Detectives were able to determine that stolen vehicles were obtained in New Jersey and utilized to commit crimes in Nassau County. Detectives were able to connect the scenes together solely through the stolen vehicles used. Multiple defendants have been arrested and charged with burglary in connection of the stolen vehicles used. The NCPD will continue to work with these partners to prevent, deter, and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within Nassau.

<i><b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b></i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	18	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	768	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	460	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	1
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	717

### **Suffolk County District Attorney's Office**

The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office has a Financial Investigations & Money Laundering Bureau that targets white collar crimes, including insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft. The district attorney received a \$283,210 grant in 2024 to fund two assistant district attorneys and a paralegal.

The Financial Crimes Bureau ("FCB") of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office ("SCDAO") utilizes different tactics in order to effectively target motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud offenders. FCB's objective is to allow investigators and prosecutors to strengthen resources and knowledge while achieving an increased level of coordination and expertise in combatting vehicle-related crimes. FCB prosecutes all cases generated by FCB investigators, the Suffolk County Police Department's District Attorney Squad ("SCPD DA's Squad"), and Suffolk County Police Department's Property/Auto Crime Unit ("SCPD PAC Unit") related to insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft. FCB also handles referrals from NYS DFS, NYS DMV, NICB, and the insurance industry SIUs. FCB maximizes interagency cooperation through the permanent placement of investigators from NYS DFS, NICB, SCPD DA Squad detectives,

and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office ("SCSO") Deputy Sheriffs. These assignments augment the already dedicated FCB staff of investigators and ADAs.

FCB successfully concluded several investigations and prosecutions in 2024. In partnership with the SCPD PAC Unit detectives and NICB, concluded a long-term investigation into the theft of tires and rims in Suffolk County. The theft period was for 16 months, which resulted in a 190-count indictment. The individuals stole tires and rims from 114 automobiles. The indictment was for 86 thefts from 59 victims. The victims included citizens, car dealerships, and rental car companies. The preferred tires and rims were from Hondas, Toyotas, Mercedes Benzes, BMWs, and any SUV with black rims. The two individuals arrested and prosecuted, plead guilty and restitution of approximately \$400,000.00 was ordered. One individual was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of 5 to 10 years of incarceration. While the other individual is facing an indeterminate sentence of 4 to 8 years of incarceration at the time of this report.

Additionally, the FCB had numerous successful motor vehicle theft investigations with the SCPD DA Squad and SCPD PAC Unit for the arrests of multiple individuals stealing catalytic converters, which continues to be a major source of motor vehicle theft in Suffolk County.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	7	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	3
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	3	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	2
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	3	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

## **Suffolk County Police Department**

The Suffolk County Police Department received a \$123,556 grant in 2024 to pay for overtime and training and employs an intelligence-based and data-driven approach to investigating motor vehicle and insurance fraud crime. The police department utilizes the Property/Auto Crime Unit (PAC) to maintain a centralized approach and a dedicated command focused on motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. This is for a 565-square-mile area with a population of 1.5 million.

In 2024, grant funding facilitated the allocation of 898 overtime hours among 32 members of the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD), leading to the initiation of 77 investigations. This strategic allocation of resources marked a significant effort in combating crime related to motor vehicle thefts. The Patrol Division and individual Precinct Patrol Units maintained their primary role in the direct prevention and intervention of motor vehicle crime. The Precincts Patrol units then were supported by the individual Precinct Detective Commands. The Suffolk County Police Department Property Auto Crime Unit and District Attorney Section then supplemented this effort with expanding resources, collaboration with numerous agencies and using data/ intelligence driven investigations.

The intelligence-driven approach and collaboration with multiple agencies led to the arrest of individuals involved in pattern crimes that would have otherwise been incomplete. An example of such investigations was a tires and rim theft case that led to a 190 count Grand Jury Indictment of two individuals. The case encompassed incidents that took place from as far back as July of 2022. Having the resources available allowed PAC Detectives to work closely with the District Attorney's Office to obtain numerous cell phone

search warrants, Cell tower data dumps, physical surveillance, and pole cameras to gather the evidence. That evidence led to the arrest and conviction of the subjects responsible for the tire and rim theft case.

This intelligence and collaboration model of investigations has been the cornerstone of the investigative work done by the Property/Auto Crimes Unit and District Attorney's Section. Regular meetings with external agencies such as the National Insurance Crime Bureau, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and other law enforcement entities have led to a more fluid exchange of information sharing and a collective response to vehicle theft crimes. An example of this collaborative approach is an investigation into the Catalytic Converter thefts which were increasing in recent years. PAC detectives worked with the Nassau County Police Department, New York City Police Department, Suffolk County District Attorney's office and the Nassau County District Attorney's office to arrest four individuals from Brooklyn that were committing crimes throughout Suffolk County, Nassau County, NYC and New Jersey. Since that arrest in October 2024 Catalytic converter thefts are down by over 90% in Suffolk County.

The strategies employed by the Suffolk County Police Department and its associated units reflect a multi-faceted approach to tackling the complex issues of vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The Suffolk County Police Department is committed to focusing on combatting vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	77	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	1,102	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	908	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	1	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	0

### **Westchester County District Attorney's Office**

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office received a \$277,963 grant in 2024 to fund an Auto Crimes Unit (ACU) with a senior assistant district attorney and criminal investigators. A crime analyst assigned to the unit works with a similar squad at the Yonkers Police Department. In addition to pursuing its own investigations, the unit provides daily assistance to the 42 police departments within the county and conducts extensive investigations with the local agencies.

In the year 2024, several long-term investigations into organized car theft and fraudulent VIN altering groups were opened. One of those investigations, which resulted in arrests and indictments, involved a defendant who was previously arrested for enterprise corruption for similar motor vehicle theft crimes. Since 2022 the majority of prosecutions involved the possession of stolen vehicles located in large part to the network of license plate reader cameras throughout the county as well as the coordination of local law enforcement by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Real Time Crime Center.

The ACU has continued to focus on prosecutions of predicate felons, repeated offenders, and stolen vehicles in which the defendants fled from law enforcement in high-speed pursuits. In addition to the increase in high-speed pursuits, the ACU also saw a trend in the theft of Honda CRVs and Accords which



are placed for sale within days on Facebook Marketplace with fraudulently altered VINs and forged titles. The ACU has made inroads into various groups with organized structures that are stealing vehicles.

In 2024, the ACU continued to work with our law enforcement partners especially the City of Yonkers Police Department, City of New Rochelle Police Department, and Westchester County Department of Public Safety to combat MVTIF.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	27	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	79
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	49
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	274	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

### Yonkers City Police Department

The Yonkers Police Department received a \$122,414 grant in 2024 to pay for a Detective and overtime for complex investigations. The department investigates reports of stolen vehicles, cars with stolen parts, altered VINs, bogus registration and inspection stickers, and out-of-state dealer plates or other suspicious tags. The department works closely with other agencies, such as the NYPD, New York State Police, and other local jurisdictions to combat auto crimes across the City of Yonkers.

The Yonkers Police Department continued its commitment to hosting a designated specialized auto crimes unit within the Detective Division, led by Detective Chris DeMatteo to combat motor vehicle theft and pursue fraud investigations. The unit’s strategy integrates advanced tracking methods for stolen vehicles, dismantling chop shops, and apprehending criminals involved in VIN alteration and car theft. In addition to utilizing cutting-edge surveillance technologies and fosters community partnerships to disrupt criminal activity in Yonkers. Detective DeMatteo is a member of the NY State Police Auto Theft Unit, which allows him to pursue cases beyond Yonkers, in the instance that a stolen vehicle linked to a Yonkers case is found in a different NYS jurisdiction.

In 2024, the primary auto crime trend in Yonkers is re-vinning (altering VINs), while catalytic converter theft has decreased. In the last quarter of 2024, the Yonkers unit executed several GPS warrants on stolen vehicles, which have helped track suspects and gather intelligence. In one case, the auto crimes unit identified a white Infiniti vehicle that trailed cars that were stolen. The perpetrators used the Infiniti to scout for cars to steal, and after a vehicle was stolen, the Infiniti would follow it. Once the stolen car was parked, the thief would leave it and drive away in the Infiniti. Detective DeMatteo submitted evidence to a judge, who authorized a GPS tracker on the Infiniti, allowing him to track its movements and uncover further details about its involvement in auto theft.

In addition to the GPS monitoring, the unit also investigated body shops in Yonkers suspected of re-vinning or tampering with vehicles. One shop faced two pending charges, with more investigations expected to yield additional charges. In around 70% of re-vinning cases, criminals steal a car, alter the VIN, and quickly list the vehicle for sale online for \$20,000 to \$25,000. Unsuspecting buyers are left with no recourse when they try to register the car and find that the VIN and title are fraudulent. 15% of stolen cars are stripped for parts, while the remaining 15% are shipped overseas, especially to the Dominican

Republic. Other cases involve cars left running or linked to emotionally disturbed persons (EDPs), rather than organized crime.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	203	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	305	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	262	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	19

## Capital Region

### Albany City Police Department

The Albany Police Department received a \$33,000 grant in 2024 to pay for police overtime and training for officers assigned to its Auto Crimes Task Force. This task force consists of 36 members, including patrol officers, detectives, sergeants, and lieutenants. It operates within the department's Criminal Investigation Division, supervised by a detective lieutenant and a detective sergeant. The primary objective is to investigate all auto-related thefts and auto-related insurance fraud. The grant funding allows members of the task force to work outside normal shifts to thoroughly investigate vehicle crimes through surveillance, follow-up interviews and coordination with outside agencies.

During 2024, the Albany Police MVTIF task force partnered with the NYSP, Guilderland Police, DMV investigators, and Albany County Sheriff's Office to combat and reduce motor vehicle theft and fraud incidents. One collaborative effort included multiple agencies conducting a one-day enforcement action that netted 155 traffic stops, 98 tickets issued, 19 vehicles towed, 13 arrests, and 11 fraudulent plates seized in Albany. Another method of investigation used was to deploy mobile LPRs across the city in vehicle theft hot spots where detectives could track the vehicles to where they were being left after stolen. An overall decrease in the number of motor vehicle thefts has been observed from 2023 to 2024 agency wide.

One notable incident was during January 2024, when patrol members responded to multiple locations across the city of Albany for vehicles stolen out of parking lots with tow trucks. Detectives along with members of the New York State Police SIU and Department of Motor Vehicles Investigators began investigations. Detectives identified the tow truck which was utilized to steal the vehicles. A GPS warrant was applied for and empowered for the tow truck. The GPS was installed on the tow truck and the vehicle was monitored. Through investigation, it was learned that a male perpetrator was responsible for stealing the vehicles and scrapping them at two locations. Upstate Shredding and Cash4cars were the two locations, and both locations had documentation of the male filing forms claiming the vehicles to be his. The perpetrator was charged for scrapping the following stolen vehicles; a 2014 Subaru Crosstrek, a 2010 Toyota Corolla, a 2006 Ford E350 Super Duty, and a 2009 Subaru Impreza.



<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	167	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	399	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	320	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	20

### **Albany County District Attorney's Office**

The Albany County District Attorney received a \$65,050 grant from DCJS in 2024 to fund the salary of their assistant district attorney's. This enabled the office to address appropriate cases through the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Unit. The unit coordinated with law enforcement agencies on education, training, detection, investigation and prosecution of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases. In 2024, the MVTIFPU was staffed by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Kitzrow, who continues to work with members of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

ADA Kitzrow continues to utilize a vertical prosecution strategy for new and pending cases involving auto theft. There have been a number of felony convictions in auto theft cases in 2024. The following cases demonstrate some of the cases that have been prosecuted in the past year. People v. Geoffrey Albright, defendant pled guilty to Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree and was sentenced to 3-6 years state prison. This defendant was arrested for two separate incidents of car theft. It was through the investigation of the second incident that led to him being identified in the first incident. This case demonstrates how each stolen vehicle case varies in complexity, and many cases rely on the efforts of related incidents to reach a conclusion. People v. Antonio Guynup, defendant was indicted on Robbery in the 2nd Degree for attacking a woman in a parking lot, punching her, and stealing her car. This defendant faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison if convicted. This case demonstrates the potential for stolen vehicle cases to involve significant violence to the community, and reflects just how seriously they should be treated, as they are not all cases where violence is absent. People v. Matthew Holmes was indicted on Burglary in the 2nd Degree, for walking into a family's open garage that was connected to their house and stealing a running car. In this matter the defendant faces up to 15 years in state prison but is being considered for Albany County's treatment court to address his drug and mental health issues. That case is a good example of how the County is able to meet the specific criminogenic needs of each defendant, thanks to the efforts of investigators and prosecutors.

The Albany County District Attorney's Office continues the efforts to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud within the County of Albany through a coordinated approach of law enforcement, crime analysis and legal entities utilizing integrated means to detect, prevent, apprehend and prosecute these crimes.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	101	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	7
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	11
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	101	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

## **Finger Lakes Region**

### **Monroe County District Attorney's Office**

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office received \$87,000 in 2024 to partially fund an assistant district attorney. The assistant district attorney evaluates cases and prosecutes both felony and misdemeanor offenses; works closely with law enforcement; and is aided by investigators who interview witnesses, serve subpoenas, gather, and organize evidence, and work with law enforcement to help solve crimes and build cases for prosecution. The district attorney participates in the Monroe County Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force, which includes the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police, the Brighton Police Department, DMV, DFS, and other local police departments.

Stolen Kias and Hyundais continue to be the most frequently stolen car models in Monroe County during the year. The notable Kia Challenge on social media has demonstrated to the public how to easily steal Kia's and Hyundai's. Another major trend were vehicles being stolen when keys were left inside, burglaries in which keys were taken and then used to steal vehicles, armed car-jackings, vehicles being rented and sold or not returned, and thefts by juveniles. Ninety-one MVT felonies were transferred to family court during the year due to the age of the defendants, with 16 being the average age at arrest. Six juveniles were charged in multiple incidents, and 12 juveniles had prior MVT arrests. We continued to seek both deductibles and personal property as restitution in 2024.

One case involved a defendant who came to the area sometime in the past year and made his mark on the community by stealing cars, with a focus on rental cars from the Greater Rochester International Airport. He was first arrested on local felony charges in August 2024 after fleeing a traffic stop in a stolen 2007 Hyundai Santa Fe. Paperwork was completed by the RPD coordinator and task force member. Members of the task force were able to tie the defendant to a spree of crimes including eight stolen cars from August to November. He was apprehended by MCSO for shoplifting and the task force member interview led to a confession of some of the crimes. Another indictment shored up the task force's work and defendant plead on both indictments and is currently in the Judicial Diversion Program attending drug treatment to help reduce their risk of recidivism.

In a separate case, two defendants were on the task force's radar for various larcenies and stolen cars. The auto warrant detail caught the defendants in a parking lot near Marshall Street in Rochester. Male defendant was missing from the Judicial Diversion Program, and female defendant was evading sentencing. Female was indicted on two felonies involving cars and eventually sentenced in Supreme Court to 28 months to 7 years in the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). Male defendant was unfavorably terminated from felony drug court and was sentenced on two felonies involving cars for 2 to 6 years in the DOCCS.

The coordination of investigations and information sharing between the partner agencies of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force played a significant role in both of these cases and led to positive outcomes. The MVTIF grant has been the backbone of our MVT efforts for twenty-one years, and these funds are important now more than ever because of the staggering number of motor vehicle arrests.

<i><b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b></i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	10	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	127
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	551
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	546	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF Cases	\$0

### **Monroe County Sheriff's Office**

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office received a \$36,500 grant in 2024 to pay for overtime to investigate theft and fraud cases. The sheriff's office participates in the Monroe County Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force, assigning a sergeant and three investigators who collaborate with other members of the law enforcement community in Monroe County, including the district attorney, the Rochester Police Department, New York State Police, DFS, and DMV, to reduce motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within the county.

In 2024, MCSO handled 290 cases of reported motor vehicle theft and recovered 254 stolen vehicles, both of which are approximately down 10% from 2023 cases. Conversely, UUMV cases more than doubled, going from 34 cases in 2023 to 78 cases in 2024. Funds were also utilized to investigate auto stripping and motor vehicle theft, of which there was a large increase in 2023. In 2024, we continued to see this pattern, investigating 290 cases of motor vehicle theft, which is 290% increase from 100 cases reported in 2022. The Monroe County Sheriff's office continues to track and identify crime patterns that involve motor vehicle thefts, insurance fraud, auto stripping, and larcenies from vehicles. These patterns are discussed at the monthly MVTIF Task Force meeting and at the Bi-Weekly MCAC-run crime coordinators meetings.

On three separate occasions, MCSO utilized MVTIF members and funds to conduct multi-agency details in order to identify and combat motor vehicle theft. Utilizing intelligence from MCAC, "hot spots" were identified where stolen motor vehicles were believed to be used and discarded. These areas became the focus of the details, and they turned out to be a hub of criminal activity. An example of the success of these details is as follows:

In September of 2024, a detail brought participants, to include MVTIF members, to a specific area of the City of Rochester. While conducting surveillance, an officer Baker notified members of the task force that a stolen 2013 Range Rover was parked in the parking lot of Little Caesar's at Titus Avenue/Hudson Avenue. The vehicle was stolen in a burglary in the town of Greece on 9/3/24. Members of the task force infiltrated the area and approached the vehicle where they observed a male perpetrator slumped over the wheel. The male was taken into custody without incident, and at the time of publication, he currently has 5 open felonies and 3 open misdemeanors. Most recently he was charged in the town of Greece for Burglary 3rd/PL on 9/3/24. The perpetrator was also arrested during the Retail Theft Detail on 8/22/24

where he was located in a stolen vehicle after stealing products from Kohls. The male was arraigned in Irondequoit Town Court and remanded to MCJ on 10k/100k/150k.

The crime trend of stolen vehicles in Monroe County continued into late 2024, with a shift in focus away from predominately investigating Insurance Fraud cases. The availability of MVTIF grant funds played a vital role in criminal apprehension and allowed MCSO to be the leader in organizing the multi-agency stolen vehicle details that were highly successful in the community.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	13	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	13
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	284	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	254	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	11
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	132

### **Rochester City Police Department**

The Rochester Police Department (RPD) received a \$49,520 grant in 2024 to pay for overtime for investigations and training on the latest motor vehicle crime trends. The Auto Theft Unit, under the command of the department's Special Operations Division, is responsible for coordinating investigations into motor vehicle related crime initiatives and utilizes personnel from other divisions within the department, as needed.

The department's auto theft grant manager coordinates investigations involving motor vehicle crime, utilizing personnel from various divisions within the department. As a result, theft investigations are not directly linked to grant funding. The investigator is assigned to the multi-agency Monroe County MVTIF Task Force, which also consists of investigators from the district attorney's office, DMV Field Investigations Division, a RPD Fire Investigator, and DFS' Criminal Investigations Unit, as well as representatives of other local law enforcement agencies.

We have also participated in numerous county-wide (multi-agency) Kia/Hyundai Details within The City of Rochester, as those cars have continued to be commonly stolen since the TikTok Kia Challenge demonstrated how to steal them. The details were highly successful with the recovery of multiple stolen motor vehicles, the apprehension of numerous criminal drivers/occupants, as well as the apprehension of suspects with outstanding warrants. The combined efforts and resources of the Agencies involved (including the use of the NYSP Aviation) has dramatically improved results of these details- while increasing the safety to the public and reducing the cost per Agency for each detail.

In addition to the details, RPD attended 11 monthly Auto Theft Task Force meetings where current trends and arrests were discussed. One noted trend was a marked decrease in the number of catalytic converter thefts in year 2024, based on several successful prosecutions and past enforcement efforts.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	40	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	4
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	2578	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	4
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	1027	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	2
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	152

## Western New York Region

### Buffalo City Police Department

The Buffalo Police Department received a \$106,884 grant in 2024 to pay for detective overtime and travel costs to enhance the program's effectiveness. Due to organizational restructuring in 2018, motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigations are now handled by detectives in the department's five patrol districts and overseen by the investigative services captain.

Through the grant, the Buffalo Police Department provided 989 hours of overtime for detectives to work on motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigations. Due to the overwhelming number of stolen Kias and Hyundais because of the Kia Challenge, along with the department's no chase policy, BPD shifted its use of the grant to provide overtime hours for coordination with the Erie County Sheriff's Department and New York State Police helicopters to identify and track stolen vehicles until they are parked. BPD then goes in to make the arrest and recover the vehicle. This proved an effective strategy and served as a deterrent after being heavily covered on the local news media.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	562	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	10
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	3161	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	2522	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	85	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	1057

### Cheektowaga Town Police Department

The Cheektowaga Police Department received a \$36,542 grant in 2024 for police overtime and training. Eleven of the agency's 12 detectives handle motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases.

The Police Department has one detective, Detective Fial, assigned to lead the Auto Theft Squad. This detective coordinates motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigations and assigns cases to other detectives. This strategy has been in place for several years and has successfully reduced motor vehicle theft and fraud cases in Cheektowaga.

This year, the focus of the Cheektowaga Police Department's grant activities has remained steadfast on investigations pertaining to motor vehicle thefts and larcenies of property/auto parts from motor vehicles. Through grant funds, 474 hours of overtime were allocated to our Detectives to intensify these investigations and combat motor vehicle-related crimes. With the continued prevalence of motor vehicle thefts over the last several years detectives were assigned over 133 cases to investigate in 2024. Without this grant support, the resources required for such endeavors would exceed the constraints of the annual police budget.

Demonstrating a commitment to collaboration, the police department actively engages with external agencies. Inter-agency cooperation and intelligence sharing are pivotal components of our grant activities. Detective Fial has served as the coordinator for the grant, striving to bolster the inter-agency relationships cultivated over the years of our department's involvement in the grant. These partnerships with external agencies yield mutual benefits for Cheektowaga and neighboring municipalities. Noteworthy collaborative efforts include joint operations with the New York State Police to target areas prone to motor vehicle theft and promptly respond to stolen vehicle notifications from the Flock plate reader camera system.

Detectives under the grant's purview conducted surveillance at various locations, including major shopping centers and plazas notorious for vehicle thefts. Leveraging the resources of the Erie County Crime Analysis Center, the department identifies trends and patterns to strategically deploy resources in areas most susceptible to motor vehicle-related crimes. Grant provisions enable Crime Scene Detectives to photograph, and process recovered stolen motor vehicles, with collected evidence undergoing further analysis at the Central Police Services Laboratory. A total of 17 vehicles were processed, a task made feasible through grant funding. The dedication invested in motor vehicle theft and fraud investigations has yielded tangible results. Whether through arrests removing car thieves from the streets, active surveillance and patrols by officers, vehicle recoveries, aggressive prosecution of suspects, or the withdrawal of claims following police intervention and investigation, the impact on the community is significant.

<b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	133	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	237	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	204	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	1
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	117

### **Erie County District Attorney's Office**

The Erie County District Attorney's Office received a \$104,758 grant in 2024 to pay for travel expenses and a full-time assistant district attorney. The assistant district attorney assigned to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases is supported by the staff of the Special Investigations and Prosecutions Bureau. The Erie County District Attorney's Office primary strategy for 2024 was to build proactive collaboration between law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, and the community. The MVTIF



ADA collaborated with numerous state agencies including DFS, NYSP, DMV, and others throughout the year. Additionally, the ADA worked with well over a dozen local police agencies and multiple DA's Offices in New York State and Pennsylvania.

Due to changes in the Bail Reform laws, and Raise the Age, motor vehicle theft offenders in Erie County have often been arrested and then released because the offenses do not qualify them to be remanded, or they are turned over to Family Court with the same outcome. These offenders proceed to commit other offenses after being released. The prosecutor has begun to employ Grand Juries on a number of these cases of adult offenders, successfully indicting many of them.

Vehicle theft in Erie County can be divided into two distinct types: crimes of opportunity and crimes for profit. Most vehicle theft cases fall into the first category and involve vehicles left running unattended or vehicles parked with the keys inside. The vehicles are often taken for joyriding or are stripped for parts and then dumped. These crimes seem to be committed mostly by people between the ages of 14 to 20. The second type of vehicle theft often involves drug-related thefts and/or thefts from rental agencies, which is a pervasive problem in the community. Many cars are being stolen from dealerships, rental agencies, and repair shops. The problem of the "Kia Challenge" where YouTube video's show people how to steal Kia's without keys continued throughout 2023.

The specific motor vehicle crimes impacting the community in 2024 tend to be auto theft related, rather than connected with insurance fraud. Vehicle theft rates continue to be high in Erie County. The thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles has been a plague on our community due to the Kia social media challenge. These thefts are not unique to Erie County but have hit the area extraordinarily hard. There is still theft of all vehicles makes and models attributed to keys being left in vehicles. Another common trend is stealing vehicles from dealerships, rental agencies, and repair shops.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	25	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	28
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	109
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	0	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

### **Niagara County District Attorney's Office**

The Niagara County District Attorney's Office received \$109,443 in grant funding in 2024 to support a Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Unit, which consists of a full-time assistant district attorney and a full-time investigator. The assistant prosecutor and investigator collaborate with all law enforcement agencies operating within the county, as well as other insurance fraud investigators. Investigations by law enforcement agencies are referred to the assistant district attorney for vertical prosecution to ensure that all cases are fully prosecuted possible. In addition, the DA's Office assists all local law enforcement agencies with their cases, whether it is getting subpoenas or helping guide them through an investigation.

In 2024, the DA's office has seen a reduction in the number of Kia and Hyundai thefts. However, when they do occur, they tend to be juvenile defendants. The Kia Challenge was a major problem, specifically

with a group call the “Kia Boys” who, in previous years, would go around steeling Kia’s and take them on joy rides. It is believed most of the “Kia Boys” have been arrested and prosecuted successfully.

Incomplete data was sent for Niagara County DA.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	7	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	N/A
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	N/A	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	N/A
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	92	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	N/A

### **Niagara County Sheriff’s Office**

The Niagara County Sheriff’s Office received a \$20,000 grant in 2024 to pay for staff overtime and training. The Sheriff’s Office Stolen Vehicle Task Force includes deputies, supervisors and investigators tasked with reviewing cases, trends, and field intelligence to combat theft and fraud. The Sheriff’s Office continues to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to reduce theft and fraud throughout Western New York.

An office wide task force to deal with automobile theft and insurance fraud was restarted in 2006 and currently consists of supervisors, investigators, deputies and crime analysts. These personnel are trained in advanced methods of auto theft investigation, detection and intelligence gathering. The task force is an important part of the Sheriff’s Office as it works to reduce automobile theft and insurance fraud countywide with intra-agency efforts and by sharing resources and information with local and state agencies.

Analysis and tracking by the Criminal Analysts and supervisors, allowed for mapping, proactive policing and arrests involving larcenies from vehicles and thefts of vehicles in 2024. Successful arrests of multiple juveniles and adults associated with a group from Buffalo, NY and Niagara Falls, NY that were committing larcenies from vehicles and stealing cars from Niagara County and adjacent counties. The use of analytical mapping, surveillance cameras and witness statements were used. Information was shared with investigators and patrol. All criminal reports were also scanned for possible referral of insurance fraud.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	37	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	43	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	22	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	62



## Niagara Falls City Police Department

The Niagara Falls Police Department (NFPD) received a \$23,400 grant in 2024 to pay for staff overtime and training. The Motor Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit is managed as a special operation by the captain of the Criminal Investigation Division and emphasizes investigations and appropriate follow-up. In addition, the unit collaborates with the Traffic Division to identify suspicious accident reports and possible fraud cases.

The Niagara Falls Police Department covers an area of approximately 16.8 square miles while bordering Canada and consists of two international bridge crossings. In 2024 the grant funding went toward investigations of stolen vehicles, damaged vehicles during theft attempts, and related motor vehicle criminal mischiefs. NFPD spent approximately 350 hours of overtime using grant funds on investigations of motor vehicle crimes using grant funds.

In 2024, there was a trend of juveniles committing motor vehicle theft. The department identified multiple juveniles in groups who would attempt to steal vehicles, cause damage to vehicles, and successfully steal motor vehicles. Once a group was identified and charged, another juvenile group would pop up and commit the same crimes. In 2024, there were 3 different groups of juveniles identified committing these crimes.

<i>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigations Initiated – Theft	265	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	176	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	6
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	156	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	2
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	3	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	42

### Statewide

New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc.

New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.

## New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc.

The New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc. (NYACT) is a statewide not-for-profit educational organization whose mission is to reduce auto crime and insurance fraud in New York. The association received a \$65,100 Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud grant from DCJS in 2024 to produce training webinars, seminars, and conferences. Capitol Hill Management Services, Inc. (CHMS) provides full-service association management and assists NYACT in ensuring that all operations meet NYS requirements as a grant recipient. NYACT offers educational and training programs, collaborative sharing opportunities and online resources for law enforcement personnel and for insurance special investigation units and claims personnel. The association provides information about motor vehicle theft and fraud to consumers and continues to sponsor and manage training events, meetings and outreach efforts in auto crime prevention and insurance fraud detection and investigations throughout the year.

The association's training efforts concentrated on both vehicle crime and insurance fraud, providing effective professional training in theft and fraud investigation and deterrence. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the association has now combined in-person conferences and trainings and records the meetings, trainings, and webinars so that those who could not attend in person can still receive the training and information if requested. This has proven to be beneficial because it opens the training, and meeting to more agencies. Thus, the association continues to expand its outreach by improving cooperative working relationships with other associations and New York State agencies.

The spirit of cooperation fostered at the conferences and training events continues through the communication networks that are established among law enforcement investigators long after the programs conclude. NYACT uses the vast network of interagency communication opportunities to enhance its efforts to fight auto crime and fraud in New York State, and many of our speakers and programs are duplicated and used in other states. Examples include the Vehicle Arson Awareness, the Auto Crime School and the Advanced Auto Theft Trainings provided for Law Enforcement in 2024.

<i><b>2024 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity</b></i>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Total</b>
Seminars, Trainings & Conferences	9	Webinar Trainings Produced	1
Verified Attendees	1078	Verified Webinar Views	132
MVT Articles Published	0	MVIF Articles Published	0
Webinars for Law Enforcement Agencies	30	Webinars for Prosecutorial Offices	30

## V. Appendix—2024 Statistics<sup>2</sup>

<i>2024 Reported Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft</i>						
Rank	County	MV Theft		Rank	County	MV Theft
1	Queens	5,265		32	Chemung	35
2	Bronx	4,610		33	St. Lawrence	35
3	Kings	4,525		34	Herkimer	31
4	Erie	4,035		35	Cayuga	30
5	Monroe	3,998		36	Tompkins	27
6	New York	1,735		37	Franklin	27
7	Onondaga	1,686		38	Sullivan	26
8	Suffolk	1,241		39	Washington	23
9	Westchester	812		40	Genese	23
10	Nassau	551		41	Montgomery	21
11	Richmond	479		42	Madison	20
12	Albany	431		43	Cortland	19
13	Niagara	272		44	Delaware	19
14	Rensselaer	212		45	Livingston	19
15	Schenectady	204		46	Seneca	19
16	Broome	183		47	Warren	18
17	Oneida	181		48	Putnam	18
18	Orange	145		49	Otsego	18
19	Dutchess	142		50	Orleans	17
20	Rockland	109		51	Chenango	16
21	Oswego	67		52	Allegany	15
22	Chataqua	60		53	Essex	10
23	Saratoga	60		54	Lewis	9
24	Jefferson	59		55	Greene	9
25	Wayne	56		56	Yates	7
26	Ulster	52		57	Schoharie	7
27	Ontario	49		58	Columbia	7
28	Clinton	48		59	Tioga	6
29	Cattaraugus	48		60	Wyoming	6
30	Steuben	43		61	Schuyler	3
31	Fulton	37		62	Hamilton	3

<sup>2</sup> Data reflected in the chart are from the DCJS UCR as of 10/25/2025.

## Appendix—2024 Statistics *(continued)*

2024 Suspected Motor Vehicle Insurance No-Fraud Incidents						
Rank	County	MV Insurance Fraud		Rank	County	MV Insurance Fraud
1	Kings	15,003		32	Steuben	3
2	Queens	9,787		33	Schenectady	3
3	Bronx	4,073		34	Rockland	3
4	Nassau	3,241		35	Cattaraugus	2
5	New York	1,906		36	Chautauqua	2
6	Suffolk	1,011		37	Deleware	2
7	Richmond	855		38	Franklin	2
8	Orange	484		39	Herkimer	2
9	Westchester	289		40	Madison	2
10	Albany	98		41	Orleans	2
11	Erie	97		42	Warren	2
12	Rockland	64		43	Yates	1
13	Monroe	35		44	Schuyler	1
14	Ulster	27		45	Schoharie	1
15	Essex	21		46	Montgomery	1
16	Onondaga	18		47	Livingston	1
17	Niagara	16		48	Hamilton	1
18	Jefferson	14		49	Greene	1
19	Rensselaer	12		50	Columbia	1
20	Putnam	11		51	Chenango	1
21	Dutchess	11		52	Allegany	1
22	Fulton	10		53	Clinton	0
23	Oneida	8		54	Cortland	0
24	Broome	7		55	Ontario	0
25	Sullivan	6		56	Oswego	0
26	Wayne	5		57	Otsego	0
27	Cayuga	4		58	Seneca	0
28	Chemung	4		59	St. Lawrence	0
29	Genesee	4		60	Tioga	0
30	Lewis	4		61	Tompkins	0
31	Washington	3		62	Wyoming	0