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December 3, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

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Dear Sirs and Madame,

I am writing in the hope of encouraging your cooperation with our efforts to sharply reduce and eventually eradicate incidents of Vehicular Hijacking (Carjacking) in Cook County, Illinois and more broadly, the United States of America.

As you are aware, Vehicular Hijacking incidents have risen to disturbing levels in our community as well as many other metropolitan areas throughout our country. There are several factors combining to create this crisis and we have no illusion there is one quick fix. However, our data analysis as well as experiences on the street point to some clear places to start.

The American auto industry can stake claim as the greatest enterprise in postindustrial human history. You revolutionized the way we build, move, consume, and even think. In this era of economic and existential uncertainty, the fabric of societies around the world are fraying. Fear of crime and other social ills are dominating our thoughts and chief among them - in our community - is carjacking. It's a crime that, perhaps more than many others, inspires a fear which has the potential to undo what you helped build.

To help change this trajectory, we are taking a fresh look at addressing this national problem. One direction we keep heading toward involves your potential assistance. We are appealing for cooperation in the immediate term and have suggestions for longer term solutions that we believe can make carjacking more improbable, if not impossible.

From a law enforcement perspective, immediate tracking of a stolen vehicle is a valuable tool to recovery, arrest, and successful prosecution of offenders. Our agency, like many of our major metropolitan partners, can benefit from your cooperation in activating and engaging the telemetry tools on board most later models when such vehicles are reported stolen. We have had inconsistent experiences with this approach across manufacturers and are looking to find a path forward to potentially create uniform and standardized methods for seeking your assistance and activating the telemetry systems for stolen vehicles.

As part of this effort, a potential solution is for each manufacturer or brand to establish a dedicated 24/7 hotline to seek such assistance from our law enforcement partners. It would be accessible to customers and law enforcement, which would – at no expense to the victim – immediately and diligently activate the tracking capabilities and communicate with responding law enforcement until securely recovered.

In the longer term, we hope that every car sold will have the capability to be tracked and safely disabled in real time on a platform accessible to your customer or your company if the victim is unable to assist. We also encourage you, based on our experience, to continue to develop internal monitors and safeguards that could assist in identifying perpetrators and would defeat criminal efforts to disable telemetry and clone radio frequency devices like key fobs.

Many of your brands are already developing such safeguards. We applaud those efforts and hope this positive trend continues. As the laws of the marketplace dictate, those who best meet the customer's needs thrive. We believe together we can act in the interests of the wellbeing and safety of the citizens of Cook County.

We hope you will consider our call for discussion and collaboration on these topics and join our effort to make our streets and highways safe from this heinous, dangerous act.

I stand ready to meet with you, personally, to address this most pressing public safety issue. Please contact Chief of Staff Bradley Curry, Bradley.Curry@ccsheriff.org, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Sheriff of Cook County