



BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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***** NEWS RELEASE *****

Community Members “Clubbed” during National Night Out!

Berkeley, California (Tuesday, August 01, 2006) – Berkeley Police Chief Doug Hambleton will be among officers distributing steering wheel lock devices to Neighborhood Watch Groups tonight during Berkeley’s celebration of National Night Out.

The distribution of steering wheel locking devices is part of the Chief’s efforts to reduce property crime in Berkeley by ten percent (10%) in 2006. Chief Hambleton used grant funds to purchase 1000 steering wheel locks. Tonight, Berkeley officers will distribute 250 locks among the 42 neighborhood groups who registered with the police department for National Night Out.

Last year in the City of Berkeley, there were 1246 autos reported stolen. Of all the autos taken, none of them had a steering wheel lock device installed. Chief Hambleton believes that the use of a locking device may help reduce the number of autos stolen in Berkeley.

BPD plans to distribute 500 of the steering wheel locks via the BPD website for car owners who live in the City of Berkeley. Members of the community can check the BPD website at www.cityofberkeley.info/police/ for dates and instructions to enter the lottery.

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