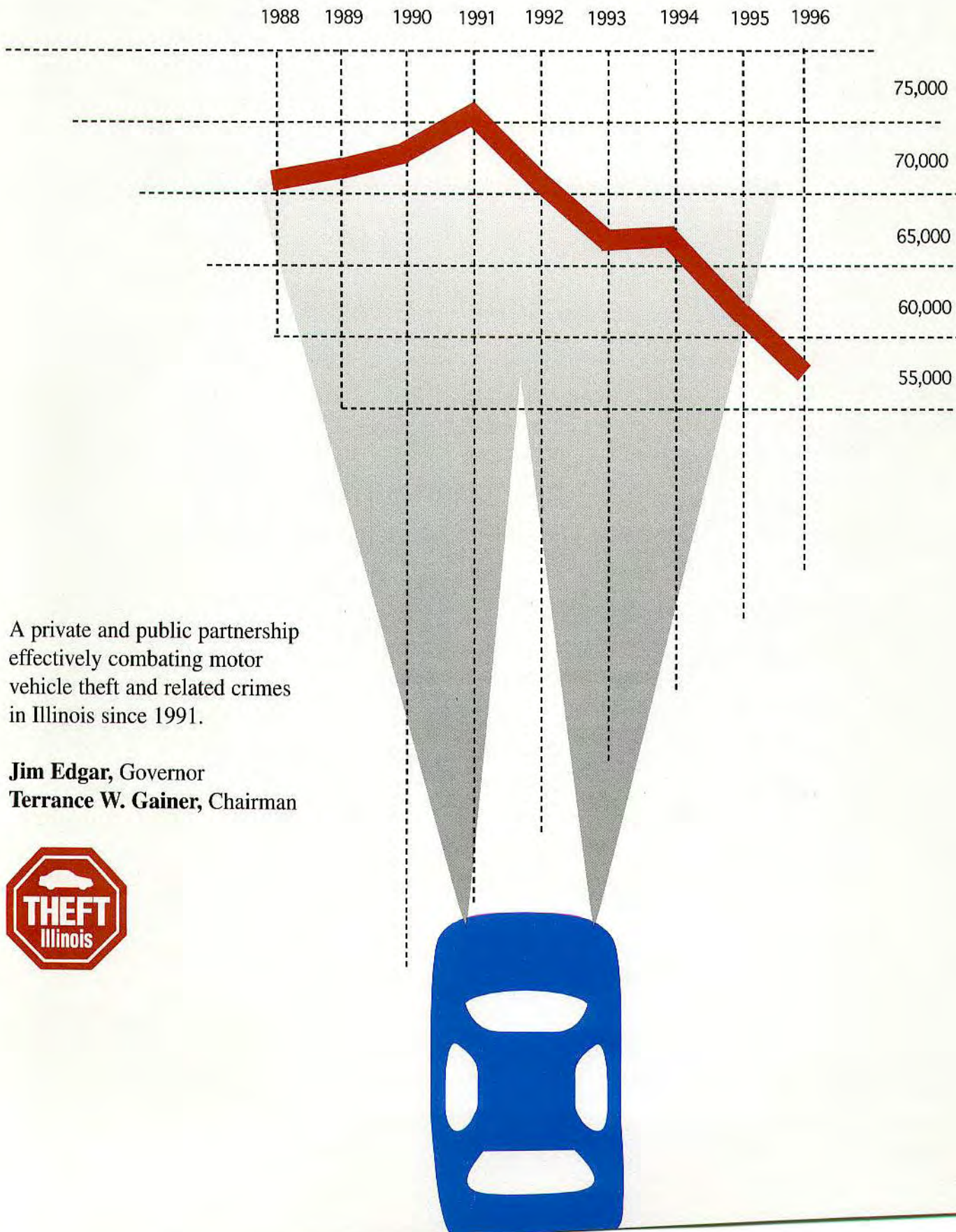


# ILLINOIS MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

## 1996 ANNUAL REPORT



A private and public partnership effectively combating motor vehicle theft and related crimes in Illinois since 1991.

**Jim Edgar**, Governor  
**Terrance W. Gainer**, Chairman







**State of Illinois**  
Jim Edgar, Governor

**Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council**

Terrance W. Gainer (Chairman), Director, Illinois State Police  
Mr. Ronald R. Brown, State Farm Insurance Companies  
Hon. Richard A. Devine, State's Attorney of Cook County  
Chief John W. Harris, Springfield Police Department  
Mr. Joseph A. Landolfi, Kemper National Insurance Companies  
Hon. Paul A. Logli, State's Attorney of Winnebago County  
Mr. Jay Puccinelli, Allstate Insurance Company  
Matt L. Rodriguez, Superintendent, Chicago Police Department  
Hon. George H. Ryan, Illinois Secretary of State  
Mr. Donald L. Sauzek, Country Mutual Insurance Company

**Grant Review Committee**

Capt. Kenneth Bouche (Chairman), Illinois State Police  
Randy S. Ivey, Allstate Insurance Company  
Giacomo A. Pecoraro, Secretary of State, Department of Police  
David E. Ward, State Farm Insurance Companies

**Council Staff**

Dr. Gerard F. Ramker, Program Director  
Diana Mann, Program Analyst  
Ieva Massengill, Financial Officer  
Mark Mattozzi, Program Monitor  
Richard Novak, Program Monitor  
George Zorn, Auditor

**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**

Peter B. Bensinger, Chairman  
Dr. Candice M. Kane, Acting Executive Director  
Robert P. Boehmer, General Counsel  
Maureen DeMatoff, Chief Fiscal Officer

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Illinois Motor Vehicle  
Theft Prevention Council  
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## To the Governor and the Members of the Illinois General Assembly:

The comprehensive motor vehicle theft prevention strategy developed and implemented by the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council continues to benefit the citizens of Illinois.

The latest statistics indicate that vehicle thefts declined by 6 percent in 1996. Since the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act was enacted by the General Assembly in 1991, vehicle thefts have dropped by more than 22 percent— saving Illinois vehicle owners about \$84 million.

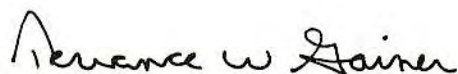
The grant funds awarded by the Council have dramatically improved motor vehicle theft law enforcement by establishing task forces, investigative teams and other special efforts around the state. These programs have generated impressive results:

- ★ 6,690 criminal investigations initiated
- ★ 12,656 audits of vehicle-related businesses conducted
- ★ 3,810 persons arrested
- ★ 822 convictions obtained
- ★ 8,255 stolen and contraband vehicles recovered
- ★ \$54 million worth of vehicles recovered

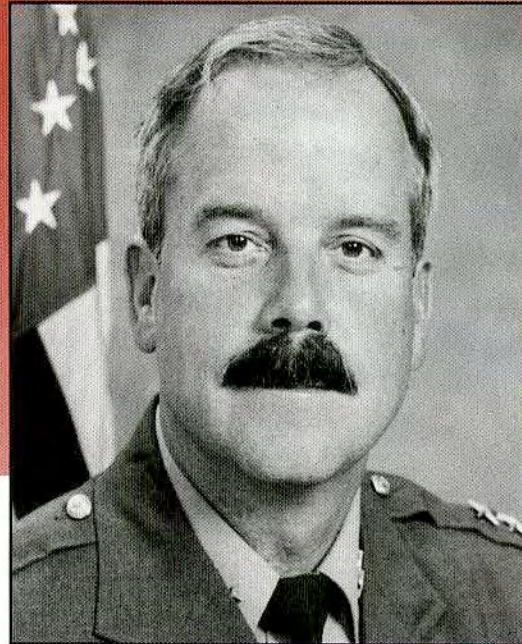
In short, the \$28 million granted by the Council since 1991 has resulted in \$138 million from recovered stolen vehicles and reduced theft rates—a return of \$5 for every dollar spent.

The Council's partnership of the public and private sectors is effectively fighting vehicle theft in Illinois. I am proud to present this annual report documenting our accomplishments in 1996.

Very respectfully,



**Terrance W. Gainer, Chairman**







## The Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Members

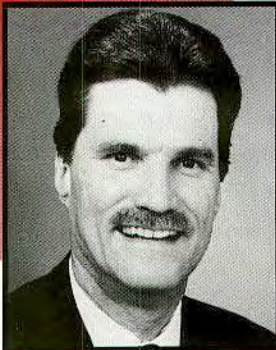
The Council is composed of 11 representatives from law enforcement and the insurance industry.



**Terrance W. Gainer  
(Chairman),  
Director, Illinois State  
Police**

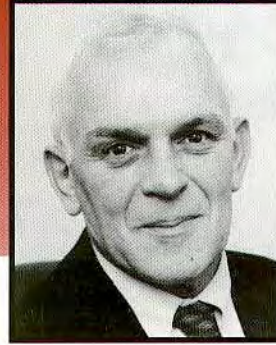
Mr. Gainer was appointed chairman of the Council in 1991, the year he became director of the Illinois State Police. A 20-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department and a former deputy director of

the state police, Mr. Gainer also serves as chairman of the Vehicle Theft Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.



**Mr. Ronald R. Brown,  
State Farm Insurance  
Companies**

Mr. Brown has 27 years of service with State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company and was named Vice President-Operations in Bloomington in 1994. This is his first year as a member of the Council.



**Hon. Richard A. Devine,  
State's Attorney of Cook  
County**

Mr. Devine became state's attorney on December 2, 1996, having won election in November, and returned to an office he once served as first assistant (1980 - 83). He last was a partner in the Chicago law firm of Shesky Froelich & Devine

Ltd. Mr. Devine's record of public service includes President of the Chicago Park District, assistant to Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, and member of numerous commissions and committees on the legal profession.



**Chief John W. Harris,  
Springfield Police  
Department**

Chief Harris has 23 years of police experience. He has been the Chief of Police in Springfield for the last three years. Prior to that he was Chief of Police of Pleasant Hill, Illinois, and Assistant Chief of Police in Tucson,

Arizona. He was appointed to the Council in 1996.

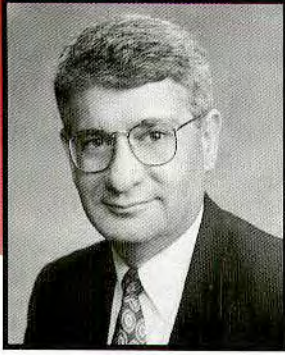


**Mr. Joseph A. Landolfi,  
Kemper National  
Insurance Companies**

Mr. Landolfi brings to the Council 24 years of experience in insurance claims with Kemper National Insurance. He currently directs all aspects of Kemper's physical damage claims in four regions.

He was appointed to the Council in 1994.

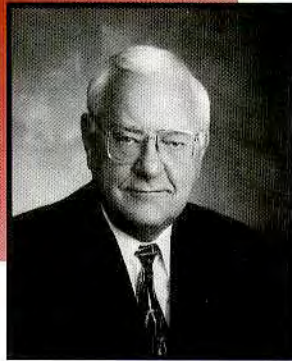




**Hon. Paul A. Logli,  
*State's Attorney of  
Winnebago County***

Mr. Logli was appointed State's Attorney of Winnebago County in 1986, having since been elected to the office three times. His legal career also includes an associate judgeship and private practice. He was appointed

to the Council in 1993 and is also a board member of numerous community and civic organizations.



**Hon. George H. Ryan,  
*Illinois Secretary of  
State***

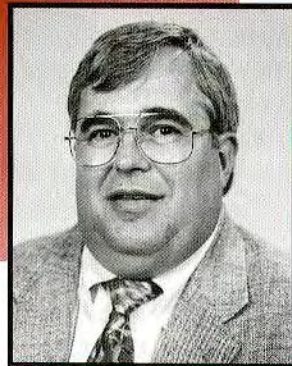
After a distinguished 10-year legislative career, Mr. Ryan was elected secretary of state in 1990; he was elected to his second term in 1994. He also served as lieutenant governor for eight years and has been a statutory member of the Council since 1991.



**Mr. Jay Puccinelli,  
*Allstate Insurance  
Company***

Mr. Puccinelli brings to the Council more than 20 years of personal lines insurance claims experience with Allstate Insurance Company. He currently directs all aspects of Allstate's casualty-related claims in

Illinois. He was appointed to the Council in 1993.



**Mr. Donald L. Sauzek,  
*Country Mutual  
Insurance Company***

Mr. Sauzek started as a field claims representative in 1973 for Country Mutual Insurance. He is presently the Manager of Material Damage Claims. He directs all aspects of physical damage claims in 10 states.

He was appointed to the Council in 1996.



**Matt L. Rodriguez,  
*Superintendent, Chicago  
Police Department***

A 35-year police veteran in Chicago, Mr. Rodriguez has served in the department's patrol, training, gambling and youth divisions. In 1980, he began a 12-year tenure as deputy superintendent of the Bureau of

Technical Services. He has been a statutory member of the Council since becoming superintendent in 1991.





## Answering the Challenge

In 1991 the General Assembly established the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, an 11-member coalition uniquely comprising law enforcement and insurance industry officials, to put the brakes on vehicle theft, insurance fraud and related crimes.

The Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act requires that insurance companies pay into a special trust fund an amount equal to \$1 for each private passenger automobile insured for physical damage coverage. This amount, collected and administered by the Council, totals approximately \$5.4 million each year. Funds are primarily designated for law enforcement programs that increase the investigation and prosecution of vehicle theft crimes.

### Reduced thefts, again

◆ Vehicle theft in Illinois fell by 6 percent from 1995 to 1996, dropping from 62,286 thefts reported in 1995 to 58,743 in 1996, according to the Illinois State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Cook County thefts decreased 6 percent from 46,769 in 1995 to 43,929 in 1996, mirroring the statewide results.

◆ As noted, Illinois has witnessed an overall state decline in motor vehicle thefts through 1996 by a total of more than 22 percent since the inception of the Council in 1991.

◆ The majority of Illinois counties with Council-funded motor vehicle theft prevention task forces showed a decrease in auto theft from 1995 to 1996, again demonstrating that the task force concept is a powerful asset for our state.

### An estimated \$18 million worth of stolen vehicles recovered

Eighty-one percent of the vehicles stolen in Illinois in 1996 were recovered. This figure has remained relatively unchanged since 1992. The 1,982 vehicles recovered through Council-funded programs were worth an estimated \$18 million. Essential car parts and contraband vehicles, as well as other stolen property, were also recovered in large numbers.

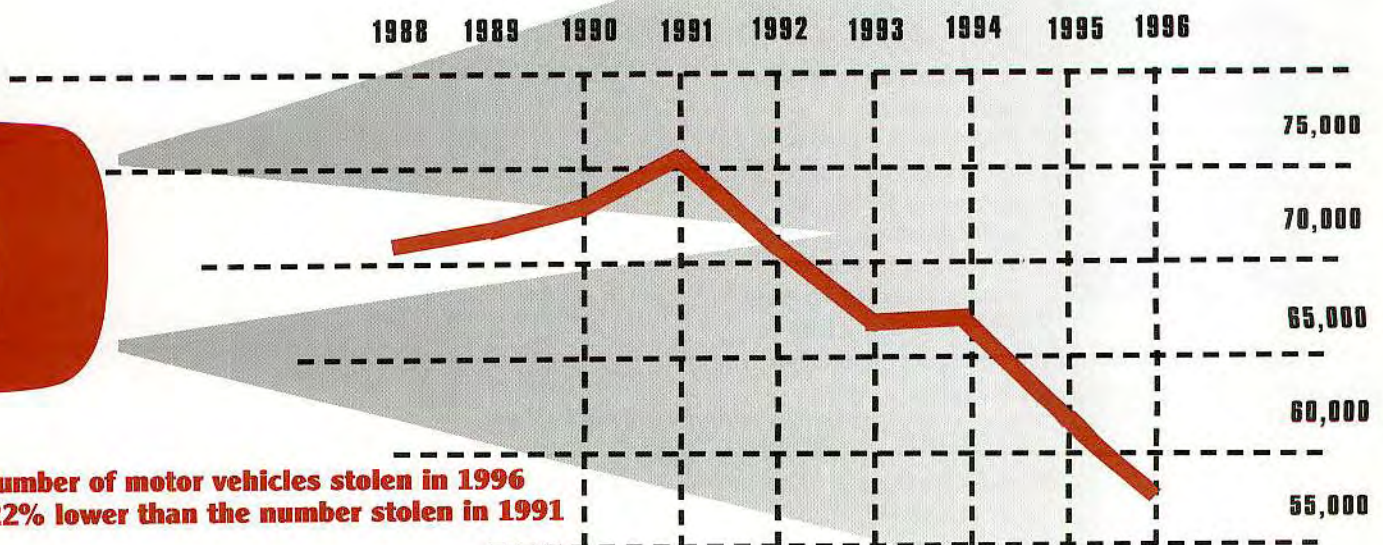
### Arrests and convictions

In 1996, the average sentence length for the 1,329 offenders referred to the Illinois Department of Corrections for motor vehicle-related crimes was 4.8 years in prison compared to 3.9 years for property offenses, 3.4 years for drug offenses, and 8.9 years for violent offenses.

Since becoming operational in 1992, Council-funded programs have been responsible for the arrests of 3,810 people for vehicle theft and related crimes.

### Enhanced law enforcement infrastructure

Partnerships were strengthened in 1996 between the Council programs, the National Insurance Crime Bureau, insurance industry representatives and other allied organizations. Those bonds fostered statewide initiatives to identify insurance fraud and apprehend offenders. Other states shared valuable insights and information with the Council on their programs, problems and ideas for combating vehicle theft. As a result of that networking, Illinois purchased broadcast rights for an award-winning anti-car theft television commercial from the Texas Auto





Theft Prevention Authority for a fraction of its original production cost.

### Greater public awareness

In Illinois the public is more mindful of vehicle theft and how to avoid it. A 1996 public awareness survey on attitudes on vehicle theft in Illinois sponsored by Park Smart, the Council's anti-vehicle theft educational program, showed that the percentage of drivers who say they always lock vehicle doors *increased* 6 percent from 1992 to 1996. Likewise, the percentage of motorists statewide who believe vehicle theft is a very serious problem in their community *increased* 4 percent during the same period, the greatest increase being in Chicago, up from 26 percent to 35 percent. More motorists believe it is very important to secure vehicles when the driver is in a gas station or convenience store, up by 12 percent in 1996, and in the home driveway, up by 11 percent from 1992. Other Council initiatives, such as the Beat Auto Theft (BAT) program, a booth at the Illinois State Fair, and a pilot vehicle identification number window-etching program educated the public in 1996 about ways to avoid becoming victims of vehicle theft.

### Policing the marketplace

The black market for stolen vehicles and contraband parts has been successfully attacked by Council-funded programs through special auditing teams. These teams scrutinized the forms that track essential parts from buyers and from sellers to determine whether the purchases were for other than legitimate rebuilding purposes.

### 1996 Staff Activities

During 1996, Council staff provided a great deal of support and assistance to grantees and to other organizations engaged in motor vehicle theft prevention efforts. In August, Council staff sponsored its first annual grantee workshop on the topic of insurance fraud. About 35 people attended.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police's (IACP) Vehicle Theft Committee, headed by Council Chairman Terrance Gainer, was extremely active in promoting awareness, education and training for chief law enforcement officials. The committee met twice during the year and also conducted a very successful workshop at IACP's annual meeting in Phoenix. Council staff contributed to these meetings.

Staff also continued to respond to requests for information and advice from other jurisdictions that are in various stages of implementing Council-like entities, including the Indiana Anti-Car Theft Committee, the Arizona



Photo: Diana Mann

*Grantees and staff attend the Council's annual workshop on the topic of insurance fraud.*

Auto Theft Prevention Authority, the Louisiana Auto Theft Prevention Authority, the Minnesota Automobile Theft Prevention Authority, the Rhode Island State Police, the Baltimore Police Department and law enforcement personnel from Utah. Staff even met with governmental officials from Brazil and Australia.

Council staff also continued to participate in the National Association of Auto Theft Prevention Authorities, which acts as a resource for persons interested in initiating theft prevention programs. This group met in connection with



Photo: Diana Mann

*Council staff offer grantees technical and other support.*



Photo: Candice Kane

*McGruff the Crime Dog and Council staff offer attendees at the Illinois State Fair sound advice on how to protect themselves and their vehicles.*





the annual training seminar conducted by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) in San Antonio. Staff are active members of IAATI and its local North Central Regional Chapter.

### Funding Issues

Faced with decreasing grant funds for successful vehicle theft prevention programs, the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council formed an ad hoc committee in 1996 to discuss and recommend potential strategies to address the issue. The situation is the result of the income into the trust fund being level while program costs continually increase.

The Council chose to make no grants in 1991 and instead developed operating rules, conducted public hearings, analyzed data and produced a comprehensive strategy to guide its grant-making process. The 1991 funds were "rolled into" the subsequent years' funds. Insurance company payments into the Trust Fund until 1995 were based on the Council's definition of the term "motor vehicle" through administrative rule. The Council planned to broaden the definition through the rule-making process to include other kinds of vehicles, if or when the need for additional funds arose. However, the Act itself was amended in 1995 to replace the term with "private passenger vehicle."

Grant awards made by the Council to support programs in 1995 totaled about \$7 million. The Council awarded just over \$6 million for programs in 1996—about 12 percent less than the amount allocated for 1995. The Council recently designated just under \$6 million for programs in 1997—about 5 percent less than the amount awarded for 1996. The amount of funds available for programs in 1998 is also expected to be about \$6 million. For 1999, the amount of funds expected to be available for programs will be about \$5 million, or about 19 percent less than the 1997 amount. Participating agencies have absorbed the increasing costs of programs for the most part. However, the Northwest Suburban Auto Theft Task Force ceased operation in midyear 1996 due to the increased costs to local governments.

### Committee Membership

The Ad Hoc Committee represented a cross section of insurance industry and law enforcement officials. It met several times during 1996 and will also convene in 1997 to help monitor and offer input on the legislative initiatives.

Committee members felt the results generated by the funded programs have been very positive. On the basis of the results generated by funded programs and their impact on the vehicle theft problem in Illinois, it was the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation that the Council seek to increase the amount of funds available for programs on an annual basis.



*Grant Review Committee Chairman  
Kenneth Bouche,  
Captain with the Illinois State Police.*



*Robert Boehmer,  
General Counsel for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and Secretary to the Council.*

Photos: Diana Mann/Hank Anthony

## Ad Hoc Funding Committee Membership

*Chairperson - Joseph Landolfi, Kemper National Insurance Companies*

- Robert Boehmer, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
- M/Sgt. Dan Callahan, Northwest Suburban Auto Theft Task Force
- Tom Donahue, Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- John Eager, National Association of Independent Insurers
- Norm Godden, Illinois Insurance Information Service
- Thomas Hennelly, Cook County State's Attorney's Office
- M/Sgt. Ken Kaupas, Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force
- M/Sgt. José Martinez, Kane County Auto Theft Task Force
- Frederick McGarvey, American Insurance Association
- M/Sgt. Eric Norwood, DuPage County Auto Theft Task Force
- Robert Powers, Illinois Secretary of State's Office
- Gerard Ramker, Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council
- Stephen Schneider, Kemper National Insurance Companies
- William Schroeder, Alliance of American Insurers
- William Shepherd, State Farm Insurance Company
- M/Sgt. Ron Smith, Lake County Auto Theft Task Force
- Bonnie Williams, Allstate Insurance Company
- Steven Yoder, Country Companies



### How Additional Funds Would Be Used

Any additional funds collected would allow the Council to maintain a level of support for programs that would enable them to continue to be successful. Added funds would also permit the Council to expand its support to other areas experiencing significant vehicle theft and related problems, including areas in central and western Illinois.

### Ways to Increase the Amount of Available Funds

The Ad Hoc Committee considered four broad ways to increase the amount of trust funds available for grant programs:

- ① Obtain "new" additional funds
- ② Increase funds contributed by the insurance industry
- ③ Reduce administrative costs
- ④ Change and/or reduce funding levels of current programs

The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations for additional funds fell within the first two areas. The committee delivered its report to the Council at the May 3, 1996, regular meeting. The Council unanimously adopted the committee's report and directed staff to work with the committee to put together an "action plan" to implement its recommendations. The action plan was approved by the Council at its February 14, 1997, meeting.

### Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations:

- ◆ The Secretary of State's Office should seek to institute a surcharge on current vehicle-related business licensing fees.
- ◆ The Council should seek a surcharge on all titles, salvage and junking certificates, and vehicle registrations issued.
- ◆ The Council should seek mandated annual payments into the trust fund from self-insureds such as rental car companies or leasing companies that do business in the State.
- ◆ The Council should seek a mandated annual assessment for vehicles insured under commercial lines of coverage.
- ◆ The Council should solicit contributions from vehicle-related business organizations and associations such as the auto and truck recyclers, collision repair specialists, new and used car dealers, and/or similar groups.
- ◆ The Council should seek grant monies from any available sources to support funded programs.

◆ The Council should support legislative initiatives to create a state statute under which assets developed or maintained through an auto theft or insurance fraud related criminal enterprise can be seized and forfeited or otherwise used to support funded programs.

◆ The Council should not seek an increase at this time in the current assessment paid by the insurance industry for private passenger vehicles

The Council hopes to initiate actions to implement these recommendations in 1997.

### 1996 Statewide Theft Prevention Strategy

The Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council adopts an annual statewide strategy based on information accumulated at public hearings, solicited from written input and captured through data analyses describing the nature and extent of the motor vehicle theft problem in Illinois. The strategy examines the areas in the state where the problem is the most severe and identifies the related problems the Council should address. From this the Council then formulates what types of programs are eligible to receive support. The Council's Grant Review Committee awards grants from the special trust fund to those state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations that implement programs consistent with the Council's diverse, comprehensive strategy.

In the fall of 1996, the Council convened panel hearings over two days to solicit comments from the public. In all, six diverse panels comprising concerned professionals and citizens discussed such topics as: law enforcement approaches, insurance fraud, partnerships with vehicle-related businesses, public awareness, prosecution of theft and fraud, and other states' experiences. This input was invaluable in setting the Council's course for attacking vehicle theft in 1997.

### Targeted Program Areas

Since March 1992, the Council has made more than 100 separate grant awards totaling approximately \$37 million. The majority of awarded funds, about \$33 million, or 90 percent have gone toward law enforcement programs that increase investigations and prosecutions of vehicle theft, insurance fraud

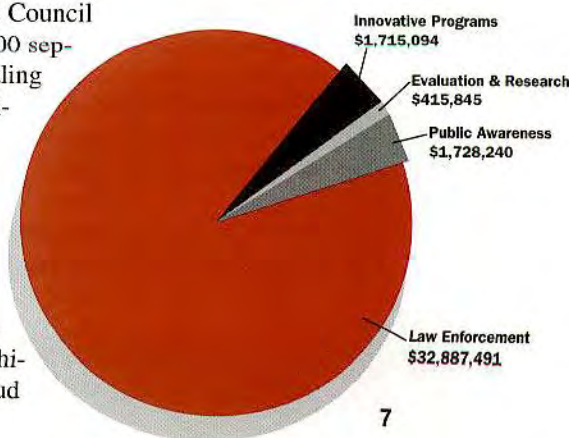






Photo: Diana Mann



*Council members (from left) State's Attorney Paul Logli, Secretary of State Giacomo Pecoraro, and Jay Puccinelli, Allstate Insurance, hear motions made at the November 13, 1996 Council meeting.*

Photo: Diana Mann



*Marcia McAllister, Consultant, Insurance Auto Auctions, testifies before the Council at public hearings September 10, 1996.*

Photo: Diana Mann



*Grant Review Committee Members Don Mizerk, Office of the Cook County State's Attorney, and David Ward, State Farm Insurance, hear testimony at the public hearings held by the Council on September 9-10, 1996.*

Photo: Diana Mann/Hank Anthony



*Council staff with Grant Review Committee Chairman Kenneth Bouche. From left: Capt. Bouche, Diana Mann, George Zorn, Gerard Ramker, Mark Mattozzi, Richard Novak.*

and related crimes. An estimated total of \$54 million in stolen vehicles have been recovered and another \$84 million saved in prevented vehicle thefts from the launch of the Council's programs through 1996.

#### **1996 funded programs**

- ◆ Multi-jurisdictional task forces, special investigative activities and specialized prosecution efforts in Cook, Du Page, Kane, Lake, Will, Kankakee, Grundy, Winnebago, Boone, Madison and St. Clair counties
- ◆ Statewide audits of salvage yard, rebuilders, repairers, recyclers and scrap processors, as well as examination of the transactions conducted by buyers and sellers of vehicles and parts sold at salvage auctions
- ◆ Statewide programs that improved the collection, analysis and sharing of criminal intelligence information regarding motor vehicle theft
- ◆ Statewide public awareness programs called Park Smart, Beat Auto Theft, and VIN Etching

#### **How Grant Funds Are Used**

Programs funded by the Council are truly cooperative efforts. Most of the trust funds awarded to date have been used to fund law enforcement personnel. In 1996, 142 staff including investigators, special agents, auditors, Assistant State's Attorneys, as well as legal and clerical staff were funded by the Council's grant programs. Thirty-one staff, supported by local departments are also assigned to the programs. In all, 173 personnel focus their attention on combating vehicle theft and related crimes each day in Illinois.

Nearly all the funded programs contribute considerable matching funds from the participating agencies, without which the programs would be hard-pressed to continue. The Illinois State Police and the Secretary of State's Department of Police were not reimbursed for the salaries of the eight task force directors funded in 1996. Six of the task forces were directed by Illinois State Police master sergeants, and two were directed by Secretary of State's, Department of Police lieutenants. Likewise, the National Insurance Crime Bureau is not compensated for the four agents it has assigned to task forces. Many agencies have also contributed office space and furnishings, surveillance equipment and vehicles,



## MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION TRUST FUNDS - SFY 1991 TO DATE<sup>1</sup>

	SFY 1991	SFY 1992	SFY 1993	SFY 1994	SFY 1995	SFY 1996	SFY 1997	TOTALS
<b>REVENUE</b>								
<i>Insurance company payments</i>	3,679,729	6,477,645	5,187,604	5,269,417	5,306,781	5,427,486	0	31,348,662
<i>Beat Auto Theft Program revenue</i>	0	0	0	0	1,590	4,625	780	6,995
<i>Interest on trust fund</i>	0	253,170	328,170	280,204	310,915	263,376	125,896	1,561,731
<i>Subtotal</i>	3,679,729	6,730,815	5,515,774	5,549,621	5,619,286	5,695,487	126,676	32,917,388
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
<i>Transfers from trust fund</i>	0	(100,000)	0	(736)	0	(11,441)	0	(112,177)
<i>Administrative expenditures</i>	(8,068)	(205,021)	(328,170)	(399,627)	(461,547)	(408,141)	(152,917)	(1,963,491)
<i>Grantee expenditures</i>	0	(70,000)	(4,944,103)	(6,757,497)	(8,273,761)	(5,779,997)	(1,908,322)	(27,733,680)
<i>Subtotal</i>	(8,068)	(375,021)	(5,272,273)	(7,157,860)	(8,735,308)	(6,199,579)	(2,061,239)	(29,809,348)
<b>TRUST FUND BALANCE</b>								
	3,671,661	10,027,455	10,270,956	8,662,717	5,546,695	5,042,603	3,108,040	

<sup>1</sup>SFY - State Fiscal Year, July 1 through June 30. SFY 1997 is through December 31, 1996.

radios and consumable supplies, even if they did not contribute personnel to the program.

As a further contribution from the insurance industry, insurance companies have loaned more than 85 vehicles for use by law enforcement in program operations, particularly surveillance and undercover work.



Photo: Mark Mattozzi.

NICB Senior Special Agent Charles Gray with a recent recovery in a Chicago-area salvage yard.





## 1996 Programs

The Council funded 21 programs in 1996. The purpose, activities and results of each program are summarized below. Unless otherwise noted, awards were made for calendar year 1996. Some grants are still operating on funds awarded as early as 1993.

### Law Enforcement Programs

#### *Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces*

##### **South Suburban Auto Theft Interdiction Network**

**Grantee: Illinois State Police**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$474,973**

This task force consists of 15 personnel, including officers assigned from the Illinois State Police, the Calumet City Police Department, the Chicago Heights Police Department, the Lansing Police Department, the Cook County Sheriff's Office and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. It serves the south suburban Cook County metropolitan area. The unit is known as SSATIN and employs numerous theft detection techniques, such as surveillance and informant development.

SSATIN utilizes "sting" operations and database tracking of offender information to identify chop shops and retagging operations, as well as thieves who specialize in the theft of heavy equipment or the use of fraudulent documents. In 1996, SSATIN conducted 152 investigations,

resulting in 96 arrests and 71 convictions. The unit recovered 156 stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$1.4 million.

##### **DuPage County Auto Theft Task Force**

**Grantee: County of DuPage, Sheriff's Police Department**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$358,356**

The DuPage County Auto Theft Task Force, known as BATTLE (Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement), is composed of the following law enforcement agencies: Illinois State Police, DuPage County Sheriff's Office, Woodridge Police Department, Naperville Police Department, Bloomingdale Police Department, Oak Brook Police Department and the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office.

The task force addresses vehicle theft and fraud by utilizing a variety of resources, such as informants, Crimestoppers programs, other task forces, local and federal police agencies. Officers provide assistance to local police agencies, insurance companies and other related organizations in a coordinated effort to identify and arrest offenders. They interview and recruit confidential sources of information for tactical cases and provide manpower, intelligence data and/or material support to local police departments in DuPage County, as well as to surrounding auto theft task forces. One memorable case in 1996 involved charges against a Bolingbrook auto body shop accused of using stolen auto parts and defrauding insurance companies on repair bills.

In 1996, BATTLE engaged in 96 investigations, resulting in 36 arrests and seven convictions. The unit recovered 117 stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$2.2 million.

##### **Metro East Auto Theft Task Force**

**Grantee: City of Collinsville, Department of Police**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$529,120**

Unique problems face the southern Illinois task force in the East St. Louis metropolitan area. With 11 local police officers on special assignment, the task force directed by a Secretary of State, Department of Police lieutenant battles vehicle thieves who cross the Missouri-Illinois border with impunity. The unit thwarts thieves' efforts by working closely with the police departments of St. Louis and St. Louis County. Officers are consolidated into the task force from the Collinsville Police Department, the East St. Louis Police Department, the Fairview Heights Police Department, the Madison County Sheriff's Office, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office, the S.I.U.-Edwardsville Police Department, the Cahokia Police

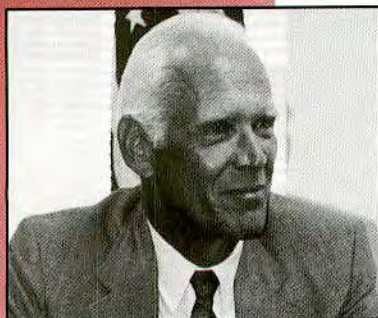


Photo: Diana Mann

*M/Sgt. Dennis Meyer, a 29-year veteran with the Illinois State Police, heads the SSATIN unit.*



Photo: SSATIN

*This GMC truck, recovered by SSATIN, was stolen as part of a plot by its owner to defraud the insurance company.*



Department, the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, the Madison County State's Attorney's Office, and the Illinois State Police. Also unique is the assignment of two prosecutors to the unit from different counties.

A trend in carjackings in the region was identified by the unit in 1996: vehicles were given up voluntarily to co-conspirators in exchange for crack cocaine or as overdue payment for drugs. In 1996, the task force launched 620 investigations, resulting in 136 arrests and 177 convictions. The unit also recovered 319 stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$2.2 million.

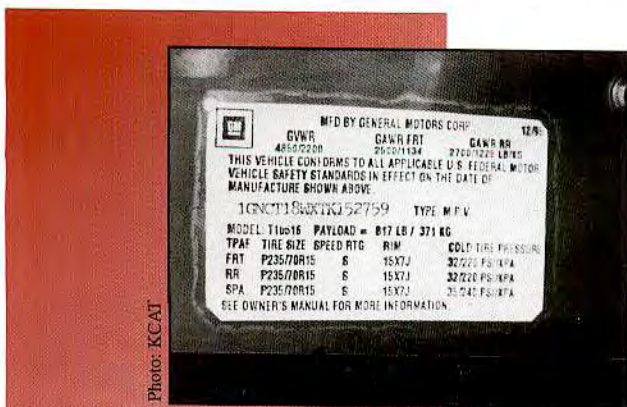
### **Kane County Auto Theft Task Force**

**Grantee: City of Elgin, Department of Police**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$329,190**

This task force, known as KCAT, serves Kane County and includes seven personnel on assignment from the St. Charles Police Department, the Elgin Police Department, the Aurora Police Department, the Kane County Sheriff's Office, the Kane County State's Attorney's Office and the Illinois State Police.

KCAT deals with a heavy dose of juvenile street gangs involved in vehicle theft, and it targets its suspects accordingly. Intelligence gathering, surveillance and monitoring areas prone to thefts are part of the unit's activities. One long-term investigation covered a multi-county region in Illinois and Wisconsin; as of the end of 1996, more than 73 passenger cars had been recovered and as many individuals charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

In 1996, KCAT launched 53 investigations, resulting in 57 arrests and 51 convictions. The task force also recov-



*Sticker from a vehicle recovered by KCAT with a false vehicle identification number.*

ered 97 total vehicles worth an estimated \$953,197.

### **Lake County Auto Theft Task Force**

**Grantee: City of Waukegan, Department of Police**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$284,593**

To the far north, the Lake County Auto Theft Task Force, or LCAT, operates with seven personnel assigned from the Illinois State Police, the North Chicago Police Department, the Lake County Sheriff's Police, the Vernon Hills Police Department, the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan Police Department and the Lake County State's Attorney's Office. The unit serves all of Lake County. The task force coordinates major countywide motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigations and provides other agencies with information, support and training.

Officers also provide public education forums to instruct individuals on how to prevent motor vehicle theft. Information about motor vehicle thefts and suspected offenders is compiled and maintained on a computer network that other local agencies share. The computer system also tracks the status of each motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud case through its resolution. In 1996, LCAT initiated 48 investigations, resulting in 78 arrests and 20 convictions. The task force also recovered 342 vehicles worth an estimated \$2.2 million.

### **Northwest Suburban Auto Theft Task Force**

**Grantee: Village of Schaumburg, Department of Police**  
**Amount awarded for January 1, 1996 - April 30, 1996: \$139,370**

This task force, known as NSAT, was created in 1992 with personnel assigned from the Illinois State Police, the Schaumburg Police Department, the Arlington Heights Police Department, the Des Plaines Police Department, the Elk Grove Village Police Department, the Palatine Police Department and the Rolling Meadows Police Department. Through the end of April 1996, when it ceased operations, NSAT served municipalities in northwest suburban Cook County and targeted career auto thieves. Most notably, in 1995, NSAT helped break up an Eastern European ring of luxury-car thieves in the second-largest bust of its kind in the nation.

In calendar year 1995, NSAT initiated 50 new investigations and made 52 arrests, resulting in 38 convictions. Seventy-six vehicles were recovered at a value estimated at more than \$2.6 million. In the last few months of its





1996 operation, the unit concentrated on wrapping up and transferring cases to other task forces and local jurisdictions.

**Northern Illinois Auto Theft Task Force**  
**Grantee: County of Winnebago, Sheriff's Police Department**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$326,052**

This task force, headed by a lieutenant with the Secretary of State, Department of Police, covers Winnebago and Boone counties. Personnel are assigned from the Rockford Police Department, the Loves Park Police Department, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Police, the Belvidere Police Department, the Boone County Sheriff's Office, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the Winnebago State's Attorney's Office. The task force conducts criminal investigations, gathers intelligence, processes recovered stolen vehicles and apprehends offenders. Information is shared with law enforcement agencies in the two-county area, and pertinent statistical information is provided by the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Clearinghouse. In 1996, the task force launched 474 investigations, resulting in 171 arrests and 78 convictions. The Northern Illinois Auto Theft Task Force also recovered 1,374 stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$5.9 million.



*On November 20, 1996, the Northern Illinois Auto Theft Task Force held a public auction at the Greater Rockford Auto Auction. Stolen vehicles, engines, tools and equipment seized from a chop shop in Rockford and awarded to the task force through court order, netted more than \$20,000 for ongoing unit operations.*



Photos: Diana Mann

**Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force**  
**Grantee: City of Joliet, Department of Police**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$618,164**

This task force includes personnel assigned from the Joliet Police Department, the Illinois State Police, the Will County Sheriff's Office, the Bolingbrook Police Department, the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, the Kankakee County Sheriff's Office, the Kankakee Police Department, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the Romeoville Police Department. It serves the Joliet metropolitan area, including Will, Kankakee and Grundy counties.

Surveillance and sting operations identify, document and apprehend motor vehicle theft offenders. Task force officers focus their investigative efforts on career vehicle thieves, street gang members involved in vehicle theft, insurance fraud, chop shops and illegal activities of salvage yards and vehicle repair shops.

The task force also provides technical assistance to law enforcement agencies to develop their auto theft crime analysis capabilities. In 1996, the unit recovered 325 stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$2.1 million, including 10 pieces of heavy equipment worth an estimated \$228,000. More than 380 criminal investigations, resulting in 141 arrests, were initiated. The two assigned assistant state's attorneys disposed of 284 cases during the year, of which 261 were by conviction, resulting in a 92 percent conviction rate. Twenty-four offenders were arrested for insurance fraud crimes, an incredible 700 percent increase in arrests for this category over 1995. This was due in large part to the advanced training that many of the officers received in interview and interrogation techniques.



Photo: Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force

*Special interrogation skills are required of task force officers to examine those suspected of filing false police reports for insurance scams.*



## *Specialized Prosecution*

### **Motor Vehicle Theft Vertical Prosecutions Unit**

**Grantee: Office of the Cook County State's Attorney**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$508,395**

In addition to supporting prosecutors dedicated to each task force, the Council funds an eight-person prosecution unit comprising attorneys, investigators, and legal and clerical staff to prosecute target vehicle theft cases and related crimes in Cook County. Four senior attorneys

Photo: Diana Mann



*Thomas Hennelly, Assistant Cook County State's Attorney and Director of the Motor Vehicle Theft Vertical Prosecutions Unit, prepares a case for trial.*

prosecute career auto thieves, chop shop operations, insurance fraud, organized street gang operations, carjacking and the illegal activities of rebuilders and scrap dealers. Each attorney is "vertically" assigned to a case from charging through disposition, a method considered superior for prosecuting complex cases. Two investigators augment police work by tracking documents, locating corroborative witnesses and conducting detailed background investigation. The specialized unit conducts consensual wiretaps of suspects, a procedure often underutilized by law enforcement due to lack of manpower and resources.

In 1996, 131 investigations were opened, and 140 vehicle theft-related cases were referred for prosecution. Of the 155 cases disposed of in 1996 (which include some cases initiated in 1994 and 1995), all resulted in guilty pleas or findings of guilty. Ninety-one defendants were sentenced to prison or jail; 55 were given felony probation; and 13 were sentenced to boot camp or received other sentences. Restitution was also ordered in the amount of \$90,598.

## *Special Investigative Activities*

### **Cook County Sheriff's Department Theft Prevention Program**

**Grantee: County of Cook, Sheriff's Police Department**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$67,700**

This specialized vehicle theft unit within the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department is responsible for conducting motor vehicle theft investigations and activities in unincorporated areas of Cook County. It also assists, upon request, those areas of Cook County not served by another Council-funded task force.

This unit has developed an intelligence network, using paid informants as well as tips from citizens and surveillance operations to gather information about vehicle theft activities. Surveillance methods and other covert techniques are used to monitor suspected offenders and their activities. Official advance funds are used to purchase necessary information and evidence to prepare sound cases. Mobile data terminals help access the Illinois State Police's various computer information systems and computerized databases more quickly and securely. Investigators also use available equipment and resources to trace vehicle identification numbers from wrecked vehicles to retagged vehicles.

In 1996, the unit initiated 3,792 criminal investigations, resulting in 53 arrests, 43 prosecutions and 14 convictions. In addition, the unit recovered 446 stolen vehicles worth an estimated \$3,324,270.

### **Secretary of State Special Audit Teams Program**

**Grantee: Illinois Secretary of State, Department of Police**  
**Amount awarded for 1996: \$1,156,881**

This program, unique in the nation, focuses on policing the "marketplace" for stolen vehicles and parts through the use of special audit teams. Located in Cook/Will, Winnebago, Peoria, and Madison/St. Clair counties, the four teams travel throughout Illinois, monitoring salvage yards, rebuilders, repairers and scrap processors for compliance with regulations governing record keeping of vehicle and vehicle part transactions. The teams comprise 27 nonsworn personnel and are supervised by four administrators.

**In-depth, intensive audits are designed to**

- ◆ Reduce the number of stolen vehicles disposed of





through salvage yards, rebuilders, repairers and scrap processors

- ◆ Reduce the number of stolen and contraband essential vehicle parts sold to and through those businesses
- ◆ Eliminate chop shop, retagging and other organized theft operations in the state
- ◆ Track the flow of salvage vehicle titles and force the conversion of those titles to junking certificates when appropriate

In 1996, the teams performed 2,378 audits on 89,200 vehicles and 280 essential vehicle parts. In all, a total of 89,200 vehicles were inspected, resulting in the recovery of 105 stolen and 347 contraband vehicles worth an estimated \$948,520. There were 21,572 essential parts inspected, of which 14 were found to be stolen and 56 were contraband worth an estimated \$40,600.

**This work of the Audit Teams also resulted in**

- ◆ Thirty-three arrests for misdemeanor violations and two for felony violations
- ◆ Issuance of 108 warning tickets
- ◆ Revocation of 15 licenses
- ◆ Issuance of 981 violation letters
- ◆ Fifty-four businesses surrendering their licenses
- ◆ Inspection of 9,047 certificates of titles and 2,213 salvage certificates

**Special Audit Teams Program-  
Insurance Pools and Essential Parts Tracking  
Grantee: Illinois Secretary of State, Department of  
Police**

**Type of program: Statewide tracking of vehicles and  
essential parts used in rebuilding vehicles  
Amount awarded for 1996: \$289,410**

Important issues came to light in the course of the work of the Secretary of State Special Audit Teams, which resulted in this second program. Recovered stolen vehicles and vehicles damaged in accidents are sold by insurance companies at 14 "pools" around the state. These salvaged vehicles are rebuilt or their parts are used to rebuild other vehicles. Utilizing the services of six auditors and two support staff, this statewide program was created to address two problems connected with salvage vehicles and the rebuilding process:

- ◆ Some vehicles sold at the pools are damaged beyond any economical repair and have no usable parts. The titles for these vehicles and their serial numbers can be used by thieves to disguise stolen vehicles.
- ◆ Some damaged vehicles may be rebuilt using parts from stolen vehicles.

The program funds the tracking of essential parts being purchased, sold and used in the rebuilding of vehicles. The major part of the program involves the inspection of the audit pools on the day of and the day after their auctions. Vehicles are documented, and sales information is used to track them. Those vehicles sold that are damaged beyond economical repair are tracked to determine the purchaser and location. Such sales may indicate the purchase was for other than legitimate rebuilding purposes. Auditors also track out-of-state salvage buyers. In 1996, 762 essential parts were tracked by the team from seller/buyer or buyer/seller; 3 parts allegedly sold were still on the vehicles; 30 parts sold had no records at the selling dealer, resulting in 6 complete audits and 13 referrals to law enforcement for further investigation and resolution.



*The SOS Audit Teams carefully inspect the record keeping of businesses licensed in Illinois to sell, buy, repair or destroy vehicles and their parts.*



Photos: Mark Mottuzzi





There were 4,694 vehicles inspected, photographed and documented at the insurance pools. There were 16 unlicensed persons discovered purchasing from them. There were a total of 2,276 computer alerts with 288 investigations being initiated prior to the release of the title to the applicant.

### Infrastructure Supporting Law Enforcement

*Collecting, analyzing and sharing criminal intelligence information*

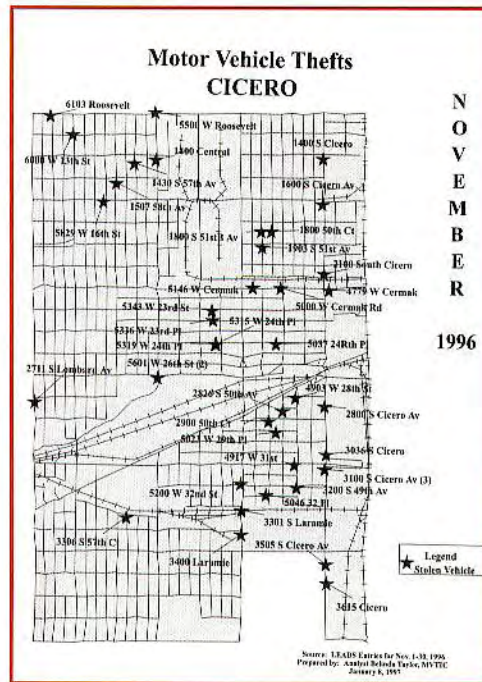
### Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse

**Grantee: Illinois State Police**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$226,720**

The Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse provides focused statewide analytical support for motor vehicle theft task forces and the Illinois law enforcement community. The unit comprises three criminal intelligence analysts and two support personnel and is directed by a sergeant assigned by the Illinois State Police. During 1996, the Clearinghouse received 504 requests for information, crime analysis, mapping, charting, case assistance and strategic products. This is nearly a 100 percent increase over 1995. Those requests consisted of 323 inquiries from auto theft task forces; 117 from the Illinois State Police; 19 from federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs, Drug Enforcement Agency and Internal Revenue Service; 16 from local agencies; and 29 from miscellaneous agencies, including the El Paso Intelligence Center, Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. The requests varied from simple name checks and title histories to detailed motor vehicle theft regional assessments and lengthy analysis of auto theft conspiracy cases.

Ten major motor vehicle theft investigations were given full analytical support in 1996. The unit handled an increasing number of cases involving the interrelationship between motor vehicle theft and drug conspiracies, street gangs and motorcycle gangs. The names of more than 1,500 motor vehicle theft fugitives were provided to task force investigators, and two in-depth fugitive location efforts were completed. In addition, six detailed regional motor vehicle theft assessments were completed and distributed, as were several statewide intelligence alerts concerning motor vehicle theft. Specialized training in the services provided by the Clearinghouse was provided to more than 100 police officers during 1996.



*The Illinois State Police's Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse uses computerized mapping technology to pinpoint the locations of vehicle thefts and recoveries for law enforcement use.*

Public service products were also developed, such as graphic displays of theft statistics for the Illinois State Fair.

### Chicago Police Department Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Program

**Grantee: City of Chicago, Department of Police**

**Type of program: Information and technology support**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$81,410**

This program, launched in 1992, assists the Chicago Police Department with additional personnel and equipment resources to combat motor vehicle theft in Chicago. The department reports significant improvements in information processing and dissemination. The key elements of the program include:

*Alternate Response Program.* Additional equipment was purchased in the first year of this program for the department's communications operations, improving access to its "hot desk" as well as to the state's Law Enforcement Agencies Data System, the National Crime Information Center and other states through the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. The updated equipment improved officers' ability to process initial theft reports.

*Field Inquiry Section.* This section is responsible for verifying all information on stolen and recovered vehicles entered into LEADS and other computer data systems. In 1993, additional remote terminal operators were hired, and additional equipment and supplies were purchased to





support the following CPD sections:

**Auto Pound Section.** This section conducts confidential vehicle identification number investigations. In the first year of this program, additional equipment resources were purchased with grant funds so that greater numbers of impounded and seized vehicles could be thoroughly and safely inspected by department personnel.

**Auto Theft Section.** This unit conducts crime analysis and provides investigative support. In 1996, the Council's Trust Funds supported data entry personnel in the unit. Since 1993, the funding provided for this program has supported the employment of five remote terminal operators.

At the Auto Theft Section in police headquarters, city-wide anti-theft priorities and strategies are enhanced. Personnel are more easily able to identify citywide trends and crime patterns crossing district boundaries. In 1995, the program was rewritten to allow more powerful and faster queries over longer time periods. An upcoming version of the program will provide networking capabilities and centralized data servers containing citywide data from several sources. Other agencies, such as the Illinois State Police and the suburban police agencies, will have a point of access for timely, accurate city crime information.

**Insurance Vehicle Expense Program**

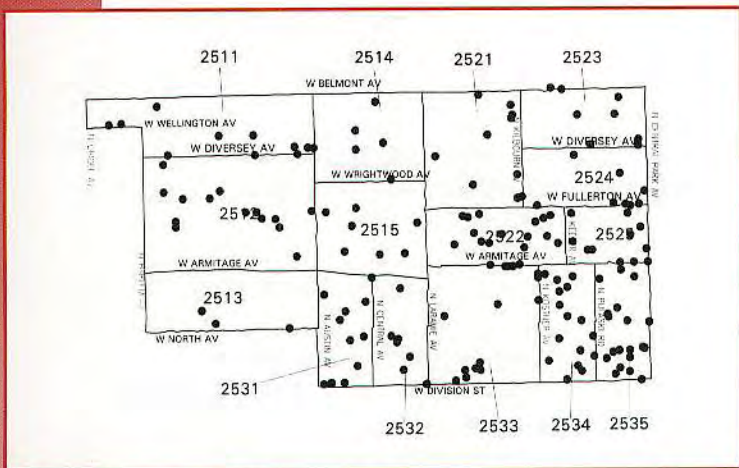
**Grantee: Illinois Anti-Car Theft Committee**

**Type of program: Maintenance of insurance industry-loaned vehicles**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$40,000**

To support Council-funded law enforcement efforts, insurance companies have loaned vehicles for use by Council-funded programs. To date, nearly two dozen insurance companies have loaned 165 vehicles.

The vast majority of these vehicles were recovered stolen vehicles obtained from the insurance salvage pools in the Chicago metropolitan area. About three-quarters of the loaned vehicles require repair. Funds are used to repair these often-damaged vehicles as well as to obtain required Illinois titles and license plates. Thus far, expenditures from the fund total \$180,000. Approximately \$9,400 of this amount has been for the cost of licensing and registering vehicles. There were currently approximately 85 vehicles in use in 1996. The Council spends about \$40,000 per year to prepare vehicles for use. The estimated cost of leasing 85 vehicles for 1996 was \$612,000.



Data reflects the location of recovered stolen vehicles in a one-month period in Chicago's District 25.

**Strategic Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Program**

**Grantee: City of Chicago, Department of Police**

**Type of program: Computerized crime analysis**

**Amount awarded in 1993: \$1,000,000**

To reduce the number of motor vehicle thefts in Chicago and increase the number of apprehended vehicle theft offenders, the Chicago Police Department created this crime analysis system in 1994. The department, through the use of the Information Collection for Automated Mapping system (ICAM), uses computerized crime analysis and mapping technology to identify hot spots of vehicle theft activity and support the development of effective enforcement and prevention strategies. Officers and detectives are trained on how to use the technology. As a result, the personnel in all 25 districts are trained to "profile" their beats, identifying the most frequent crimes and where they occur.



Photo: Mark Mattozza

There were 58,743 reported motor vehicle thefts in Illinois in 1996. That equates to about a \$300 million problem.





## **The Illinois Anti-Car Theft Committee**

The idea for an Illinois Anti-Car Theft (I-ACT) Committee was first conceived in a March, 1989 meeting of representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Chicago Police Department, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the National Insurance Crime Bureau and the insurance industry. In November of that year, the coalition was formed at a meeting of twenty-six initial members. The members also approved bylaws and elected the first Board of Directors.

I-ACT's first accomplishment was drafting the 1990 legislation which created the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act and the Council.

The membership of I-ACT now includes over 300 individuals from insurance companies and trade organizations, law enforcement, businesses and community organizations who share the common goal of reducing vehicle theft and related crimes. The I-ACT organization has nine working subcommittees including: administrative; awards; community projects; financial; governmental relations; membership; publicity; special events; and, law enforcement training.

The I-ACT Committee has received eight grants from the Council since 1992 totaling more than \$1 million for implementation of public awareness efforts and law enforcement support programs. For further information concerning the I-ACT Committee, contact its chairperson, Lt. Michael Stavola at (847) 294-4600.

The Council, through the Illinois Anti-Car Theft Committee, has designated trust funds for repairing or purchasing parts for these vehicles to make them safe for grantee's operation. Most loaned vehicles are used by the task forces for surveillance and undercover activities. Funds that would have been used to purchase or lease new vehicles at many times the cost are being used instead to fund other grant expenses.

### **Motor Vehicle Theft Investigation Training Program**

**Grantee: Illinois State Police, Training Academy**  
**Type of program: Statewide officer motor vehicle investigation training**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$98,683 (September 1, 1996 - August 31, 1997)**

Officer training is crucial to the success of vehicle theft detection and prosecution. The Illinois State Police began the development of four one-week auto theft investigators courses to be held in Chicago, Springfield and East St. Louis. The first was held in January 1997. Eight one-day courses on motor vehicle theft will be given to at least 176 patrol officers through traditional classroom instruction and innovative learning technology. In keeping with Council strategy, prosecutor training in vehicle theft issues will be developed.

Advisories to all law enforcement agencies will be aimed at increasing awareness of the problem and heightening receptivity of routine patrol officers to participate. Direct mail and other advertising activities will be utilized to increase awareness of the training. Pre- and post-curriculum testing will be conducted to assess training efficacy.

### **Ten Most Frequently Stolen Vehicles in Illinois in 1996\***

- 1 Chevrolet Truck
- 2 Ford Truck
- 3 Oldsmobile Cutlass
- 4 Chevrolet Caprice
- 5 GMC Truck
- 6 Chevrolet Cavalier
- 7 Dodge Truck
- 8 Buick LeSabre
- 9 Buick Regal
- 10 Oldsmobile Delta 88

*\* Trucks also include sport utility vehicles or vans.*

*Source: Law Enforcement Agencies Data System, Illinois State Police*



## Innovative Programs

### Public Awareness and Education

#### Vehicle Identification Number Etching Program

**Grantee: Illinois Anti-Car Theft Committee**

**Type of program: Vehicle Identification Number window etching**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$5,660**

The VIN Etching Program was conducted in 1996 as a pilot program designed to introduce reasonably priced vehicle glass etching to communities in Illinois. A vehicle identification number is permanently etched into a vehicle's major window area. On September 14, 1996, members of SSATIN and the Council staff participated in a "Free VIN Etching" event held at the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield. Approximately 60 cars' windows were etched. The program's goals include reducing the number of motor vehicles stolen in Illinois by educating the public regarding vehicle theft prevention efforts as well as deterring thieves from targeting vehicles participating in the program. The program also is expected to help build and maintain a strong infrastructure to support law enforcement effort through public education and awareness activities.

VIN etching will be piloted in six communities in south suburban Cook County during the course of the program. These communities targeted are Calumet City, Chicago Heights, Cicero, Dolton, Harvey and Lansing. The program will then be offered to local law enforcement agencies that participate in one of the Council-funded task forces.

#### Beat Auto Theft Program

**Grantees: Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and the Illinois Secretary of State, Department of Police**

**Type of program: Vehicle decal registration**

**Amount awarded in 1994: \$197,973**

The Beat Auto Theft (BAT) program is a joint effort of the Secretary of State and the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council. On a voluntary basis, regis-



tered vehicle owners sign an informed consent agreement in the presence of an authorized police officer in a participating jurisdiction. The agreement indicates that the owner's registered vehicle is not normally operated between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. The owner also receives a BAT decal to display on the vehicle.

If a law enforcement officer notices that a vehicle displaying the BAT decal is being operated between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., the officer may stop the driver and request to see a valid driver's license and motor vehicle registration card. If the driver cannot produce those items, the officer can investigate further to determine whether the person is, in fact, the registered owner or has the owner's authorization to operate the vehicle. In 1996, 1,385 vehicles were registered for the BAT program.



*The award-winning public service announcement, "She Loves Me," was licensed for use by Park Smart in Illinois.*

#### Park Smart Program

**Grantee: Illinois Anti-Car Theft Committee**

**Type of program: Public education**

**Amount awarded for 1996 (May-December): \$147,200**

Park Smart began its fourth grant period in May 1996, continuing the momentum built in previous grant periods through continued public appearances and speaking engagements at local community, business and association meetings. In the first 4 1/2 months, the program distributed 163,000 Park Smart brochures in English and Spanish with partners in law enforcement agencies, allied private companies and major radio and television net-





**“The most significant increase was in the number of drivers who now state they always lock the doors of vehicles when parking, up six points from 79% in 1992 to 85% in 1996.”**

hood beat meetings and others. Two speaker's bureau appearances were made in Peoria and Rockford, and three Park Smart “patrols” were conducted to raise awareness of the auto theft problem. Posters, tabletop displays, videos, two newsletters and keychains were also distributed. Park Smart bus placards were placed on CTA and Pace vehicles, reaching 30 million Chicagoans each month.

In September 1996, the Park Smart program released the results of a public survey conducted in Chicago and five area counties regarding attitudes toward vehicle theft from 1992 to 1996. In Chicago, 19 percent of those surveyed recalled the Park Smart slogan; 12 percent recalled it in the five-county area. The most significant increase was in the number of drivers who now say they always lock the doors of vehicles when parking, up from 79 percent in 1992 to 85 percent in 1996. There was little or no change in such driver behaviors as closing windows tightly, hiding valuables and parking with wheels to the curb. Although some driver behaviors have been affected by public education, work needs to continue to increase awareness.

### **Vehicle For Change**

**Grantee: Office of the Cook County State's Attorney and Metropolitan Family Services**

**Type of program: Alternative sanctions program for youth**

**Amount awarded for 1996: \$328,205**

A Council-funded 1995 research study concluded that motor vehicle thieves most frequently begin their careers as juveniles. Given this disturbing information and the high incidence of youthful street gang involvement in vehicle theft, the Council continued its support in 1996

works. An award-winning public service announcement developed by the Texas Auto Theft Prevention Program was licensed to Park Smart for a fraction of the original cost of production and was broadcast in Rockford and Chicago on radio and television.

Park Smart media kits were distributed in the five target areas of greatest need. Thirteen community and corporate appearances were made at police chief associations, police neighbor-

hood beat meetings and others. Two speaker's bureau appearances were made in Peoria and Rockford, and three Park Smart “patrols” were conducted to raise awareness of the auto theft problem. Posters, tabletop displays, videos, two newsletters and keychains were also distributed. Park Smart bus placards were placed on CTA and Pace vehicles, reaching 30 million Chicagoans each month.

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Working together, the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney and Metropolitan Family Services provide the necessary screening, selection and services to the teenagers. They receive intensive individual and family counseling, tutoring, job training, camp outings, gang intervention and other services tailored to their needs.

In 1996, the Vehicle for Change program staff was downsized from nine to five, and the program was restructured. More focus was placed on one-on-one counseling to lower the rate of recidivism. Of the 43 juveniles who were enrolled in 1995 and continued on in 1996, 37 were “graduated” in 1996. Of the 50 participants enrolled in 1996, 7 had successfully completed the program by the end of the year, and 23 continued on in 1997.

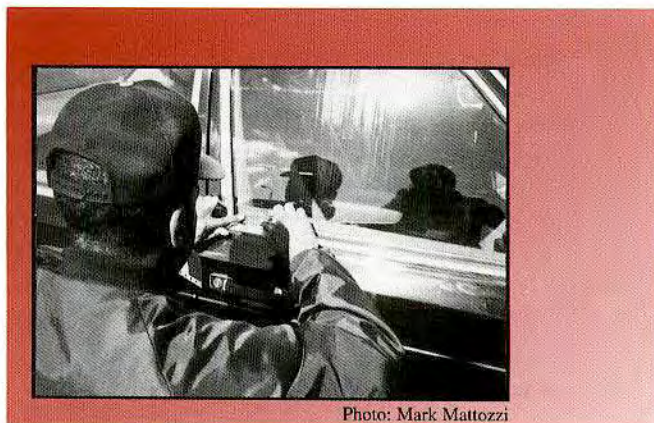


Photo: Mark Mattozzi

*SSATIN officers VIN etched 60 vehicles free of charge at the Illinois State Police Academy.*



## Program Highlights

### *Task Force busts bank robber pal*

*Lake County*—In January 1996, the search for a Florida bank robbery suspect was led in Illinois by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Vernon Hills Police and other law enforcement agencies. Information developed by the Lake County Auto Theft Task Force revealed one of the suspect's Lake County roommates was driving a stolen 1993 Mitsubishi Eclipse taken from a Northbrook, Illinois, dealer's lot and retagged with a 1990 Mitsubishi VIN. Both men were apprehended and arrested, thanks to the help of LCAT.

### *Two career thieves get 110 years*

*Chicago*—A career auto thief stole late model autos from parking garages in Chicago's Loop and was prosecuted by John Feely, Assistant State's Attorney assigned to the Motor Vehicle Theft Vertical Prosecutions Unit. As a result of the combined efforts of the Chicago Police Auto Theft Unit and the State's Attorney's Office, Jenkins was convicted and sentenced to 40 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

### *Murder with a Stolen Car*

*Chicago*—The Cook County State's Attorney Office's Vertical Prosecution Unit also handled the case of another career auto thief, who stole a 1984 Oldsmobile. Ignoring stop signs and stoplights in a residential area, he struck a car driven by a 59-year-old man. The man was killed instantly, and his 21-year-old daughter was injured. Unit supervisor Thomas Hennelly successfully prosecuted the defendant, who was sentenced to 70 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. This marked the first time under Illinois law that a defendant was charged and convicted under the doctrine of felony murder with the charge of possession of a stolen motor vehicle as the predicate felony.

### *SSATIN recovers more than just cars*

*Cook County*—SSATIN agents developed information that the owner of a construction company was in possession of stolen vehicles that he kept in a lot in Chicago. The agents, accompanied by Chicago Police Department Auto Theft Unit detectives, recovered a Mack truck tractor, a skid loader, a Case 4 X 4, an air compressor and a skid loader concrete breaker. Together this stolen equipment was valued at \$67,000. The owner of the construction company received a three-year sentence after pleading guilty.

In the bust of a chop shop and theft ring by SSATIN, agents recovered a wide variety of items stolen from vehicles, including 2 transmissions; 44 radio cassette

players; equalizers and amplifiers; and 4 cellular phones. The owner of the garage was found guilty at trial and received seven years in prison.

### *BATTLing vehicle theft*

*Du Page County*—The Du Page BATTLE vehicle theft task force identified two subjects suspected of stealing a large number of construction vehicles and motorcycles throughout the Chicago collar counties. As is typical of all the motor vehicle theft task forces, BATTLE called upon the computer mapping resources of the Motor Vehicle Theft Intelligence Clearinghouse. With the help of Clearinghouse staff, BATTLE mapped the thefts in northern Illinois by location, day and time. A crime pattern analysis was established, and BATTLE was able to link several motorcycle and construction equipment thefts directly to the subjects. Using that evidence, the unit apprehended the suspects during a burglary of a construction company. In early 1997, the two were convicted and each sentenced to seven years' hospitality with the Illinois Department of Corrections.



*Various ordinary tools modified by auto thieves are used to steal vehicles.*



*Photo: Diana Mann*





## 1996 Trust Fund Contributors

Addison Farmers Insurance Company  
Aetna Insurance Company of Illinois  
Affirmative Insurance Company  
Agricultural Insurance Company  
All America Insurance Company  
All Nation Insurance Company  
Allied Mutual Insurance Company  
Allied Property & Casualty Insurance Company  
Allstate Indemnity Company  
Allstate Insurance Company  
Alpha Property & Casualty Insurance Company  
AMCO Insurance Company  
American & Foreign Insurance Company  
American Ambassador Casualty Company  
American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida  
American Casualty Company of Reading  
American Country Insurance Company  
American Economy Insurance Company  
American Family Mutual Insurance Company  
American Fire & Casualty Company  
American Fire & Indemnity Company  
American Global Insurance Company  
American Heartland Insurance Company  
American Indemnity Company  
American Insurance Company  
American International Insurance Company  
American Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company  
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American Motorists Insurance Company  
American National Fire Insurance Company  
American National General Insurance Company  
American National Property & Casualty Company  
American Premier Insurance Company  
American Protection Insurance Company  
American Security Insurance Company  
American Service Insurance Company, Inc.  
American Spirit Insurance Company  
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin  
American States Insurance Company  
American States Preferred Insurance Company  
Amerisure Insurance Company  
AMEX Assurance Company  
AMICA Mutual Insurance Company  
Associated Indemnity Corporation  
Assurance Company of America  
Atlanta Casualty Company  
Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company  
Auto-Owners Insurance Company  
Automobile Club Interinsurance Exchange  
Bankers & Shippers Insurance Company  
Bituminous Casualty Corporation  
Bituminous Fire & Marine Insurance Company  
Boston Old Colony Insurance Company  
Buckeye Union Insurance Company  
Centennial Insurance Company  
Central Mutual Insurance Company  
Century-National Insurance Company  
Charter Oak Fire Insurance Company  
Chicago Insurance Company  
Chicago Motor Club Insurance Company  
Chicago Mutual Liability Company  
Cincinnati Casualty Company  
Cincinnati Indemnity Company  
Cincinnati Insurance Company  
Citizens Insurance Company of America  
City Insurance Company  
Clarendon National Insurance Company  
Colonial Insurance Company of California  
Colonial Penn Franklin Insurance Company  
Colonial Penn Insurance Company  
Columbia Mutual Insurance Company  
Consolidated Insurance Company  
Constitutional Casualty Company  
Continental Casualty Company  
Continental Insurance Company  
Continental Western Insurance Company  
Coronet Insurance Company  
Country Casualty Insurance Company  
Country Mutual Insurance Company  
Crown Casualty Company  
CUMIS Insurance Society, Incorporated  
Dairyland Insurance Company  
Depositors Insurance Company  
Economy Fire & Casualty Company  
Economy Preferred Insurance Company  
Economy Premier Assurance Company  
Electric Insurance Company  
EMCASCO Insurance Company  
Empire Fire & Marine Insurance Company  
Employers Fire Insurance Company  
Employers Mutual Casualty Company  
Farmers Automobile Insurance Association  
Farmland Mutual Insurance Company  
Federal Insurance Company  
Federated Mutual Insurance Company  
Fidelity & Casualty Company of New York  
Fidelity & Guaranty Insurance Company  
Fidelity & Guaranty Insurance Underwriters, Inc.  
Firemans Insurance Company of Newark, New Jersey  
First American Insurance Company  
First National Insurance Company of America  
Foremost Insurance Company  
Foremost Signature Insurance Company  
Gallant Insurance Company



GEICO Casualty Company  
GEICO General Insurance Company  
GEICO Indemnity Company  
General Accident Insurance Company of America  
General Casualty Company of Illinois  
General Casualty Company of Wisconsin  
General Insurance Company of America  
Glens Falls Insurance Company  
Globe American Casualty Company  
Goodville Mutual Casualty Company  
Government Employees Insurance Company  
Grain Dealers Mutual Insurance Company  
Granite State Insurance Company  
Great American Insurance Company  
Great Northern Insurance Company  
Greenwich Insurance Company  
Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company  
Grinnell Select Insurance Company  
Guaranty National Insurance Company  
Hanover Insurance Company  
Hartford Casualty Insurance Company  
Hartford Fire Insurance Company  
Hartford Insurance Company of Illinois  
Hartford Insurance Company of the Midwest  
Hartford Underwriters Insurance Company  
Hawkeye-Security Insurance Company  
Home Indemnity Company  
Horace Mann Insurance Company  
Illinois EMCASCO Insurance Company  
Illinois Farmers Insurance Company  
Illinois Founders Insurance Company  
IMT Insurance Company Mutual  
Indiana Insurance Company  
Indiana Lumbermens Mutual Insurance Company  
Infinity Insurance Company  
Insurance Company of Decatur (The)  
INSURA Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Inc.  
Insurance Company of Illinois  
Insurance Company of North America  
Interstate Bankers Mutual Casualty Company  
Iowa Mutual Insurance Company  
ITT Lyndon Property Insurance Company  
John Deere Insurance Company  
Kansas City Fire & Marine Insurance Company  
Liberty Insurance Company  
Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company  
Liberty Mutual Insurance Company  
Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company  
Lutheran Mutual Fire Insurance Company  
Madison Mutual Insurance Company  
Markel Insurance Company  
Maryland Casualty Company

Massachusetts Bay Insurance Company  
Mendakota Insurance Company  
Merastar Insurance Company  
Mercury Indemnity Company of Illinois  
Mercury Insurance Company of Illinois  
Meridian Mutual Insurance Company  
Merit Casualty Company  
Metropolitan Casualty Insurance Company  
Metropolitan General Insurance Company  
Metropolitan Group Property & Casualty Insurance Co.  
Metropolitan Property & Casualty Insurance Company  
MIC General Insurance Corporation  
Michigan Mutual Insurance Company  
Mid American Insurance Company  
Mid-Century Insurance Company  
Midland Risk Insurance Company  
Midway Insurance Company of Illinois  
Midwest Mutual Insurance Company  
Millers Classified Insurance Company  
Millers Mutual Insurance Association  
Milwaukee Guardian Insurance, Inc.  
Milwaukee Mutual Insurance Company  
Milwaukee Safeguard Insurance Company  
Minnesota Fire & Casualty Company  
National Alliance Insurance Company  
National Assurance Indemnity Company  
National Ben Franklin Insurance Company of IL  
National Farmers Union Property & Casualty Company  
National Farmers Union Standard Insurance Company  
National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford  
National General Insurance Company  
Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company  
Nationwide General Insurance Company  
Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Company  
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company  
Niagara Fire Insurance Company  
Northern Assurance Company of America  
Northland Insurance Company  
Northwestern National Casualty Company  
Ohio Casualty Insurance Company  
Ohio Farmers Insurance Company,  
c/o Westfield Companies  
Ohio Security Insurance Company  
Old Republic Minnehoma Insurance Company  
Omaha Property & Casualty Insurance Company  
Pacific Employers Insurance Company  
Pacific Indemnity Company  
Pekin Insurance Company  
Pennsylvania General Insurance Company  
Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company  
Phoenix Insurance Company  
Potomac Insurance Company of Illinois





Prairie State Farmers Insurance Company  
Preferred Abstainers Insurance Company  
Preferred America Insurance Company  
Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company  
Progressive Casualty Insurance Company  
Progressive Premier Insurance Company of Illinois  
Progressive Universal Insurance Company of Illinois  
Providence Washington Insurance Company  
Providian Property and Casualty Insurance Company  
Prudential General Insurance Company  
Prudential Property & Casualty Insurance Company  
Regal Insurance Company  
Regent Insurance Company  
Republic Insurance Company  
Rockford Mutual Insurance Company  
Royal Indemnity Company  
Royal Insurance Company of America  
Safeco Insurance Company of America  
Safeco Insurance Company of Illinois  
Safeco National Insurance Company  
Safeguard Insurance Company  
Safeway Insurance Company  
Security National Insurance Company  
Sentry Insurance, A Mutual Company  
Shelby Insurance Company  
Shelter General Insurance Company  
Shelter Mutual Insurance Company  
Skandia U.S. Insurance Company  
Southern Heritage Insurance Company  
Springfield Fire & Casualty Company  
St. Paul Guardian Insurance Company  
St. Paul Insurance Company of Illinois  
St. Paul Mercury Insurance Company  
Standard Guaranty Insurance Company  
Standard Mutual Insurance Company  
State Auto Property & Casualty I C  
State Automobile Mutual Insurance Company  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
Superior Insurance Company  
Teachers Insurance Company  
TIG Countrywide Insurance Company  
TIG Indemnity Company  
TIG Insurance Company  
TIG Insurance Company of Michigan  
TIG Insurance Corporation of America  
TIG Premier Insurance Company  
Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Company, Ltd. - U.S.  
Branch  
Transportation Insurance Company  
Travelers Indemnity Company  
Travelers Indemnity Company of America  
Travelers Indemnity Company of Illinois  
Trinity Universal Insurance Company  
Twin City Fire Insurance Company  
U.S.A.A. Casualty Insurance Company  
Unigard Insurance Company  
Unigard Security Insurance Company  
Union Automobile Insurance Company  
United Equitable Insurance Company  
United Fire & Casualty Company  
United Security Insurance Company  
United Services Automobile Association  
United States Fidelity & Guaranty Company  
Universal Casualty Company  
Universal Underwriters Insurance Company  
Valiant Insurance Company  
Valley Forge Insurance Company  
Valor Insurance Company  
Victoria Fire & Casualty Company  
Vigilant Insurance Company  
Viking Insurance Company of Wisconsin  
Virginia Surety Company, Inc.  
West American Insurance Company  
West Bend Mutual Insurance Company  
Western States Insurance Company  
Westfield Insurance Company  
c/o Westfield Companies  
Westfield National Insurance Company  
c/o Westfield Companies  
Windsor Insurance Company  
Yasuda Fire & Marine Insurance Company of America  
York Insurance Company  
Yosemite Insurance Company



# THE ILLINOIS MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION ACT

(20 Illinois Compiled Statutes 4005/1)

4005/1 Title. This Act shall be known as the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act.

4005/2 Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to prevent, combat and reduce motor vehicle theft in Illinois; to improve and support motor vehicle theft law enforcement, prosecution and administration of motor vehicle theft laws by establishing statewide planning capabilities for and coordination of financial resources.

4005/3 Definitions. As used in this Act:

(a) "Authority" means the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

(b) "Council" means the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, established within the Authority by this Act.

(c) "Trust Fund" means the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Trust Fund.

4005/4 Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council - Members - Chairman - Terms - Meetings. There is hereby created within the Authority an Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, which shall exercise its powers, duties and responsibilities independently of the Authority. There shall be 11 members of the Council consisting of the Secretary of State or his designee, the Director of the Department of State Police, the State's Attorney of Cook County, the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, and the following 7 additional members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor: a state's attorney of a county other than Cook, a chief executive law enforcement official from a jurisdiction other than the City of Chicago, 5 representatives of insurers authorized to write motor vehicle insurance in this State, all of whom shall be domiciled in this State.

The Governor from time to time shall designate the Chairman of the Council from the membership. All members of the Council appointed by the Governor shall serve at the discretion of the Governor for a term not to exceed 4 years. The initial appointed members of the Council shall serve from January 1, 1991 until the third Monday in January, 1995 or until their successors are appointed. The Council shall meet at least quarterly.

4005/5 Compensation of Members. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation. All members

shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their duties.

4005/6 Personnel. The Executive Director of the Authority shall employ, in accordance with the provisions of the Illinois Personnel Code, such administrative, professional, clerical, and other personnel as may be required and may organize such staff as may be appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

4005/7 Powers and Duties of Council. The Council shall have the following powers, duties and responsibilities:

(a) To apply for, solicit, receive, establish priorities for, allocate, disburse, contract for, and spend funds that are made available to the Council from any source to effectuate the purposes of the Act;

(b) To make grants and to provide financial support for federal and state agencies, units of local government, corporations, and neighborhood, community and business organizations to effectuate the purposes of this Act;

(c) To assess the scope of the problem of motor vehicle theft, including particular areas of the state where the problem is greatest and to conduct impact analyses of state and local criminal justice policies, programs, plans and methods for combatting the problem;

(d) To develop and sponsor the implementation of statewide plans and strategies to combat motor vehicle theft and to improve the administration of the motor vehicle theft laws and provide an effective forum for identification of critical problems associated with motor vehicle theft;

(e) To coordinate the development, adoption, and implementation of plans and strategies relating to interagency or intergovernmental cooperation with respect to motor vehicle theft law enforcement;

(f) To promulgate rules and regulations necessary to ensure that appropriate agencies, units of government, private organizations and combinations thereof are included in the development and implementation of strategies or plans adopted pursuant to the Act, and to promulgate rules or regulations as may otherwise be necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Act;

(g) To report annually, on or before April 1, 1992 to the Governor, General Assembly, and, upon request, to mem-





bers of the general public on the Council's activities in the preceding year; and

(h)To exercise any other powers that are reasonable, necessary, or convenient to fulfill its responsibilities, to carry out and to effectuate the objectives and purposes of the Council and the provisions of this Act, and to comply with the requirements of applicable federal or State laws or regulations; provided, however, that such powers shall not include the power to subpoena or arrest.

#### 4005/8 Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Trust Fund.

(a)A special fund is created in the State Treasury known as the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Trust Fund, which shall be administered by the Executive Director of the Authority at the direction of the Council. All interest earned from the investment or deposit of monies accumulated in the Trust Fund shall, pursuant to Section 4.1 of the State Finance Act, be deposited in the Trust Fund.

(b)Money deposited in the Trust Fund shall not be considered general revenue of the State of Illinois.

(c)Money deposited in the Trust Fund shall be used only to enhance efforts to effectuate the purposes of this Act as determined by the Council and shall not be appropriated, loaned or in any manner transferred to the General Revenue of the State of Illinois.

(d)Prior to April 1, 1991, and prior to April 1 of each year thereafter, each insurer engaged in writing private passenger motor vehicle insurance coverages which are included in Class 2 and Class 3 of Section of the Illinois Insurance Code, as a condition of its authority to transact business in this State, may collect and shall pay into the Trust Fund an amount equal to \$1.00, or a lesser amount determined by the Council, multiplied by the insurer's total earned car years of private passenger motor vehicle insurance policies providing physical damage coverage written in this State during the preceding calendar year.

(e)Money in the Trust Fund shall be expended as follows:

(1)To pay the Authority's costs to administer the Council and the Trust Fund, but for this purpose in an amount not to exceed ten percent in any one fiscal year of the amount collected pursuant to paragraph (d) of this Section in that same fiscal year.

(2)To achieve the purposes and objectives of this Act, which may include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A)To provide financial support to law enforcement and correctional agencies, prosecutors, and the judiciary for programs designed to reduce motor vehicle theft and to improve the administration of motor vehicle theft laws.

(B)To provide financial support for federal and state agencies, units of local government, corporations and neighborhood, community or business organizations for programs designed to reduce motor vehicle theft and to improve the administration of motor vehicle theft laws.

(C)To provide financial support to conduct programs designed to inform owners of motor vehicles about the financial and social costs of motor vehicle theft and to suggest to those owners methods for preventing motor vehicle theft.

(D)To provide financial support for plans, programs, and projects designed to achieve the purposes of this Act.

(f)Insurers contributing to the Trust Fund shall have a property interest in the unexpended money in the Trust Fund, which property interest shall not be retroactively changed or extinguished by the General Assembly.

(g)In the event the Trust Fund were to be discontinued or the Council were to be dissolved by act of the General Assembly or by operation of law, then, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5 of the State Finance Act, any balance remaining therein shall be returned to the insurers writing private passenger motor vehicle insurance in proportion to their financial contributions to the Trust Fund and any assets of the Council shall be liquidated and returned in the same manner after deduction of administrative costs.

The Act is repealed effective January 1, 2000.

(Source: Public Act 86-1406, eff. January 1, 1991; as amended by Public Act 88-452, eff. January 1, 1994 and Public Act 89-277, eff. August 10, 1995.)



