



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: 78% of Vehicle Burglaries Are Due to Unlocked Doors, So Lock It or Lose It!

Date: September 7, 2011

Many citizens want to know how they can help lower the crime rate in their neighborhood. It is quite simple -- eliminate the opportunity for crime to take place. One of the most common crimes committed in Hernando County is vehicle burglary. From the beginning of this year through August 8, 2011, approximately 625 vehicles were burglarized. Out of those crimes, 486 were a result of unlocked doors. This means that 78 percent of the vehicle burglaries were preventable by owners simply locking the doors of their vehicle.

Since July 30, 2011, more than a dozen citizens living in Royal Highlands have reported that sometime throughout the night their vehicles were burglarized. This time **ALL** targeted vehicles had unlocked doors. Suspects are seeking out loose change, electronics, guns and anything of value. Another way to eliminate a vehicle burglary is to put valuables out of view. A purse, briefcase, money, or electronics should always be placed out of sight.

Remember, thieves are looking for an easy opportunity to make money and leaving a vehicle unlocked is just that -- an easy opportunity. Take the extra effort to protect the things you have worked so hard for, or you just might lose it!

Anyone with information pertaining to individuals involved in the Royal Highlands burglaries is encouraged to contact Deputy S. Sikalos at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, 352-754-6830.

If you wish to remain anonymous or to be eligible for a reward, call the Hernando County Crime Stoppers toll free number 1-866-990-8477 or you may email your tip by clicking below.
<http://www.hernadosheriff.org/Tips/> You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.