

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council is made up of 11 members, including public officials, law enforcement personnel, and insurance industry representatives.

Four members serve by virtue of their offices, including:

- Illinois State Police director;
- Illinois secretary of state;
- Cook County state's attorney; and
- Chicago police superintendent.

The governor appoints the seven remaining members. They include:

- A state's attorney from a county other than Cook;
- A chief law enforcement executive from a jurisdiction other than Chicago; and
- Five representatives of authorized motor vehicle insurers in Illinois.

For annual vehicle theft rates, the latest program results, and any other information about the Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, contact the program director at (312) 793-8550.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois
February 2001
Printing order #01-200. 5,000 copies.

Administered by the
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
www.icjia.state.il.us

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ILLINOIS MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

***A private and public sector
partnership effectively
combating auto theft
and related crimes***



ILLINOIS MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION COUNCIL

The Illinois Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (MVTPC) was established in 1991 as a partnership of the insurance industry and the state to help reduce a growing number of vehicle thefts. And it has been successful. The number of vehicle thefts in Illinois has dropped significantly since the MVTPC was created.

COMBATING AUTO THEFT

The Council is authorized to provide grants to fund prevention and enforcement efforts by federal and state agencies, local units of government, and corporations. Neighborhood, community, and business organizations that establish viable and cooperative motor vehicle theft programs also are eligible for grants.

Grant dollars are collected from the insurance industry and are placed in a special trust fund in the state treasury. Every insurance company licensed to do business in Illinois must pay \$1 into the trust fund for each private passenger motor vehicle they insured for comprehensive coverage in the previous year.

About \$5.6 million is paid into the trust annually. Funds are primarily designated for law enforcement, public education, and innovative programs designed to put the brakes on vehicle theft, insurance fraud, and related crimes.

ANTI-THEFT PARTNERSHIP

Thousands of vehicles have been recovered since 1991. The success of motor vehicle theft prevention initiatives in Illinois is a result of a variety of cooperative efforts from both state and local agencies. MVTPC grants are supplemented by matching funds, equipment, and other contributions from nearly every agency participating in the fight against auto theft. Many prevention programs would not be possible without the commitment of law enforcement and insurance industry representatives throughout the state.

PREVENTION

The Council allocates funds toward a variety of programs designed to reduce vehicle theft. Most grants support special auto theft task forces and investigative teams. Funds also have been awarded to public education, specialized prosecution, and juvenile diversion initiatives, and officer training and data analysis programs.

The MVTPC starts by adopting a statewide strategy based on information describing the nature and extent of the motor vehicle theft problem. This information is collected at public hearings, solicited through written input, and captured in data analyses. The Council uses the information to determine

which types of programs may be eligible to receive support and targets areas in the state where the auto theft problem is most severe.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Multijurisdictional task forces, investigative activities, and specialized prosecution efforts are helping to eliminate the "black market" for stolen vehicles and contraband parts.

Through partnerships of law enforcement agencies across Illinois, auto theft task forces have been formed to help recover stolen vehicles and decrease the number of stolen vehicles that cross the state border. County agencies also have joined forces to form investigative teams that conduct audits designed to reduce the number of stolen vehicles disposed of through salvage yards, rebuilders, repairers, and scrap processors. These audits help decrease the number of stolen and contraband essential vehicle parts sold to and through these businesses while eliminating chop shops and other organized theft operations in Illinois.

Grant funding through the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act supports law enforcement infrastructure to aid in the collection, analysis, and sharing of criminal intelligence information regarding motor vehicle theft. Training for patrol officers and investigators in the areas of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud also is provided.