



## City of Evansville Police Media Release

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Evansville Police to issue "Vehicle Report Cards"**

Theft from motor vehicles continues to be a problem for law enforcement throughout the area. Evansville is not immune to this activity. In an effort to address this problem, the Evansville Police Department is attempting a new approach to help educate the public, recently implemented by the City of Madison Police Department. Madison police initiated a pilot program of issuing "Vehicle Report Cards."

Officers will be conducting random security checks of unoccupied parked vehicles, noting whether doors are locked, windows are closed, items of value are in plain view, or anything else that could make the vehicle more attractive to thieves. A "report card" will be completed, indicating whether the vehicle passed or failed, with an explanation why. The "report cards" will then be placed on the windshield. These report cards are not a ticket.

It is hoped that those with vehicles that "pass", will feel encouraged to continue habits that make their property safe, while those with vehicles that "do not pass", will see this as an opportunity to make changes, as they discover it was a police officer visiting their vehicle, and not a thief.

We realize that sometimes, despite best efforts to avoid it, people are still victimized. We believe that there are often simple measures that can be taken to help keep property safe and reduce your chances of being victimized.

These report cards simply point out areas of vulnerability, as it pertains to your vehicle. If anyone has any questions about this initiative, feel free to contact the Evansville Police Department at 608-882-2299.