

PRESS RELEASE



County Council

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Dave Gossett
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County Council Approves Grant Funding Auto Theft Prevention Task Force

The County Council has approved an \$827,185 state grant to create a multi-jurisdictional Auto Theft Prevention Task Force to implement a proactive enforcement and education campaign to put a dent in the large number of vehicles stolen annually in Snohomish County.

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Snohomish ranks third among Washington counties with an average of 5938 vehicles stolen over each of the last three years.

“It is worthy to note how much work Sheriff Lovick has put into this program,” said County Councilman Mike Cooper. “Sheriff Lovick, when he was a state legislator, sponsored the legislation that created the fund that allowed us to apply for this grant.”

Lovick’s 2007 legislation, House Bill 1001, formed the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA) to assist local governments in dealing with auto theft. Grant funding comes from a \$10 fine added to traffic infractions. No matching funds from the county or participating cities are required.

The grant funds will be used to prevent and reduce vehicle theft through the development and implementation of effective law enforcement, investigation and prosecution programs, community education projects, equipment related to auto theft prevention and training directly related to motor vehicle theft initiatives.

Currently partnering with the county on the task force are the police departments of Everett, Monroe, Lynnwood, the Snohomish County Prosecutor’s Office; and the Washington State Patrol. The present round of annual funding for the program will run through 2011.

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