



## Division of Capitol Police News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Aug. 21, 2018

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Joe Macenka, Public Information Officer

Division of Capitol Police

Office: 804-786-2522

Cell: 804-382-7447

Email: [jmacenka@dcp.virginia.gov](mailto:jmacenka@dcp.virginia.gov)

# Capitol Police call for vehicle vigilance

**RICHMOND** – With thefts from vehicles on the rise in Richmond and elsewhere, Virginia Capitol Police called Tuesday for increased vigilance by those who work, visit and live in and around Capitol Square.

“Just as it doesn’t take thieves long to find what they’re looking for, it won’t take you long to protect your vehicle from theft,” said Col. Anthony S. “Steve” Pike, chief of the Capitol Police. “Thefts from vehicles are something we can easily address as a community.”

Virginia State Police statistics show there were 125,068 larcenies or attempted larcenies reported across the state in 2017. Of that total, 40,724 involved the thefts of various items from motor vehicles.

Closer to home, the latest numbers from the Richmond Police Department show the city has recorded 1,477 thefts from motor vehicles so far in 2018, a 16 percent increase over the 1,271 reported in the same period a year ago.

Pike said those who work, visit and live in and around Capitol Square and elsewhere in the Richmond area can take a few simple steps to stop thieves from striking:

- Keep your vehicle locked at all times, even while driving.
- Never leave your keys in the vehicle.
- Avoid leaving valuables in your vehicle where passersby can see them.
- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended.

“Just taking a few extra seconds when you’re getting into or out of your vehicle can make all the difference in keeping you and your vehicle safe,” Pike said. “Above all else, make sure your vehicle is secure. Remember: Lock it here. Lock it at home. Lock it everywhere.”

##