



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## Auto Burglary is a Crime of Opportunity

*Up to \$1,000 award leading to an arrest and conviction in recent string of burglaries*

**JOHNSTON, Iowa** – The City of Johnston has experienced an increase in the number of reported complaints regarding car burglaries from unoccupied and unlocked motor vehicles. We, our Community, and the Johnston Police Department must work together as a team to curtail this activity and apprehend the responsible offenders.

All the reports the Johnston Police Department has received have commonalities: unlocked vehicles and/or important and valuable belongings being left inside the victims' vehicles. These crimes are crimes of opportunity, so when you get out of your vehicle please remember to take your belongings with you and lock your doors.

The Police Department urges residents to be alert for any suspicious behavior or persons who may be loitering, lifting door handles, or looking into vehicle windows. If you see someone acting in this manner, please contact the Johnston Police Department at 515-278-2345, immediately. Calling the police can make a difference.

We encourage residents to follow these simple tips to minimize their risk of becoming a victim of this type of crime.

- **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE DOORS!** This is the simplest and most effective way to enhance the prevention process.
- **Keep your vehicle free from debris and limit what is kept inside.** Do not leave purses, wallets, G.P.S., MP3 players, iPods, computers, tablets, sunglasses, money, or ANYTHING of value inside your vehicle. If there is nothing of value in plain view you greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim.
- **Park your vehicle in a well-lit area.** Be aware of your surroundings and take note of people loitering in the area.
- **Keep overhead garage doors closed** anytime you are going to be out of immediate sight of your garage – even if it is just for a few minutes.
- **Only take necessary items of financial value with you** when you go out. Leave any valuables, important documents and unnecessary cash, credit cards and electronics secured at home instead of routinely carrying them around needlessly in your vehicle, wallet or purse.

The Johnston Police Department asks anyone with information about the recent string of burglaries to contact the Johnston Police Department at 515-278-2345. Tips can also be sent to [Crime Stoppers of Central Iowa](#) or by calling 515-223-1400 to leave an anonymous tip. **An award of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information that leads to an arrest and conviction.**

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