



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SPECIAL EVENTS TO FOCUS ON CRIME THAT OCCURS EVERY TEN MINUTES IN ARIZONA

Vehicle Theft Prevention and Awareness Day on Saturday, March 4, 2006

**PHOENIX** - (March 2, 2006) – If you live in the State of Arizona, the odds that your car may be stolen are higher than in most of the rest of the United States. According to the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) 2004 Uniform Crime Report, Arizona ranks second in the country for vehicle thefts. A vehicle is stolen in Arizona approximately every ten minutes, impacting the vehicle owner, employers, family members, insurance companies, law enforcement agencies and countless others.

In an effort to increase awareness and education about auto thefts in Arizona, law enforcement agencies throughout the State are coordinating their efforts to build a stronger force against this crime.

In partnership with the Gilbert Police Department, the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) and Weingarten Realty, law enforcement agencies throughout the State have partnered to promote Saturday, March 4th, 2006 as “Vehicle Theft Prevention and Awareness Day.” On Saturday, March 4th, citizens can look to their local police agencies to assist in building knowledge and methods to better prevent them from becoming a victim of this crime. Agencies throughout the State will be providing “FREE” to their citizen’s such services as; Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching, distributing steering wheel locks and/or enrollment into the State’s Watch Your Car Decal Program.

To obtain additional information about March 4th and the location of a Vehicle Theft Prevention and Awareness Event near you, please visit the AATA’s website at [www.stopautotheft.org](http://www.stopautotheft.org) or call 602 364-2886 (AUTO).

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