

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM43.18	ACTION			Ward: All
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Actions to Prevent Auto Theft - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Federal and Provincial Governments to work with the automotive industry and the insurance industry on additional measures to prevent auto thefts, including at time of manufacture.

Summary

There has been an exponential increase in auto thefts in Toronto, and across Ontario and Quebec, in 2022. City Council has previously requested the Federal and Provincial Governments to provide resources to the Toronto Police Service to combat this crime and requested the Province to establish a Provincial/Municipal Auto Theft Task Force. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.MM38.25> However, according to Toronto Police Service data, incidents of auto theft are on trend to exceed 2021's rate by over 50 percent.

The Toronto Police Chief has dedicated \$2.1 million to a centralized unit targeting organized crime rings profiting from these thefts. Recent multi-jurisdictional auto theft targeted projects, including Project Tyga and Project Taurus, have resulted in some arrests and recovery of vehicles, but most stolen vehicles end up damaged or shipped overseas for resale. Devices to clone key fobs can be purchased relatively inexpensively online, and GPS and other tracking devices are quickly and easily disabled, which makes it an attractive opportunity for new thieves. These recent police projects have also revealed that thefts often involve violence towards the victims.

Toronto Police provide information and resources for vehicle owners to help prevent thefts, yet every day dozens of people fall victim to this crime. Data on the most frequently stolen vehicle makes and models are readily available. Many insurance companies increase their rates for those vehicles. Anti-theft modifications on vehicles could be implemented by auto manufacturers; however, there has yet to be a concerted effort to do so.

Background Information (City Council)

