

SITUATION

Vehicles across the country get stolen, re-registered and sold to honest consumers. This trend is a particular problem in Reading, Pennsylvania where stolen vehicles are re-plated and re-titled. Many of these vehicles are taken using key-swap scams at dealerships, jump-ins at gas stations, bump-and-jumps (car accidents) and car-jacking incidents.

STRATEGY

On February 9, 2015, a lieutenant from the City of Reading's Police Department contacted CARFAX about this problem. CARFAX then conducted a search of its database for suspicious vehicles based on a number of factors. This data can then be used by investigators to spot stolen vehicles and arrest auto theft criminals.

ACTION & RESULTS

A CARFAX employee sent the lieutenant a 2014 BMW registered in Pittsburgh. The lieutenant forwarded the suspicious vehicle's information to the PSP Western Unit to attempt to locate the stolen vehicle. The VIN did not exist in BMW's records and soon, a trooper at the PSP Western Unit discovered that the confidential VIN did not match the public VIN. The BMW was actually reported stolen on October 4, 2014 in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The lieutenant now retired and acting as a liaison between CARFAX and the police department, retrieved a list of suspicious VINS from CARFAX which again met the criteria of a recently registered vehicle with higher than average mileage for a new car.

This list led to the recovery of a 2010 BMW from Queens which was reported stolen in February from Newark, NJ. Additionally, a 2013 Toyota Camry and a 2013 Mercedes, both reported stolen in September of 2014 in New York City, were also recovered. A 2015 Mercedes was also found stolen from NJ in December of 2014.

In just 30 days, the list that CARFAX provided has resulted in the recovery of five high end vehicles totaling in \$253,400.00 in value. The lieutenant continues to work with CARFAX and looks forward to similar success from the next list.

