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**The Holiday Season is Upon Us  
The Lowell Police Department Urges You to Remove All Valuables**

The Lowell Police Department (LPD) is reminding all residents to use caution when leaving their cars unattended. Residents should be sure to lock their cars, roll up all windows and take any valuables with them when leaving their car behind. While locking doors may seem like common practice, people often fail to do so when leaving their car behind. Additionally, when doors are locked, valuables are often left in plain view. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> until September 30, 2014, there were 543 car break-ins in the City of Lowell. In 30% of the cases, the vehicles were forcibly entered. Additionally, at least 55% (300) of car break-ins in Lowell involved vehicles that were unlocked. Of those 300 unlocked vehicles, 34% (103) reported that electronics, purses or wallets were stolen.

Thieves are capable of working very quickly, therefore locking doors is vital even if the owner will only be gone for a few minutes or the car is parked in a residential driveway. In addition to locking doors, it is important to keep any valuable items out of sight. Thieves often go “window shopping”, looking into cars for items such as laptops, GPS units, phones, shopping packages, briefcases and other expensive looking items. If they see anything that appears to be valuable, they will very quickly break a window, grab the item(s) and be on their way. Ideally, valuables should not be left in an unattended vehicle at all, as thieves know to look in glove boxes and other “hidden” compartments. If anything must be left behind, it is best to lock it in the trunk of the car. By taking these precautions when leaving vehicles unattended, as well as by parking in well-lit, open spaces whenever possible, residents can significantly reduce the risk that their car will be broken into.

Residents who see anything suspicious are encouraged to contact the LPD at (978) 937-3200. As always, in the case of an emergency, 911 should be called immediately.



Thank you to our friends at the Ottawa, Canada Police Service for sharing this creative campaign