THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BORDER AREA AUTO THEFT NEW REPORTING PROCEDURES

(San Diego) Effective April 1, 2008, SDPD Southern Division procedures for reporting auto thefts have changed. Auto theft victims will be required to make the report in person and to produce documentation of vehicle ownership and insurance coverage. This change comes as a result of a review of border area auto theft cases. The review reflected an increase in auto thefts and a large number of suspected fraudulent reports made by individuals who were trying to collect cash from insurance companies.

The goal of this procedural change is to determine the cause of the increased number of auto theft cases in the border area and to decrease the number of fraudulent auto theft reports and the resulting fraud. Individuals who file false reports will be arrested and prosecuted for insurance fraud and filing false reports. The San Diego County District Attorney's office will participate in this effort by prosecuting these cases. Filing a false police report is a misdemeanor, but when an individual commits insurance fraud, the crime becomes a felony.

An SDPD Auto Theft detective is assisting Southern Division officers in evaluating border area auto theft cases.

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