

Community Awareness

12/30/2022

Baltimore County Police Department



Greetings Community Members,

Baltimore County has seen an increase of automobile thefts targeting Hyundai products. Since mid-December, the Pikesville area has experienced 7 cases where Hyundai vehicles were either stolen or attempts were made to steal the vehicle. Several social media posts have gone viral explaining the methods employed by thieves to defeat Hyundai and Kia ignition systems. Thieves have discovered that a number of Hyundai and Kia vehicles could be stolen in a minute or less, sometimes using nothing more than brute force and a USB cable. Basically, many 2015-19 Hyundai and Kia vehicles lack electronic immobilizers that prevent thieves from simply breaking in and bypassing the ignition. The feature is standard equipment on nearly all vehicles of that vintage made by other manufacturers.

There are numerous on-line articles concerning the issue with Hyundai and Kia vehicles being stolen at a high rate compared to other manufactures. During our research, we discovered that Hyundai has identified a security kit it believes will help. The kit will be available for purchase and installation at Hyundai dealerships and other authorized installers. Immobilizers are standard on all Hyundai vehicles built after Nov. 1, 2021, and immobilizers were installed on all 2022 Kia models and trims either at the beginning of the model year or as a running change.

The NICB emphasizes that professional thieves can steal any car but advises owners to take a layered approach to protect their vehicles, in line with their budget and perception of risk. Along with ***steering-wheel, brake-pedal, brake and wheel locks***, it's possible to install ***fuse cutoffs and kill switches as well as aftermarket immobilizer systems***.

Please be vigilant of suspicious subjects or vehicles roaming through the neighborhoods. If you notice any suspicious activity, safely get a good description of the subjects and contact 911.

If you would like to be added or removed from the Pikesville Precinct email list, please email Officer Larry Stallings at lstallings@baltimorecountymd.gov.

YOU ARE THE EYES AND EARS OF THE COMMUNITY.

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