

**Police—Not Criminals—Handcuffed:
Authorities Refuse to Prosecute “Victimless” Automotive Theft
Despite Concrete Video, Physical Evidence**

Indianapolis, IN and Hanover, MD: A recent test drive theft at a car dealership in Indianapolis, Indiana quickly revealed gaping holes in prosecution of car thefts. According to dealership owner Mr. Bob Falcone, police are instructed by local prosecutors to not arrest “victimless” crimes like car thefts—despite surveillance footage from Eyewitness Surveillance offering concrete leads to the victim’s identity.

On March 10, 2017, a test drive theft occurred, during which a \$32,000 Volkswagen Jetta was driven off the lot and never returned. Mr. Falcone then called Eyewitness Surveillance—[his remote live video surveillance company based in Hanover, Maryland](#)—to recover the video footage recorded from the dealership’s surveillance cameras during the thief’s visit, even though the theft occurred outside of regular monitoring hours. Our cameras record activity 24/7/365, with footage saved for 30 days, so retrieval was simple for the Eyewitness account management team.

Armed with Eyewitness’s video footage of the car thief and the thief’s photocopied identification documents, Mr. Falcone contacted the police with the evidence. While he could file a police report, Mr. Falcone told local reporters that **the police informed him that they had no longer had a vehicle theft unit.**

IMPD Chief Bryan Roach told reporters that the unit had disbanded in 2012. Vehicle theft cases are now assigned to local police districts for increased attention to individual theft cases, which were “never a major focus” for the original vehicle theft unit.

The Volkswagen Jetta was later recovered—crashed and with a tire missing—by a local police officer. The thief later stole another vehicle from a neighboring dealership and crashed this vehicle into an innocent bystander, who was hospitalized.

Ultimately, Mr. Falcone believes that it is not the police’s fault they were unable to follow up on these secure leads.

“It’s frustrating, sure, but you can’t blame the police for doing what they were told to do,” Falcone says. **“They’re under instructions by their prosecutors not to arrest what they’re calling a ‘victimless’ crime, since we have insurance and no one—at the time—was hurt.** [The police] are honestly frustrated at what they see as a waste of time, since they file a bunch of paperwork and still arrest the same people over and over again.”

Eyewitness routinely works with local police to assist in their investigations and litigation. The company frequently provides law enforcement with security footage to assist investigations and criminal prosecutions, and to ensure clients’ continued safety.

While this thief is finally in custody and the stolen vehicle returned—albeit with severe damage—this incident shows how crucial proactive, private security measures and protocols are to any business’s overall loss prevention strategy.

About Eyewitness Surveillance

Since its founding in 2004, Eyewitness Surveillance has established itself as a leader in remote interactive monitoring and loss prevention, providing cutting-edge security and operational solutions for mid-size and large car dealerships, metal recycling yards, and a variety of other fixed industrial facilities across the country. Eyewitness's services blend security solutions with operations optimization, using sophisticated analytics and state-of-the-art cameras to capture data used to monitor customer foot traffic and employee behavior, improve customer responsiveness, drive sales, and efficiently manage assets.

For more information on Eyewitness and its services, please visit <http://www.eyewitnesssurveillance.com>, or follow Eyewitness on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn