



The Community Room

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2021

Welcome

Interim Police Chief Michael Woods

Welcome back to the Community Room—I hope you have had a positive start to the New Year. A lot has happened since our last edition, to include that I have agreed to serve as the Interim Chief of Police during a nationwide search for a new chief. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to serve in this position. I will do my best to provide the leadership and service to the residents of Columbus and the men and women of the Division deserve.



I have decided to have Deputy Chief Greg Bodker take over as the Patrol Operations Deputy Chief. Chief Bodker has been

with the Division for 26 years and worked in various assignments from Patrol to the Detective Bureau to Professional Standards. Most recently, Deputy Chief Bodker was assigned to the Support Services Subdivision. He is looking forward to returning to the Patrol Operations Subdivision.

During my time as Interim Chief, I plan to focus on the violent crime that is plaguing our city. I ask for your help in talking with young adults and juveniles about the violence and helping them find avenues away from making bad decisions. Violence is far reaching and impacts the families of the victims and suspects. The police have a vital role in curbing the violence but we need our community's help in prevention.

As we continue to develop "The Community Room" please don't hesitate to provide feedback to your Zone Commander, Precinct CLO, or any patrol officer you know. We want this to be informative.

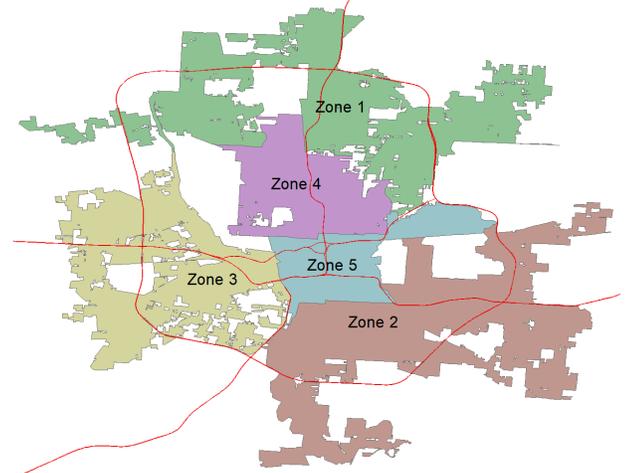
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What to know/what to do if your vehicle is stolen:

- Write down your plate number and VIN number and keep them safe.
- NEVER leave your vehicle running unless you are sitting in it with the doors locked.
- If your vehicle is stolen, call 614-645-4545 and request an officer to take a report. Have the tag and VIN numbers ready.
- If your vehicle is recovered, please allow us to process it for evidence, to try to identify the suspect(s).

CPD Patrol Zones



Zone 1

Early in January we noted a pattern of purse snatchings, committed against lone older women by juvenile suspects, in the parking lots of Walmart on Morse Rd and Easton Market. Within 24 hours we discovered that this was occurring throughout the central Ohio area, across multiple jurisdictions, and that these suspects were also breaking into houses, and stealing cars, using them to commit their crimes. As of the last week of February, there were 141 of these incidents (these are only CPD numbers), and we have identified over 40 male and female [juvenile](#) suspects, several of whom have been arrested multiple times. The chart breaks down their crimes by category.

In a coordinated response, detectives and police chiefs from all over central Ohio have banded together to pool resources and ensure communication. Working with Prosecutors in the Juvenile Division, they are building cases

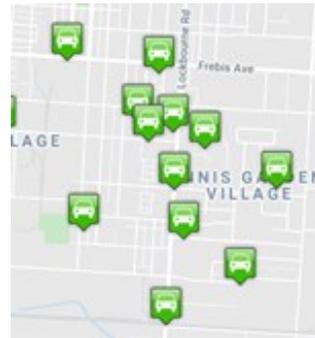
Crime	Frequency
Grand Theft Auto	42
Felony Thefts	38
Robbery	28
Misdemeanor Thefts	18
Misc. reports	15
Total:	141

against these suspects under the project name of “Operation Game Over”.

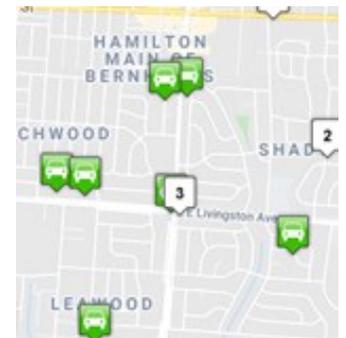
So what can you do about it? First, be aware of your surroundings when walking in parking lots and to your home. These incidents are occurring in broad daylight, even when other people are around. And a majority of the stolen cars were taken from drive-ways and parking lots while they were being warmed up. It’s bad enough to lose your transportation, but far worse to know that your vehicle was used in committing a robbery/assault/purse snatching against an innocent victim!

Zone 2

On Zone Two, we have had 119 Auto Thefts from January 1st to January 26th. The most active time these autos are being stolen is between 5AM and 7AM, when citizens are warming up their cars because it’s cold outside. They return several minutes later to find their vehicle stolen. Not only are these vehicles being stolen, sometimes they are used for other crimes, or when the vehicle is found, it has crashed somewhere. Vehicles are also being stolen at gas stations, when citizens leave the car running or the keys in the ignition, and run into the store just to pick something up, only to find their vehicle stolen. So, if you must warm up your car, sit inside it with the doors locked, and warm up with it! If you’re at the gas station, simply do not leave your car unlocked and running!



Lockbourne Rd/Moler Ave



Livingston Ave/Hamilton Rd

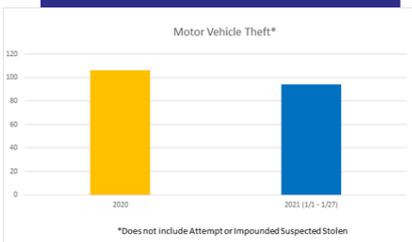
Source: Community Crime Map (see page 4 for link)

Zone 3

Zone 3 is seeing a large increase in motor vehicle thefts, mostly occurring in the greater Hilltop area as well as the Cherry Creek Subdivision.

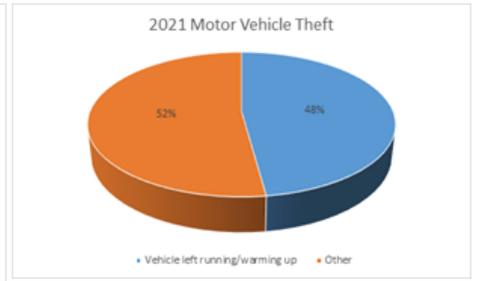
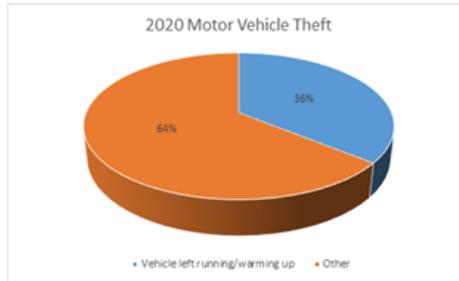
The bar graph compares motor vehicle thefts for January 2020 and 2021, and the pie charts (top of next page) show us the percentage of those motor vehicle thefts that involve vehicles which were stolen while warming up and left running.

In both years, we see a significant percentage of the total is comprised of vehicles that were stolen while warming up/left running. In 2021, we are experiencing close to 50%



Zone 3 (continued)

of the motor vehicles that are stolen are taken while left unattended and warming up. We strongly encourage our residents to please do not leave your vehicles unattended while warming up. We understand the desire to keep a car warmed up but the consequences for this action can have much greater impact to the families that depend on their vehicles.



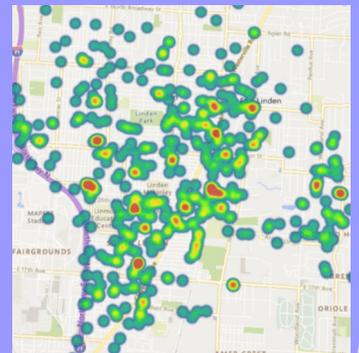
Zone 4

ShotSpotter is an incredibly valuable tool for real-time gunshot detection, and much of the Linden neighborhood is included in Zone 4's ShotSpotter area. ShotSpotter works by having multiple acoustic sensors placed throughout the detection area. When gunshots go off, the sound is picked up by the sensors, which are then able to triangulate the exact location where the shots came from.

This location, with a precise latitude/longitude, is sent to our Dispatch center, where it is then assigned to available Patrol Officers. While it seems like a lot of steps, it all happens within mere seconds and allows for a rapid response by Officers.

New Year's Day tends to have the most ShotSpotter alerts, due to celebratory gunfire throughout the early morning

hours and following day. While we had fewer alerts this year than we did for New Year's Day 2020, there was a definite increase in the average number of rounds recorded per incident. With the data gathered from the ShotSpotter alerts, incident reports, and citizen calls, we can narrow down locations and streets that would benefit from increased patrol.



Zone 5

Between 1/1/2021 and 1/31/2021, there were 61 thefts from autos on Zone 5. These thefts are occurring all over the zone, but the majority of them have occurred on 11 and 16 Precincts. 11 Pct had 21 thefts from autos, while 16 Pct had a total of 23.

When I further break the numbers down, the majority of the thefts on 11 precinct occurred on 113 cruiser district, in the areas Merion Village and German Village.

The majority of the 16 Pct's thefts from autos occurred on 163 cruiser district, which includes part of Victorian Village and Italian Village.

The chart below indicates where the majority of these incidents are occurring. The thieves are taking wallets, purses, laptops, loose change, and cash.

Location Type	Frequency
Parking Lot	30
Street	18
Single Family Home	7
Gas Station	2
Parking Garage	1
Multiple Dwelling	1
Doctor's Office	1
Auto Shop	1



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS DIVISION OF POLICE
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

PURPOSE-PASSION-PRIDE



120 Marconi Boulevard
Columbus OH 43215

Non-Emergency 614-645-4545



VISION STATEMENT

United in the spirit of teamwork, the Columbus Division of Police will be a trustworthy, diverse, progressive and community-minded organization devoted to providing excellent public service. We will be unyielding in purpose and dedicated to live by our Core Values, which reflect our genuine desire to care for the safety and well-being of our community and our employees.

Find us online (CTRL & Click):

Website <https://www.columbus.gov/police/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ColumbusPolice>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/columbuspolice>

Useful Community Links

CTRL + Click to access

LexisNexis Community Crime Map

<https://communitycrimemap.com/>

City of Columbus Website

<https://www.columbus.gov/>

Franklin County Municipal Clerk of Courts

<http://www.fcmcclerk.com/>

Franklin County Common Pleas Clerk of Courts

<https://clerk.franklincountyohio.gov/index.cfm>

Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services

<http://mha.ohio.gov/>

Columbus Police Online Crime Report

<https://www.columbus.gov/police-offensetypes/>

Franklin County Sheriff Sex Offender Search

<http://www.icrimewatch.net/index.php?AgencyID=55213&disc>

Franklin County Animal Care & Control

<http://dogs.franklincountyohio.gov/services/field-services.cfm>

Columbus City Attorney Prosecutor Division

<http://www.columbuscityattorney.org/prosecution.aspx>