



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Roy L. Meisner, Chief of Police



***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

AUTO BURGLARIES ON THE RISE

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Berkeley, California (Tuesday, January 20, 2005) – Since the beginning of December of 2004, the Berkeley Police Department has seen an excessive increase in auto burglaries and thefts. Although all cars are at risk, the most popular make and model seem to be Honda Accords manufactured between 1989-1994. Detective Mike Haley of BPD's Auto Theft Detail, reports that investigative leads have revealed the use of "shaved keys" as a means to enter and/or steal vehicles. According to Detective Haley, "These keys make theft as easy as the owner using his/her own key." Detective Haley also reports that a majority of the auto thefts and burglaries reported are primarily in the North/East and West end areas of Berkeley.

The Berkeley Police Department has several recommendations in an effort to decrease your vulnerability to these types of crimes. The purchase of a theft deterrent device is often helpful. Theft deterrent devices include, but are not limited to, "the club" and "ignition kill switches". Always make sure that all car doors are locked and the windows rolled up. Do not leave any personal items (such as money, clothing, CD's, etc.) in plain view. As an added precaution, lock your glove box when you leave your vehicle.

To report information regarding auto thefts and burglaries in the City of Berkeley, please contact Detective Mike Haley at (510) 981-5737.