

As of last week, on December 31st, 2020 year-to-date (YTD) the SW Precinct was up 7% in vehicle theft; an increase in 45 cars as compared to YTD 2019, for a total of 689 cars. In the month of December, we had a 10% increase (68 cars stolen). They've been occurring all over West Seattle, with no one spot sticking out. However, here are the top neighborhoods for the month of December:

South Park: 9

Highland Park: 8

Fauntleroy: 8

High Point: 8

Alaska Junction: 7

North Delridge: 7

The SW Precinct has also noticed a significant increase in stolen bicycles being reported on social media, including on the West Seattle Blog.

For this month's crime prevention newsletter- the SW Precinct would like to focus on preventing vehicle related crimes- including auto theft and car prowl, as well as bicycle theft prevention.

What is auto theft?

-Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle

What is a car prowl?

-Unlawful taking of motor vehicle contents or parts

What are some prevention techniques for car prowl and auto theft?

-Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away, even for 'just a minute' to warm it up, please remember this is illegal in Seattle and in Washington (SMC 11.70.160, RCW 46.61.600)

-Remove remote garage door openers, key fobs and key cards from vehicle

-Always lock doors and roll up windows, even if the car is parked in front of your home

-Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked

-Items you don't want to take with you should be stored in the trunk, or out of sight

-Put items in the trunk before you arrive at your destination

-Even non-valuable items should be hidden from view (such as electronic charging cables)

-If possible, park vehicle in a busy, locked, monitored and/or well-lit area

-Utilize anti-theft devices such as steering wheel clubs (Please contact me directly for links/suggestions for where to purchase these)

-If possible, activate alarm

How can we prevent bicycle theft?

-Never leave your bicycle unlocked, even for a minute! Take time to make sure your bicycle is properly secured!

- Never secure your bicycle with a cheap lock; we recommend that you use a solid steel U-Lock, as these locks are very difficult to cut if secured properly. If you prefer to have a lock that is flexible- ensure that it is at least 3/8" in diameter!

-Consider registering your bicycle (for example on bikeindex.org), taking photos, knowing the serial number and/or engraving identifying markings on any removable parts- this makes it much more likely that we will be able to return your bike if it is recovered

-Always secure your bicycle to a bike rack or solid object

-Secure both wheels and frames

- When possible, park in well-lit and highly traveled areas
- Remove quick releases altogether- bolt the parts onto the bicycle
- Remember that locks are only a deterrent
- When storing bicycles at home, store in locked and secured areas
- When possible, do not leave bike locked outside overnight

What else can you do?

- Be observant! If you see something, say something!
- Remember to always report all crimes and suspicious activity to the Seattle Police Department by calling 911 for in-progress crimes, or utilize the non-emergency number/online reporting if appropriate (see below)
- Organize and/or get involved with Block Watch

Below you will find my contact information, including email address and phone numbers. Keep an eye out next month for a crime prevention bulletin! Below you will also find additional SPD and City of Seattle resources.

Email address: Jennifer.Danner@seattle.gov

Desk phone number: (206) 256-6820

Cell phone number: (206) 471-2849

Additional SPD resources-

- Seattle Police Department Non-Emergency Number: (206) 625-5011
- Seattle Police Department's Website: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/>
- Seattle Police Department's Online Crime Reporting: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/need-help/online-reporting>
- Seattle Police Department's 'Thank An Employee': <https://www.seattle.gov/police/about-us/contact-us/thank-an-employee>
- Contact information for other SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators:
 - North Precinct- (vacant at this time) Please contact Sergeant Martin Welte- Martin.Welte@seattle.gov
 - East Precinct- Joseph Elenbaas- Joseph.Elenbaas@seattle.gov
 - West Precinct- Barb Biondo- Barbara.Biondo@seattle.gov
 - South Precinct- Mark Solomon- Mark.Solomon@seattle.gov

Other City of Seattle resources-

- Find It Fix It: <https://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app>
 - Customer Service Bureau Main Line: 206-684-CITY (2489)
- Seattle Parks Department: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks>
 - 24-Hour Maintenance Request Line: 206-684-7250
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT): <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation>
 - Report a problem: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/report-a-problem>
- Parking Enforcement: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/about-us/about-policing/parking-enforcement#:~:text=Parking%20Enforcement%20Main%20Line%20206%2D386%2D9012>
 - Main Line: 206-386-9012
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI): <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci>
 - File a Complaint Online: <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/make%20a-property-or-building-complaint>