



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8th St. Austin, Texas 78701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Public Information Office, 974-5017

APD OFFERS AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Event set for Thursday, Feb. 7

The Austin Police Department will offer residents the opportunity to participate in programs designed to promote auto theft awareness and protect personal property.

The event will take place on Thursday, February 7, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 6920 Manchaca Rd.

Southwest Area Command District Representatives will be available to answer questions or respond to concerns residents may have regarding their community.

Information will be available on the Protect Our Property and Car Parts (POP) program. The program is a permanent identification labeling system sponsored by the Texas Action Council on Theft. Items that can be labeled include computers, cameras, tools and televisions.

Residents will be offered free vehicle registration along with the opportunity to register with the H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) program.

All vehicles have federally assigned vehicle identification number (VIN). The etching of a VIN on the windows of a vehicle deters thieves because it is more difficult to dispose of property that is identifiable. It is time-consuming and expensive for thieves to replace windows that have been marked with the VIN.

H.E.A.T. is a statewide vehicle registration program that helps law enforcement agencies identify stolen vehicles. Vehicle owners who normally do not use their cars between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. sign an agreement allowing officers to stop the vehicle and verify ownership if the vehicle is being driven during those hours.

The VIN etching and H.E.A.T. registration programs are funded through the Texas Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) to reduce auto theft in Texas.

