

**District Three Denver Police Citizens Advisory Board/CAB Meeting Recap
11 Sep 24 – Submitted by Mickey Greenberg, Safety Chair WDCA**

Featured Speaker: Cale Gould, Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Association (CATPA)

- CAPTA is run by the Colorado State Patrol
- CAPTA is a grant office funding anti-theft programs
- Since 2009 CAPTA funding comes from a \$1.00 fee on all state auto insurance policies which gives them a budget of \$6.5 million of which 8% goes for operation costs
- CAPTA is run by Board of 11 who sets policies
- Gould promotes programs through in-person presentations, public affairs, media, radio, displays at gas stations, etc.
- CAPTA funds catalytic converter labels, steering wheel clubs, the Denver Tracks program, the Denver Auto Force Task Force and the Colorado Auto Force Task Force
- The organization is data driven, tracks stolen vehicles by VIN number

- **Auto theft peaked in 2022** due to Covid with reduced police staffing and in 2019 the Colorado legislature decriminalizing it, but in 2023 legislation was reversed. Colorado was the number one state for auto theft in 2022 and 2023. 2024 is on a trend to reduce 30%.
 - **One in 69 households has a car stolen totaling** about 90 cars per day
 - 3.7 cars were stolen every hour, 3.2 cars per hour are recovered, nearly 90% which is better than other states which are 50% to 70%
 - 75% of the cars stolen in Colorado are in the Denver metro area
 - Adults, not juveniles are the ones stealing cars
 - Stolen cars are used in other crimes and sold across the country; chop shops are not a major issue
 - Many stolen cars are recovered in other states
 - In 2023 arrests have been increasing, but still very low because of time delay between the theft and when it is reported
 - **Six out of 10 stolen cars are Hyundai's and KIA's**, the newer models; pickup trucks, too, but this changes with time, it used to be older Hondas
 - **30% to 50% of stolen cars are unlocked, keys in car, spare key stored in cars.** Proximity keys must be kept far from the vehicles as it could be in the house but that is close enough to access the vehicle; newer technology requires key must be much closer
 - See the heat map of auto thefts statewide at www.lockdownyourcar.org
 - 80% to 90% less theft if vehicle store in a garage
 - The airport was a hot spot with 200 cars/month stolen, but that has been reduced after arresting a gang targeting DIA. There are 100,000 cars parked at DIA at any given time.