

Some things to think about concerning crime and parking garages:

- \* There is a new term being used for crime in parking garages - it's called "undercover" crime
- \* We already have crime in the parking lots of our train stations
- \* I have seen two drug buys at the Jenkintown-Wyncote train station; one on the bridge closest to Greenwood Avenue and one in the North Lot - the drugs were picked up from the top of a rear tire of a car that was parked
- \* As evidenced in the local Times Chronicle paper - cars have been stolen out of the station parking lots in our Township
- \* We have crime in the open lots because they are not patrolled very often
- \* I have never seen, not in the 22 years we have lived in Wyncote, SEPTA police ever patrol the parking lot of the Jenkintown-Wyncote station
- \* How will one person monitoring the screen or maybe screens be able to do anything about a crime in progress inside a parking garage? (won't he/she have to take a break now and then?)
- \* How much more of a burden are we going to impose on our police department when crime increases once it goes "under cover"... what will be the impact on our already high real estate taxes?

If this crime can take place in an open parking lot...think how much more crime we will have under the cover of a parking garage!

*Below is a communication from our Cheltenham Township Police Department*

<http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/police/theftsautoflyer.htm>

## **Thefts from Vehicles**

Police Departments throughout the tri-county area are experiencing an increase in theft from vehicle complaints. Most of the thefts occur during the evening or early morning hours. Here are some helpful tips that may deter a thief from targeting your vehicle.

There have been a number of thefts from auto reports involving vehicles parked at the Melrose Train Station in the past month. The actor is smashing windows to access valuables (purses, GPS devices etc) which are left out in view. Please do your part to combat this crime by removing valuable items from plain sight in your car.

Immediately report suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the Police.

Never leave a car door unlocked, or window or sunroof open, even when just going into a shop for a moment or two or even when parked in your own driveway. It is amazing how many people do not lock their vehicles.

Park in well lit areas of parking lots and utilize motion activated spotlights in your driveway.

Remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock, even when parking on your own property.

If you have an alarm, turn it on every time you park.

Security mark your stereo or satellite radio and if it is a removable type always take it with you.

Make a note of the serial numbers on radios, computers, etc.

Do not leave purses, backpacks, or wallets in the vehicle..

Never leave credit cards or check books in the vehicle.

Never leave money (cash or coins) or jewelry in the vehicle.

If you have a garage or access to a garage, use it. Then lock the garage. If you have an attached garage make sure the door between the house and garage is always locked. If your garage door opener is stolen from your vehicle, you risk giving the criminal access to your entire home.

If you are a victim of a theft from auto incident, file a police report. It is difficult for the Police Department to analyze crime trends and patterns without having an accurate picture of what crimes are occurring in what areas. If you are a victim of a theft from auto incident, please notify the Cheltenham Police Department as soon as possible. Try to avoid touching the vehicle until after the responding Police Officer has an opportunity to inspect the vehicle for any evidence left behind by the thief.

- Olga McHugh