OPERATION: HEAVY METAL

Continued from page 1

for scrap vehicles, certifying the seller is either the owner or authorized agent of the owner. The ‘posse’ owner is then paid for the vehicle leaving the legitimate owner without much recourse.

Impact

Auto theft places a tremendous burden on those who are victimized. Many auto owners do not carry comprehensive coverage on their older vehicles—only liability coverage in the event of an accident. Once the vehicle is stolen, it essentially becomes a total loss to that victim impacting their livelihood by crippling their ability to travel to work or school. This crime has far-reaching implications beyond individual victims. According to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), auto theft costs the insurance industry $42.2 billion a year. That results in higher premium costs for consumers ranging from $200–300 per policy.

Victims

More than 100 people were victimized by the alleged thieves indicted as part of the Operation: Heavy Metal round-up. Following is a snapshot of those thefts and the impact of the loss:

Victim’s Profile

CHADWICK MCCCLURE

Chadwick McClure’s 1989 Chevy S10 was stolen from him on 7/21/11. McClure used his vehicle for his business “Triple M Audio Installation.” The theft has impacted his livelihood by crippling his ability to knock on doors throughout Atlanta and Fulton County apprehending alleged auto thieves in a mass arrest round-up initiative dubbed “Operation: Heavy Metal,” spearheaded by Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr.

SHEMIKA COVERSON

Ms. Coverson’s livelihood was also impacted by auto thieves. Her two Ford Econoline vans used for her business “Visionary Learning Academy” were stolen from thieves. Her two Ford Econoline vans used for her business “Visionary Learning Academy” were stolen from thieves. Her auto ownership was also impacted by auto theft, as the theft had far-reaching implications beyond the owner’s livelihood and his mobility—forcing him to walk or rely on public transportation and the kindness of friends to get him to and from work.

CEDRIC MOORE

Mr. Moore’s 1985 Plymouth Voyager was stolen from the front of his home on 8/17/11. Moore had gone outside to check on a flat tire. He stepped back into his home for a brief twenty minutes and returned to find his van had vanished.

Cedric Phelps

Mr. Phelps' 1985 Plymouth Voyager was stolen on 8/17/11. Moore used his van for his home as the auto owners do not carry comprehensive coverage on their older vehicles—only liability coverage in the event of an accident. Once the vehicle is stolen, it essentially becomes a total loss to that victim impacting their livelihood by crippling their ability to travel to work or school. This crime has far-reaching implications beyond individual victims. According to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), auto theft costs the insurance industry $42.2 billion a year. That results in higher premium costs for consumers ranging from $200–300 per policy.

As the District Attorney’s Office prepares to prosecute the 96 individuals indicted for the scrap metal-related auto thefts, DA Howard has pledged his on-going commitment to reversing this crime trend with continued investigation, arrests and prosecution of those responsible.

 Office of the Fulton County District Attorney

130 Pryor St. SW, 3rd Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 612-4980, after 5pm (404) 224-3230

Community Prosecutors

Zone 1 – ADA Steven Jones
830 Sells Avenue, Unit 1002
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
(404) 816-3408, TBD@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 2 – TBD
2906 Grandview Ave., Suite 109B
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
(404) 612-9401, todd.ashley@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 3 – ADA Claire Foaly
Villages @ Camer, 201 Mundy Avenue, Apt. 114
Atlanta, Georgia 30316
(404) 624-0612, claire.farley@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 4 – ADA LaShawna Butler
3650 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Suite X-6
Atlanta, Georgia 30312
(404) 669-5284, lashawna.butler@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 5 – ADA Sharla Jackson
340 Boulevard NE, Suite 500
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 265-3505, sharla.jackson@fultoncountyga.gov

Zone 6 – ADA Paul Carmallo
340 Boulevard NE, Suite 500
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 612-3235, paul.carmallo@fultoncountyga.gov

North Fulton - ADA Todd Ashley
3155 Royal Drive, Suite 105
Alpharetta, Georgia 30022
(404) 612-9401, todd.ashley@fultoncountyga.gov

South Fulton - ADA Kenya Johnson
Fulton County Govt. Bicentennial, 5440 Fulton Indl. Blvd.
Atlanta, Georgia 30336
(404) 612-9170, kenya.johnson@fultoncountyga.gov

Criminal Operation

Thieves target cars that are at least twelve years old and steal them from a variety of locations including interstates, residential driveways and business and church parking lots. Once stolen, the vehicles are then taken to a recycler and sold for scrap metal. Based on weight, a thief can profit between $500–800 on average. Older vehicles are targeted for two primary reasons: they are likely to weigh more, thus making the scrap metal more profitable; and Georgia law allows a car to be sold for scrap without a title as long as it is at least twelve years old. One presenting a car for sale to a recycler need only produce a driver’s license and a ‘Cancellation of Title’ to sell the vehicle.

Background

“Operation: Heavy Metal” is an initiative borne out of the Fulton/Atlanta Multi-Jurisdictional Auto Theft Task Force, comprised of investigators from the Fulton County and City of Atlanta Police departments, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI Ammo Task Force gathered in the parking lot of the Atlanta Civic Center to finalize their game plan. Within thirty minutes, arrest teams would be knocking on doors throughout Atlanta and Fulton County apprehending alleged auto thieves in a mass arrest round-up initiative dubbed “Operation: Heavy Metal,” spearheaded by Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr.

Zerowing-In

In the pre-dawn hours of March 26, 2012 a contingency of local and federal law enforcement teams comprised of members from the Atlanta and Fulton County Police departments, the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI Ammo Task Force gathered in the parking lot of the Atlanta Civic Center to finalize their game plan. Within thirty minutes, arrest teams would be knocking on doors throughout Atlanta and Fulton County apprehending alleged auto thieves in a mass arrest round-up initiative dubbed “Operation: Heavy Metal,” spearheaded by Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr.

This crime trend with continued investigation, arrests and prosecution of those responsible.

Two weeks earlier, the DA’s Office indicted 96 individuals on charges related to the theft of scrap metal. It was the culmination of an investigative and prosecution effort led by Zone 5 Community Prosecutor Sharla Jackson, alongside investigators from the Atlanta and Fulton County Police department who worked tirelessly with DA staff to build cases against the suspected car thieves. Following indictment, Grand Jury arrest warrants were issued and the Fulton/Atlanta Multi-Jurisdictional Auto Theft Task Force was poised to execute them. By days end, the round-up had yielded the apprehension of more than half of the wanted suspects.

In the pre-dawn hours of March 26, 2012 a contingency of local and federal law enforcement teams comprised of members from the Atlanta and Fulton County Police departments, the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI Ammo Task Force gathered in the parking lot of the Atlanta Civic Center to finalize their game plan. Within thirty minutes, arrest teams would be knocking on doors throughout Atlanta and Fulton County apprehending alleged auto thieves in a mass arrest round-up initiative dubbed “Operation: Heavy Metal,” spearheaded by Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr.

Background

“Operation: Heavy Metal” is an initiative borne out of the Fulton/Atlanta Multi-Jurisdictional Auto Theft Task Force, comprised of investigators from the Fulton County and City of Atlanta Police departments, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI Ammo Task Force. Formed in October 2011, the task force was created to combat a rising number of auto thefts in Fulton County. According to statistics from the FBI, Atlanta ranks 4th in the nation for the number of auto thefts each year. In 2011, more than 2000 vehicles were stolen in the city of Atlanta alone. Fewer than 25% of those vehicles were recovered.

In many instances, those uncovered vehicles are sold to local recyclers for scrap metal—an emerging auto theft trend.

More than 100 people were victimized by the alleged thieves indicted as part of the Operation: Heavy Metal round-up. Following is a snapshot of those thefts and the impact of the loss:
The Fulton DA's Community Prosecution program is being hailed for its pro-active law enforcement efforts.

The Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce recognized local law enforcement professionals at the Chamber's First Annual Public Safety Breakfast in February. Approximately 150 attendees heard head remarks from Fulton County DA Paul Howard and Fulton County Sheriff Ted Jackson. ADA Todd Ashley, North Fulton Community Prosecutor, was recognized along with the police chiefs from Sandy Springs, Roswell, Alpharetta, Johns Creek and Milton for their pro-active law enforcement efforts.

Prosecution. The fall conference was an appropriate complement to her work as a Community Prosecutor.

N. FULTON
Todd Ashley

S. FULTON
Kenya Johnson

The Fulton DA's Community Prosecution program is being hailed as a national and regional model from which other prosecutors are taking cues. The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys selected our team of prosecutors to co-host its regional conference on Community Prosecution. The fall conference served as a training ground for jurisdictions interested in developing their own community prosecution initiatives and prevention strategies related to gangs, drugs and other quality of life issues.

Repeat Offenders Round-Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defendant</th>
<th>Charge(s)</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Byrd</td>
<td>Burglary, Fire, Trans., Card Fraud, Rcv. Stolen Prop.</td>
<td>20 yrs to serve 15</td>
<td>N Fulton</td>
<td>Burglarized a Fulton home of computer, jewelry, electronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudy Malone</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>10 yrs to serve 5</td>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>Burglarized a Church, stealing antiques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Lynn Thompson</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>20 yrs to serve 10</td>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>Burglarized a Great Park home, stealing jewelry and belongings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory White</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>10 yrs to serve 5, sentenced from GA</td>
<td>Zone 3</td>
<td>Stole metal shelves for recycling from a vacant elementary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janessa Darby</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>10 yrs to serve 3</td>
<td>Zone 4</td>
<td>One of two suspects who burglarized a girl's Mill home of computers, jewelry, and heirlooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Cruz &amp; Demoneco Collins</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>False Impersonation</td>
<td>10 yrs to serve</td>
<td>Burglarized a home, stealing a complete and full family TV. Forced an elderly male occupant to be silent and took summe of items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester Flowers</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>10 yrs to serve 5</td>
<td>Zone 8</td>
<td>Burglarized a home, stealing a DVP player, later broke into a neighboring home to sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Gregory</td>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>20 yrs to serve 6</td>
<td>Zone 8</td>
<td>Stole cash and collectible coins from a St. Charles Place home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Crowley</td>
<td>Burglary, Theft and Forgery</td>
<td>14 mths to serve</td>
<td>S Fulton</td>
<td>Burglarized a home, fraudulently took $1,000 in unpermitted work and attempted to extort $1,200 from owner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Zone

Important News, Events and Information from and about YOUR Community Prosecutor

ZONE 1 Steven Jones
ZONE 2 TBD
ZONE 3 Claire Farley
ZONE 4 Jadawnya Butler
ZONE 5 Sharla Jackson
ZONE 6 Paul Camarillo

The 15th annual "Legal Lives" program is currently underway in elementary school classrooms throughout the county. The 15-week instructional program is led by volunteer prosecutors who teach 5th grade students lessons on civics and criminal law. The program culminates in a mock trial competition which will be held at the Fulton County Courthouse on May 9, 2012 at 10:00 am. Selected students from each participating school are eligible to attend an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, DC during the summer. Students will tour the White House and other historic sites. The 2012 Legal Lives program includes students from Atlanta Public and Fulton County schools including: Pynnot Forest, Daniel H. Stanton, Parkside, F.L. Stanton, Seaborn Lee, Cliftondale, Stonewall Tell, State Bridge Crossing and Shakerag elementary schools.

Legal Lives

In April, District Attorney Howard's signature program, "Junior DA" will begin accepting applications for rising 7th and 8th graders in Fulton County. Established in 1998, the law-centered educational program provides students with an overview of the criminal justice system and exposes them to various facets of local government and courts with summer field trips to police departments, the Georgia Supreme Court and more.

Last summer, the program garnered national attention due to the heroic acts of one of its students. Taking cues from a forensics class she had just taken with her Junior DA classmates, Jessica Maple solved the burglary of her great-grandmother's home in Fiddler's Creek, Georgia. Her actions generated media buzz because of the heroic acts of one of its students. Taking cues from a forensics class she had just taken with her Junior DA classmates, Jessica Maple solved the burglary of her great-grandmother's home in Fiddler's Creek, Georgia. Her actions generated media buzz because Jessica, then just 12-years old, beat police to the punch. Jessica traveled to the South Georgia home which was ransacked by criminals and left devoid of furniture and appliances.

Following her instincts, Jessica went to a local pawn shop where she discovered her grandmother's belongings had been hocked. She asked the pawn shop owner for copies of the id's of the sellers and then called police to inform them that she had not only recovered her family's stolen property, but tracked down the suspects as well. Jessica and her mother, in a brazen act of courage, drove to a nearby hotel and called police. Following her instincts, Jessica went to a local pawn shop where she discovered her grandmother's belongings had been hocked. She asked the pawn shop owner for copies of the id's of the sellers and then called police to inform them that she had not only recovered her family's stolen property, but tracked down the suspects as well. Jessica and her mother, in a brazen act of courage, drove to a nearby hotel and called police.

Jessica and her mother, in a brazen act of courage, drove to a nearby hotel and called police. Taking cues from a forensics class she had just taken with her Junior DA classmates, Jessica Maple solved the burglary of her great-grandmother's home in Fiddler's Creek, Georgia. Her actions generated media buzz because Jessica, then just 12-years old, beat police to the punch. Jessica traveled to the South Georgia home which was ransacked by criminals and left devoid of furniture and appliances.

Following her instincts, Jessica went to a local pawn shop where she discovered her grandmother's belongings had been hocked. She asked the pawn shop owner for copies of the id's of the sellers and then called police to inform them that she had not only recovered her family's stolen property, but tracked down the suspects as well. Jessica and her mother, in a brazen act of courage, drove to a nearby hotel and called police.

Following her instincts, Jessica went to a local pawn shop where she discovered her grandmother's belongings had been hocked. She asked the pawn shop owner for copies of the id's of the sellers and then called police to inform them that she had not only recovered her family's stolen property, but tracked down the suspects as well. Jessica and her mother, in a brazen act of courage, drove to a nearby hotel and called police. Following her instincts, Jessica went to a local pawn shop where she discovered her grandmother's belongings had been hocked. She asked the pawn shop owner for copies of the id's of the sellers and then called police to inform them that she had not only recovered her family's stolen property, but tracked down the suspects as well. Jessica and her mother, in a brazen act of courage, drove to a nearby hotel and called police.