

From the Editor

As the readers of the *Police Forum* know, we are always interested in receiving submissions which highlight policing-related research or serves as commentary on police practice and issues. Most of our submissions come from the work of academicians, criminal justice practitioners, and graduate students. However, the *Police Forum* is also interested in receiving submissions which result from undergraduate research projects. The main scholarship piece in this edition of the *Police Forum* is an example of this.

In this edition, you will read of the applied research conducted by several undergraduate students at the University of Maine – Presque Isle. The students explored the problem of theft from motor vehicles; this crime problem which was especially pronounced in certain areas within the City of Presque Isle. Through their research, these undergraduate students (under the supervision of Police Section Chair Charles Johnson, who was on the faculty of the University of Maine – Presque Isle at the time) essentially became consultants for the Presque Isle Police Department.

Increasingly, many colleges and universities are encouraging faculty to find ways to involve undergraduate students in research and in applied, practical projects. The *Police Forum* is interested in showcasing these projects through their final reports and papers. Please feel free to encourage, and even guide, students who have manuscripts summarizing research projects to submit them to the *Police Forum* for possible publication.

Jeff Bumgarner
ACJS Police Section Secretary
Editor, *Police Forum*

Police Section Chair's Comments

Greetings from the Chair!

I trust everyone had an enjoyable summer break, and you are looking forward to another academic year. As we look forward to our meeting in Philadelphia next February, I want to take a moment to bring you up to date on the status of the Police Section and what you can expect from the section at the conference.

First, I am pleased to announce that we have some new executive board members. John DeCarlo is the new vice-chair of the section. Michael Buerger and Jeff Smith are your new executive counselors. The section will be conducting elections this fall for additional new executive members. Information about that election is included in this issue of the *Police Forum*.

It is particularly pleasing to me that Jeff Smith has joined our team. Many of you know Jeff from his participation and involvement in past general Police Section meetings, but we now have the added value of his service both on the executive board and his role as a Captain on the Lawrenceville, Georgia Police Department. Many of the current members of the Police Section have served in public law enforcement to some degree, and Jeff Smith's service adds to the mission of developing and maintaining working relationships between academe and the field.

As we continue to operate as the largest section within ACJS, it is one of my stated goals that we increase the Police Section membership over the next few years. We can accomplish this by reminding others of the section, and by encouraging students to become members. Any undergraduate or graduate student who is a student member of ACJS may become a member of the Police Section. I believe it is important that we remind students who are on track to becoming employed in the criminal justice field that membership in the Police Section potentially puts them in contact with other like-minded academics and practitioners. That brings me to a final point on this topic: publishing relevant articles in the *Police Forum*.

In this issue of *Police Forum*, you will see an article written by select undergraduate students from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. It was my pleasure to author the piece with them, and to supervise the project on which the article was based. The study gave the students a rare opportunity to work with Matt Irwin, Police Chief in Presque Isle, and Laurie Kelly, Deputy Chief. At the end of the project several students told me that they had become more interested in careers in law enforcement and in academia as a result of their exposure to the real-world application and relevance of this project. I say this only to remind you that we sometimes forget why students are enrolled in criminal justice programs; many of them "drift" in and out, looking for that hook that interests them. By developing strong relationships with practitioners, we afford our students wonderful opportunities for them to "try before they buy" a career in the field. Please let this article also serve as a reminder that the *Police Forum* seeks and still needs article submissions for future issues. Articles appearing in the *Police Forum* are not peer-reviewed, but they still have an important role in the nexus between academe and the field.

I am in need of volunteers to help me on several committees. Briefly, the section has an awards committee to facilitate the Outstanding Service and O.W. Wilson awards. Additionally, we have a recognition award for those who have served as the section chair in the past, and we will be creating an outstanding student scholarship award. We should also have an energetic membership committee that will be responsible for assisting in recruitment for the section, and who will be willing to staff the Police Section table at the conference. We also need to develop a Facebook presence, so talent in that area is desired. Lastly, the reception at the Dallas conference was a big hit, and we plan to continue to offer receptions at future conferences. If you can serve in any capacity on the aforementioned projects, please contact me at webcougs@gmail.com.

In closing, I would like to remind you to peruse the schedule for the Philadelphia conference and make suggestions you deem relevant for Police Section member participation. A short list of such panels and events will be announced in the next issue of *Police Forum*.

Have a fantastic and rewarding semester!

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**Theft from Motor Vehicles:
A Study in Presque Isle, Maine**

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Abstract

Theft from motor vehicles (TFMV) is a worldwide problem. This project looks at the causation of theft from motor vehicles at the local level in Presque Isle, Maine. The research demonstrates that certain crime prevention methodologies can provide requisite barriers to thefts. Using information gathered from police data and on-site field observations, a survey was implemented and recommendations are herein made to effectively impact TFMV.

Introduction

In September 2011 nine students, under the supervision of Dr. Charles Johnson, Assistant Professor of criminal justice at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, initiated a study on TFMV (TFMV) in the city of Presque Isle. The study grew in response to numerous discussions between Dr. Johnson, PIPD Chief Matt Irwin, and Deputy Chief Laurie Kelly based on the desire of Chief Irwin to engage the police department with both the business community and the citizenry. The National Institute of Justice conference in Washington, D.C., was attended by more than 1,200 academic and university researchers, public policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners. The conference theme, under the guidance of NIJ Director John Laub, Ph.D., was Translational Criminology – Shaping Policy and Practice with Research. Dr. Johnson used the context of the conference to direct the present research project. With the mission of collaboration between local practitioners, policymakers, and academics in mind, Deputy Chief Laurie Kelly suggested that the present research topic be the foundation for the mission. With a framework in place, the prescient problem of TFMV was chosen as the subject matter. The research began with an examination of TFMV in Presque Isle over the past three years, and an examination of previously conducted research on that specific crime problem.

Background

Presque Isle, Maine is a small community with a growing problem. The city of roughly 9,600 residents is nestled in the northern tip of Maine, and it shares a border to the east with New Brunswick, Canada. As the business hub of the northeastern territory, Presque Isle is serviced by U.S. Route 1, a north-south highway that connects tens of thousands of people to the city from diverse remote geographical locations. The Presque Isle Police Department (PIPD) is composed of a Chief, a Deputy Chief, three Sergeants, a Corporal, and eleven sworn officers (total 17 sworn). In the recent years TFMV has become a concern for both the public and the police department. Records provided by the PIPD are inclusive of date, time, location and victim information regarding TFMV, but specific details are lacking. Historically in Presque Isle, typical targets of theft include cell phones, prescription medication, cash, and other personal items of value. With the problem being relatively new, there has been little to no local research done on the topic, thusly no plan of action to abate the problem has been developed. Before developing a plan of action it is important to look at what has been done in other cities that have experienced this problem so that informed decisions may be made.

Literature Review

While the research team acknowledges that TFMV is a significant concern worldwide, and especially in the UK, as evidenced by a report that "...vehicle crime, including theft of, theft from and damage to a vehicle, is the largest category of crime recorded by the police in the UK, accounting for over 20 percent of all police recorded crime" (Home Office, 2010, p. 451), the team focused on TFMV in the United States. Scholarly research on TFMV is scant in the United States, so this report is informed by a fair amount of anecdotal research on the topic located in media sources.

TFMV: Evidence of the Problem

Six major population centers within the United States were examined because they have recently experienced noteworthy incidences of TFMV. Under the lens of this study were Beverly, Massachusetts; Albemarle County, Virginia; Gastonia, North Carolina; Muskegon Michigan; Roseau, Minnesota; and Deerfield, Illinois.

Beverly, Massachusetts

The Beverly, Massachusetts police department serves a population of 39,064 with 67 sworn officers (FBI, 2010). The Beverly Police Department (BPD) recently faced six-to-seven thefts from motor vehicles each night before it began a crime reduction initiative. Information on the problem faced by the BPD was gathered by means of an over-the-phone interview. Researchers obtained information about the problem faced by the BPD, as well as the program implemented to address TFMV.

A command-level decision was made within the Beverly police department to model an anti-break in campaign after one used by the Salem, Massachusetts police department. The campaign included the creation of a warning "ticket" that was placed on parked vehicles wherein valuables were in plain view. The warning included the brief summary of the problem of vehicle larceny, and included specific details about valuables that were left in plain view. Witnessing officers were instructed to lock the doors of vehicles that had been left unlocked (see appendices 1 – 4 for details). Although some officers were initially concerned about being accused of vehicle tampering or theft as a result of performing these duties, the strategy was implemented on midnight shifts (Captain Christopher Negrotti, personal communication, November 1, 2011).

The program demonstrated great success in reducing the frequency of motor vehicle thefts. Crime data provided by the BPD show an 80 percent decrease in incidents involving TFMV in the weeks following implementation of the program. In the seven weeks prior to its initiative, the BPD averaged 13.1 complaints about TFMV per week, and just 2.7 per week in the three weeks following (see appendices 3 & 4). A noted unintended consequence of this project was that the BPD received a number of complaints that officers had locked keys in vehicles. The UMPI research team considers this a positive, rather than negative consequence.

Albemarle County, Virginia

Albemarle County, Virginia boasts a population of 98,970, and is policed by 112 sworn officers (FBI, 2010). Charlottesville, Virginia is nestled in Albemarle County, and has a population of 42, 590 and is protected by 115 sworn officers (FBI, 2010). Criminal justice agencies in both the city and the county have reported higher theft rates from motor vehicles than in previous years. Albemarle reported 369 thefts from a motor vehicle in the year 2010, an average of approximately one incident per day. In the months from January through November of 2011, Albemarle officers have received 386 reports of TFMV. Charlottesville police Lieutenant Ronnie Roberts attributes most of their incidents to unlocked vehicles with valuables in plain view. Albemarle Sergeant Darrell Byers said he has seen an increase in the number of forcible entry thefts from motor vehicles, whereas in the past the majority of incidents occurred due to unlocked vehicles (Davis, 2011).

Gastonia, North Carolina

Gastonia, North Carolina has a population 73,533 people who are policed by 173 sworn officers (FBI, 2010). The city averages one thousand thefts from motor vehicles per year. Their website offers its residents tips to avoid becoming a victim due to TFMV. Their recommendations include locking all doors to a vehicle after removing the keys, completely closing all windows, parking in well-lit areas, avoid leaving valuables in plain view, and avoid parking between large vehicles. They concur that the most common targets in thefts from motor vehicles include cell phones, purses, credit cards, radar detectors, sports equipment, laptop computers, radios, pagers, weapons, wallets, money and loose change (Theft from motor, 2011).

Muskegon, Michigan

In Muskegon, Michigan an incident in 2008 resulted in the arrest of three individuals for TFMV. Muskegon has a population of 38,829 people, and the police department is comprised of 79 sworn officers (FBI, 2010). Three males ages 17, 19 and 21 were entering or attempting to enter parked vehicles at an apartment complex. A resident at the complex called 911 around 2:00 a.m. and reported seeing three individuals in the parking lot entering vehicles. Three Muskegon police officers arrived and caught the suspects inside a car. The suspects took police to other locations they had been on previous occasions, after which they were arrested for breaking and entering a total of 33 cars. Many of the vehicle break-ins resulted in the loss of personal property. Detective Lieutenant Timothy LaVigne told reporters the suspects were after stereo equipment, and attributed the problem to vehicle owners not locking the doors to their vehicles (Medendorp, 2008). Although the suspects in the above case were male, perpetrators of TFMV are not limited to a single gender.

Roseau, Minnesota

An incident in June in Roseau, Minnesota, with a population of 2,752 and 5 sworn officers (FBI, 2010), resulted in the arrest of two female suspects (ages 17 and 21) for several charges that included tampering with motor vehicles. The report stated that items taken included cash, credit cards, purses, GPS units, a laptop computer and a digital camera. After executing a

search warrant several days later, law enforcement recovered many of the items that were reported stolen (“Two arrested for thefts”, 2011).

Deerfield, Illinois

Deerfield, Illinois (population 18,420 with 37 sworn police officers) (FBI, 2010) recently had a more aggressive incident of theft from two motor vehicles parked outside a Bally's Total Fitness facility. Police responded to the parking area and noted that the rear window of a car had been broken out. The complainant told police a laptop computer and carrying bag were taken from the vehicle. While investigating, police discovered a second vehicle in the parking lot with its rear window broken out. After locating the victim inside the fitness center, police learned that a lunch box, pink shoulder bag and paperwork were taken out of the second vehicle. Although the majority of law enforcement agencies attribute TFMV to unlocked doors, this incident shows that some burglaries from motor vehicles cannot be solved by securing the locks on a vehicle (Sadin, 2011).

The Perps: Do “The Usual Suspects” Exist?

One question to consider while examining TFMV is the make-up of the offenders. Drug users are usually looking for drugs or money to buy drugs. “During the occasional user phase, they suggest, drug use and crime are spuriously related, during the stabilized junkie and free-wheeling junkie phases, drug use is facilitated by criminal income, and during the street addict phase, drug use appears to cause crime” (Bennett, Holloway, 2006, p.246). Some people leave prescription drugs in their vehicle as a convenience. Addicts are aware of this tendency and will break into cars to retrieve drugs or take things they can easily sell. “Consistent with the national picture within the UK, a large percentage of priority acquisitive crime offending is drug related, particularly domestic burglary and theft of a motor vehicle where over 30% of recorded crime was found to be drug related” (Bond & Sheridan, 2007, p. 5). The research team discovered no evidence to disprove this notion when it comes to the development of motives for TFMV in the United States, and other offender profiles have certainly been identified. While the Beverly Police Department has had little success in identifying a certain type of offender in its TFMV cases, the small amount of information it has collected suggests that the most common offender is a male, age 18 to 25 (Captain Christopher Negrotti, personal communication, November 1, 2011).

Do Environmental Design and Physicality Matter?

Closed circuit television (CCTV) is a concept that has been theorized to reduce crime, especially related to vehicles. Using camera systems strategically located throughout car parks, the cameras will capture any activity happening while it is recording. Tilley states that the highest vulnerability for motor vehicles are those parked on the road, near the owner's house. Also stated is that 20% of thefts from cars in England occurs in private or municipal parking areas. The use of CCTV is theorized to help as a deterrent to vehicle crime as well as a tool to aid law enforcement in investigating any crime that occurs within the camera's field of view. There are several major factors that Tilley theorizes as possible outcomes of using CCTV. These include a reduction in crime due to the recording system acting as a deterrent; an increase in

natural surveillance as more people feel safe to park their vehicles with these systems in place, and as the systems are more publicized, potential offenders will not want to associate themselves with vehicle crime (Tilley, 1993).

Results from Tilley's study showed that CCTV helped in giving several areas a steady decline in theft from cars rather than theft of cars. One area showed as much as a 76% decrease in theft from vehicles and 45% decrease in damage to vehicles. The results of the areas surveyed clearly show a decline in crime rates related to vehicles, which validates the hypothesis from Tilley that CCTV does indeed act as a deterrent and tool for law enforcement in reducing vehicle crime (Tilley, 1993). The use of vehicle immobilizers has reduced vehicle crime by 26% over a five year period between 1999 and 2004. These devices help law enforcement track and recover stolen vehicles through GPS tracking ("Tackling vehicle crime", 1999).

TFMV is most likely to occur where there is a group of cars. Smith (1996) suggested that parking facilities such as Wal-Mart, malls, store complexes, restaurants, parking garages and movie theater parking lots are used upwards of 175 million times a day. Taking into consideration that those who use these parking facilities must walk through the parking lot, it increases this number to 350 million, which makes it a very target-rich environment. Other places commonly targeted include areas that do not have security cameras or do not have adequate lighting. Many of the people who commit TFMV do so because they have an opportunity to do so. "Auto-burglary prevention, like all crime prevention, involves limiting the criminal's ability and/or opportunity to commit the crime" (Hamilton, 2010, para.2). For example, if everyone is inside the movie theater and it is dark, the offender would be less likely to be seen by anyone because of the dark parking lot and the lack of people outside. These circumstances provide an offender an easy opportunity to act.

Research conducted on parking in city centers indicates that those parking facilities located further inside the compact zone are at higher risk than those outside. Commuter lots and vehicles that are left for a long period of time show higher rates of theft from vehicles. It also indicates that parking facilities that are utilized 24 hours a day are at higher risk than those that close down for a period of time. A team sent to Portland, Oregon working with law enforcement and the local district attorney, found that bike patrol played the largest role in reducing crime rates from vehicle parking centers. The recommendations for car lots include making the address to each lot visible upon entering, thus increasing the chance and ability for victims to report crimes to the police, including a barrier around these lots which would normally be a fence no less than four feet in height, and budgetary changes to allow security bike patrols for larger parking areas. Law enforcement involved in the research were increasing their rate of arrest for thefts from motor vehicles and working with the district attorney to increase penalties for repeat offenders (Clarke & Goldstein, 2003).

Using updated research from the above study, Clarke makes several new additions to his work. While studying lock-your-door campaigns, researchers found that this did not have any effect on rates of theft. The most effective methods for securing car parks according to his research are community publication of the problem, mounted patrols, and environmental changes which include barriers around the facilities, increased lighting, electronic entrance passes, and wire mesh around openings to prevent offenders from entering through the sides of the lots (Clarke, 2010).

Additional research on parking facilities suggests that most Americans fear victimization

from violent crime in parking facilities, especially in ones with limited lighting. Aesthetic changes to the environment of parking areas and level of service are two ways to both improve how people feel while in a parking area and reduce the rate of vehicle crime. These recommended changes are simple and coincide with previous research regarding these facilities. Changes in the environment include adding a light-colored stain to concrete surfaces. This increases the amount of light reflected and gives users of these facilities a more comfortable feeling about using them. The second change is for the level of service among those employees at these facilities to increase. That is, increased training and awareness strategies will lead to more natural surveillance and reduced vehicle crime rates (Smith, 1996).

TFMV is generally a crime of opportunity. The case in Muskegon Michigan occurred in an apartment complex parking lot. Hannon refers to this as opportunity saturation. He explains it by stating, "...in the context of a relatively small number of motivated offenders and an abundance of potentially lucrative victims, changes in prevalence of attractive targets might make little difference (Hannon, 2002, p. 366). Hannon would argue that the presence of a vehicle of high value in the parking lot of an apartment complex may alone not attract the same degree of criminal attention as would a large number of vehicles parked in the same lot. Having examined the general landscape of the literature surrounding TFMV, we now move the discussion to the present study conducted by the UMPI researchers.

Theoretical Foundation

Routine activities theory (Cohen and Felson, 1976) posits that criminal motivation cannot produce crime on its own. A motivated offender must experience a convergence of his/her desire to commit the crime, along with both a suitable target (e.g. anything of value) and the lack of a capable guardian. Since TFMV is a crime that has low risk of detection (thereby consisting of a capable guardian) and is accomplished rather easily, together with the presence of valuables left in plain view by owners, Routine Activities Theory provides an excellent foundation on which to examine TFMV.

According to Ceccato, Haining, and Signoretta (2002), Routine Activities Theory often times plays a large role in the frequency of TFMV. Motivated offenders identify opportunities to commit crimes close to where they live. The ease of physical access and a viable escape route are top priority in this regard. It can be further suggested that because of the increased housing placed in one area, more personal interactions are possible, thus more opportunities for a vehicle to be under watch of a motivated offender. The difference in the provision of a capable guardian may include environmental factors, such as the presence or absence of a garage, and may not be simply whether or not a person is capable of visual sight of a vehicle (2002). Capable guardianship may also be in the form of an auto alarm. In the present study, UMPI criminal justice research students sought to examine the incidences of TFMV with the basic tenets of Routine Activities Theory in mind. The next section of the study explains the methodology and research design employed by the team.

Methodology & Research Design

After reviewing the literature, a few hypotheses can be made regarding the issue of TFMV in Presque Isle. Crimes related to TFMV are more likely to be reported if items taken are

of significant value, if damage was done to the vehicle in connection to the crime, or if the loss is covered by insurance. It is on the basis of these hypotheses that the research team moved forward with a working model.

After identifying the specific student researchers who would be involved with the TFMV Task Force, three teams of three researchers per team were formed. It was the responsibility of one team to conduct the literature review. Another team was responsible for sorting data provided by the PIPD, designing the survey, getting the survey approved through Institutional Review Board, conducting the field surveys and sorting and reporting the data collected. The last group assisted the data sorting team when needed, but that team was primarily responsible for compiling and composing the final narrative.

To start, the literature review team searched Lexus-Nexus, ProQuest, Google Scholar, and NCJRS using key word searches including “theft from motor vehicles”, “burglary”, “theft from cars”, “larceny”, “drug offenders”, “stealing from cars”, “statistics on theft from motor vehicles” and any combination of these key words. The resources discovered were then gleaned to identify information that was pertinent to the project. Key theories were defined through prior training and through the research.

The literature review helped the team form the working hypotheses, after which a set of research questions was developed. It was decided that the survey instrument should questions that address victims of TFMV as well as a section about those who may be victimized in the future. The section on victims TFMV focused mainly on whether or not the car doors were locked, and if the theft was reported, The original survey instrument included additional questions that could have given the research team more detailed information on specific losses, but there was an inconsistency in the methodology of the survey takers that prevented the team from using all of the data collected. The section for potential future victims included questions designed to determine the factors that would make reporting a TFMV more likely, and to determine if citizens of Presque Isle perceive there exist problems with theft or other nuisances. The survey also measured the confidence level citizens have that the PIPD could satisfactorily resolve issues they become aware of. Several of the responses were measured using Likert scales in which possible responses ranged from “very satisfied”, “satisfied”, “somewhat satisfied” and “not satisfied.” See appendices six and seven for survey details, including coding information.

Once the survey instrument was created the next step was to select the target streets. Based on data provided by the PIPD, five streets were identified as having experienced TFMV over the previous three years. Those streets included Main, State, Dyer, Academy and Barton. Five additional streets were selected at random by researchers to compare to the streets known to have higher than average TFMV. The selection process involved obtaining a large map of the city of Presque Isle from the GIS department on campus. The map was oriented in such a way so that researchers would have no bias as to how they picked the streets to include in the study. Researchers were blindfolded and given a sticky note, which they used to pinpoint streets. If a duplicate street was selected, the researcher was asked to make another selection. The five additional streets chosen were Parsons, Lombard, Elm, Fair and Blake. When conducting the survey, some of the random streets that were chosen did not have enough households to obtain the adequate number of surveys. For this reason, when conducting the survey on Blake Street the researchers included neighboring streets as well. As a result, Charles and Allen streets are included in the survey.

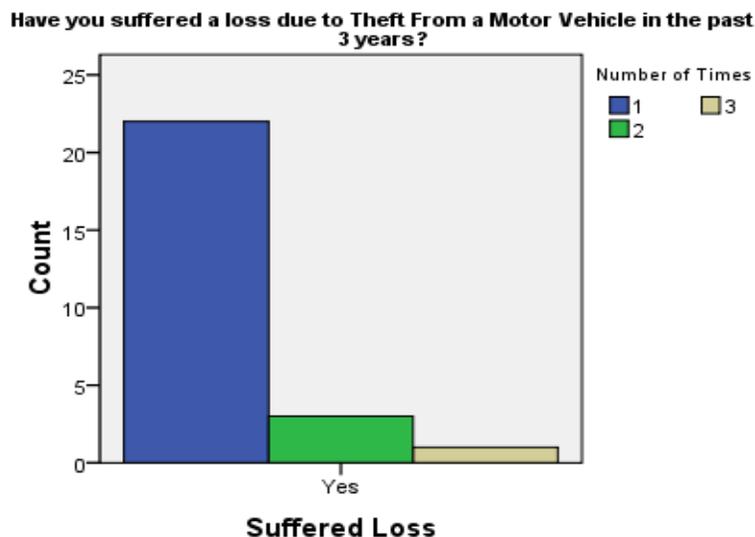
The survey was conducted at different times of the day spanning between 8am to 8pm on weekdays and weekends in order to get a random sampling of people at their homes. Researchers walked door-to-door, reaching 10 participants on each street. If no one answered, the house was skipped. If the person did not want to participate, the survey was marked “declined.”

Researchers also conducted street observations to gain a better understanding of the composition of the streets, and to ascertain an opinion as to the habits of the people who used the streets. Observations made include the makeup of the street, vehicle parking habits, the lighting of the street, the shrubbery, and the presence or absence of side streets. Additionally, researchers walked on either side of parked vehicles in an attempt to determine the habits of people with respect to whether or not they left doors unlocked, keys in vehicles, and/or valuables in view of passersby.

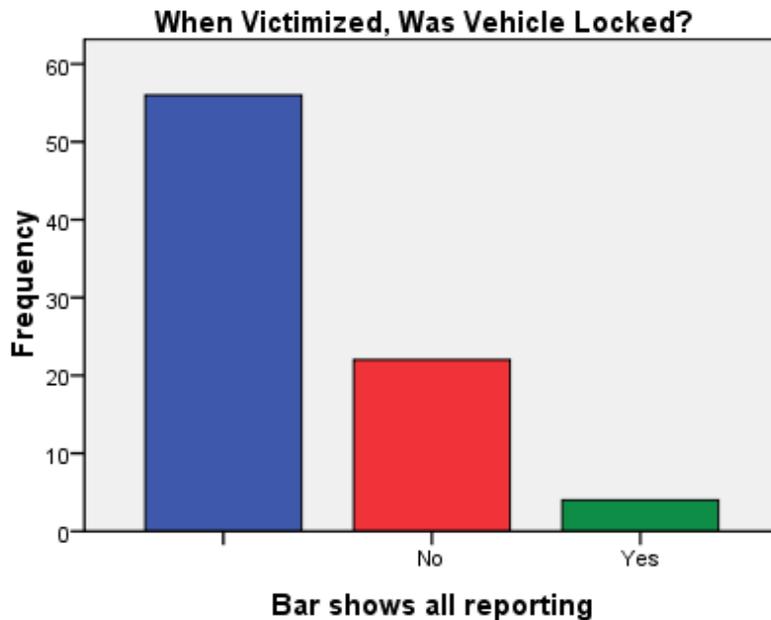
The researchers conducted drive-by observations of the subject streets between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm. Additional observations were conducted between the hours of 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm, to see if differences between daytime and nighttime parking and owner habits could be ascertained.

Findings

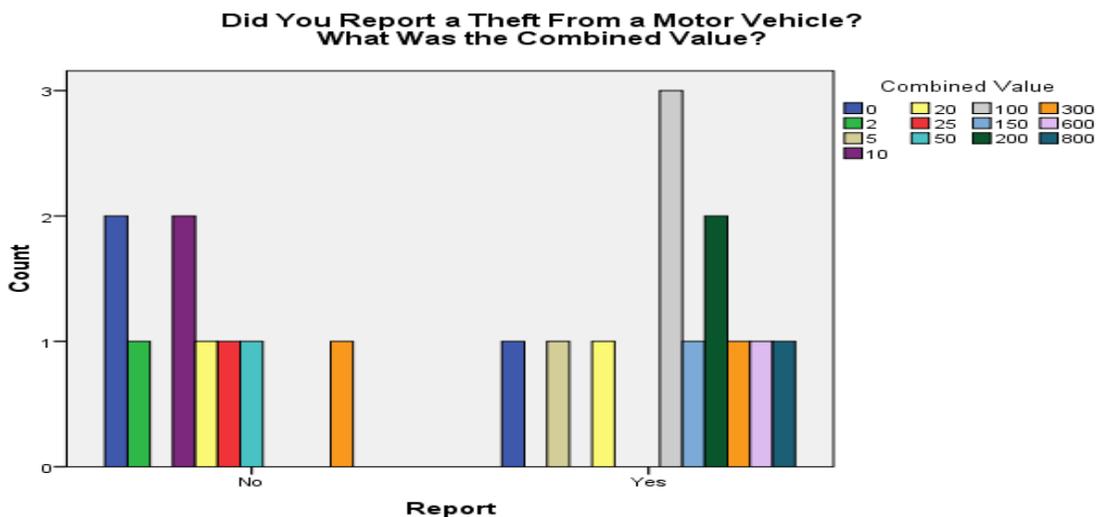
Surveys were conducted over the course of the week of November 14 through November 21, 2011. A total of 77 people were contacted. Eight declined participating in the survey, giving the research team a total of 69 respondents. Of the 69 respondents, 26 (37.6 percent) had been victims of theft from their vehicles at least once. Of those, only two people reported being victimized more than once. Only one person was victimized three times. Of those who were victimized, 61.5 percent reported the crime to the police. The following chart shows the level of victimization by respondents (N=69).



In the following chart, one can see that of the 26 respondents who reported a theft from their motor vehicle, only four reported that their car doors were locked at the time of theft.

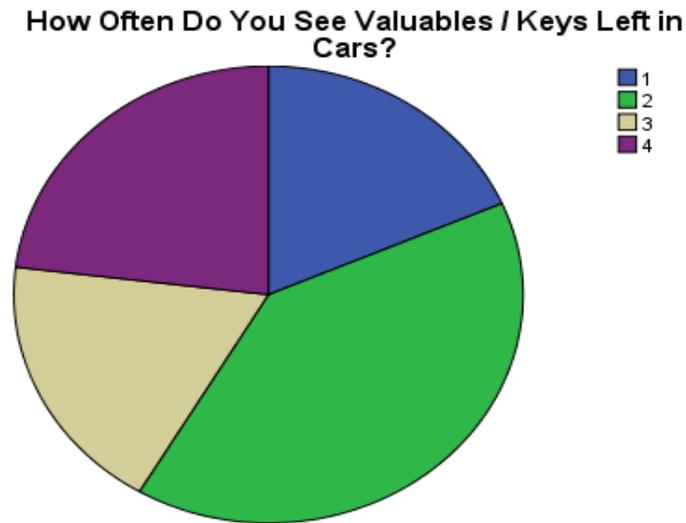


Of the 26 respondents who reported a theft from their motor vehicle, only four reported that their car doors were locked at the time of theft. In an attempt to isolate factors that would determine if a theft from a motor vehicle would be reported, researchers asked respondents about factors that would increase the likelihood of reporting the crime. Of those who were victimized, but did not report the crime, 54.5 percent indicated that the value of the items was too small. “Significant value” was defined as \$100 or greater. Some 94.4 percent of respondents stated that if items of significant value were taken, the likelihood that they would report the crime increased. The following chart shows the relative value of loss suffered by those who did not and those who did report TFMV.



Next, the team asked if damage to a vehicle would increase the chances of the crime being reported, and 94.4 percent agreed that it would. Last, 64.8 percent of the respondents reported that the likelihood of them reporting a theft from a motor vehicle would increase if the item taken was covered by insurance.

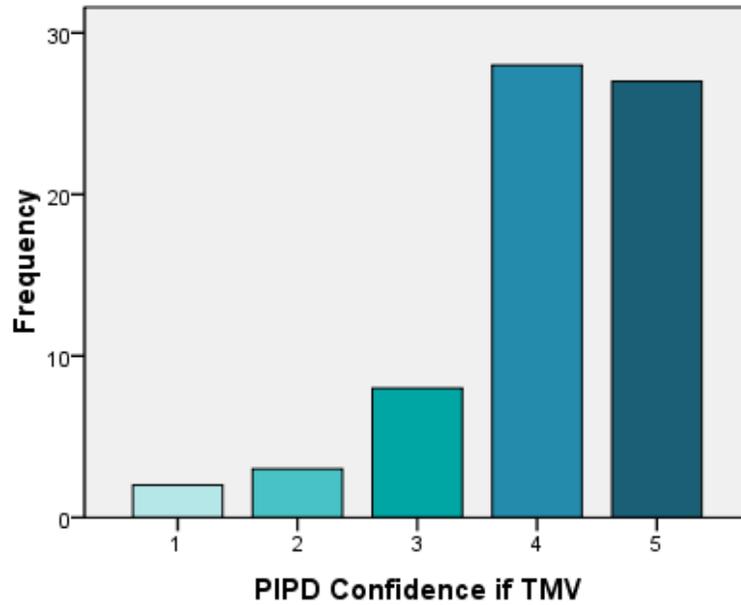
An additional measure was included in the survey to determine the habits of citizens in Presque Isle when it comes to leaving keys and/or valuables in unattended vehicles.



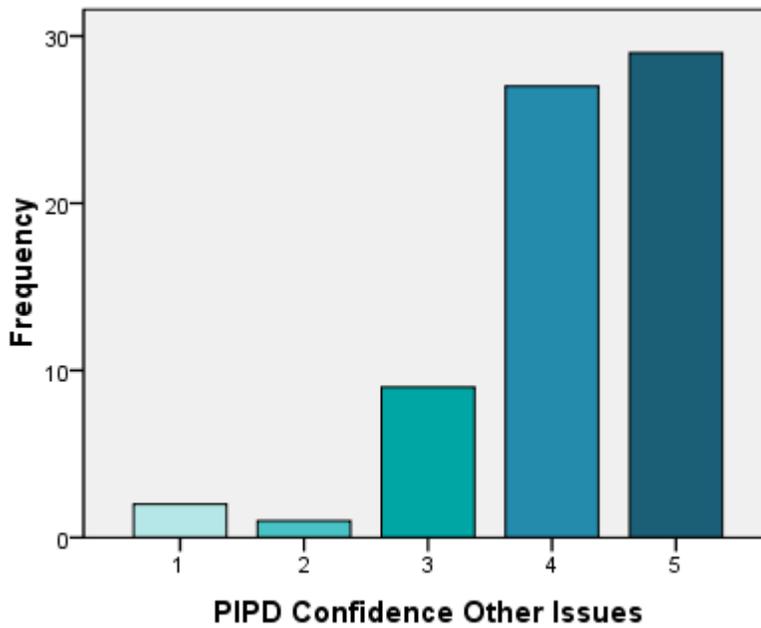
When asked how often people notice valuables or keys in parked cars, 65 people responded with the following answers, as indicated by numbers 1 – 4 in the above chart: 1 = never (12), 2 = not often (26), 3 = often (12), and 4 = very often (15). The data show that 27 out of 65 (41.5%) of the respondents have noticed valuables or keys left unattended in parked cars other than their own.

The survey was designed to determine the general public’s view on TFMV. When asked if there was a problem with TFMV in the Presque Isle area, 53.3 percent of those surveyed felt that there was a problem. Researchers were interested to find out how confident the general public was that the police would resolve issues related to TFMV or any other criminal issue that they might have.

The chart below demonstrates that respondents are highly confident that the PIPD would satisfactorily resolve incidents of TFMV. A Likert scale was coded numerically from one through five. Number one indicated a total lack of confidence; two was “somewhat confident”; three was “neither confident nor not confident”; four was “somewhat confident”; and five was “very confident”. Most respondents clearly indicated that they are somewhat or very confident



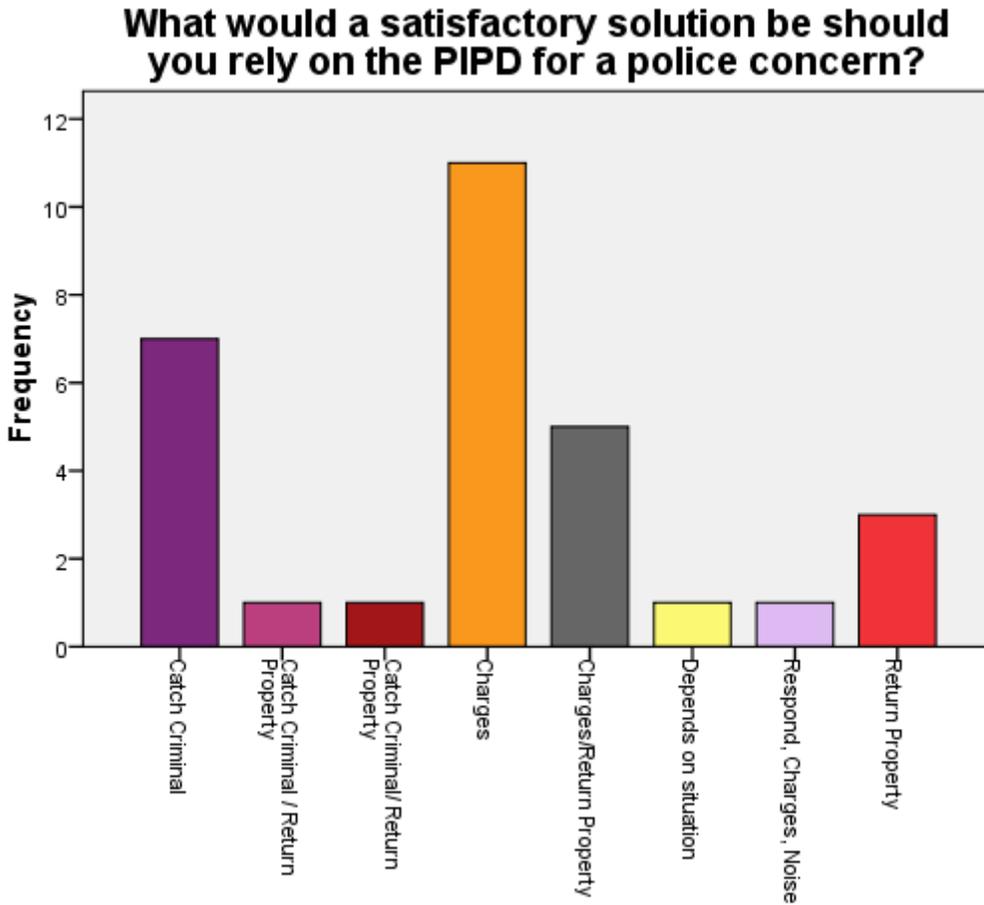
in the PIPD. In addition, the UMPI research team measured the confidence level of citizens that the PIPD would satisfactorily resolve citizen-police issues. The following chart depicts that high response rate.



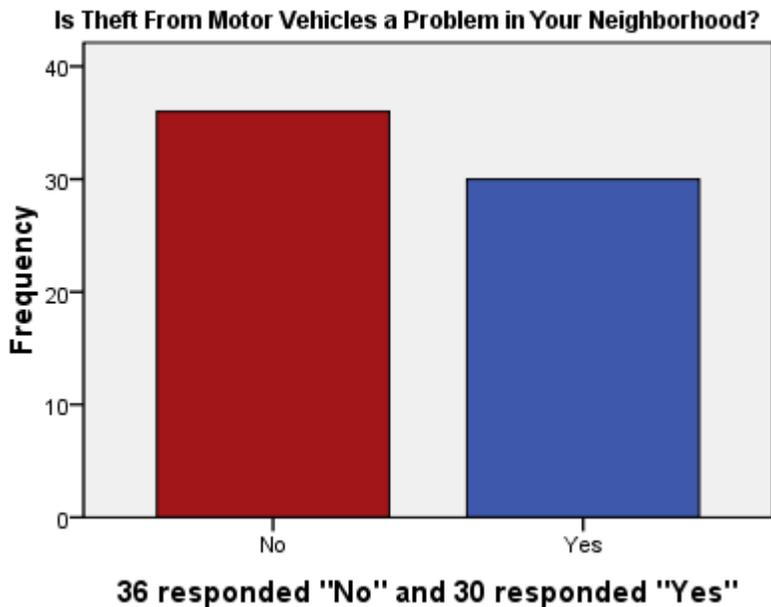
The question of “what police actually do” is pondered. The research team made an attempt to seek data that would address attitudes and opinions in Presque Isle regarding their expectations of the police. The following chart confirms an opt-given response that police are

expected to catch the bad guys and retrieve stolen goods. This confirmation is embedded in the data collected to measure the level of service citizens expect of the PIPD when called.

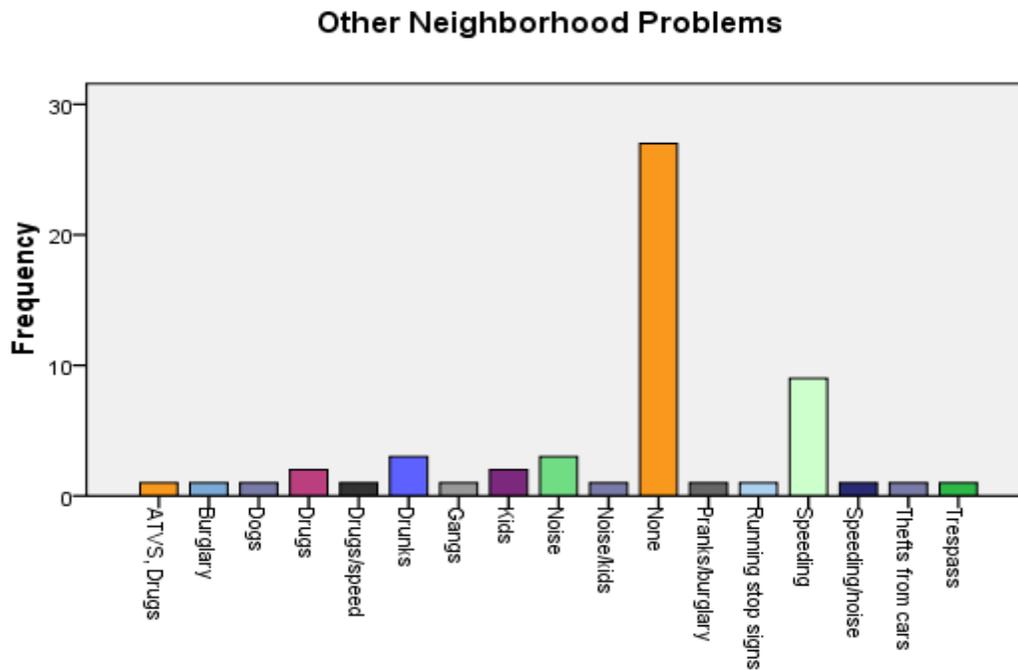
Of the 31 respondents to the question regarding what a satisfactory resolution to a police concern should look like, 17 indicated that they believed that charges should be brought against the offender, nine thought that the role of the police was to catch the offender, 12 regarded getting their property back as a high priority, while one stated that it would depend on the situation. A lone responder would be happy to simply have an officer respond.



The survey was designed to gain information about the opinion citizens have regarding the general notion of TFMV as a concern. The following chart shows that slightly less than half of the respondents feel that TFMV is a problem in their neighborhood.



The survey captured data regarding crime other than TFMV as well. The following chart shows that people are concerned about additional “quality of life” issues. Though the majority of citizens responded that they experience no additional neighborhood problems, others cited speeding, drunks, drug use, and noise as concerns (N=57).



The UMPI researchers collected data through observations on all of the streets that were surveyed, focusing on things such as lighting, the number of cars parked on the side of the road, traffic volume, whether or not the doors of vehicles were locked, and the presence of keys or valuables left in plain view.

The streets with the worst lighting were State, Dyer, and parts of Academy. Main Street had a total of 14 vehicles with unlocked doors during the times of our survey. Main Street had vehicles that were locked, but with valuables in plain sight. Those valuables included three GPS units, four pairs of sunglasses, a wallet with exposed cash and a radio. The five randomly selected streets also possessed many similar vehicle characteristics. Now that the survey data have been addressed, the focus of this report turns to contextual discourse regarding TFMV.

Discussion

Interviews with previously convicted burglars hint that there are three common targets. Those targets involve occupancy, accessibility and the neighborhood type; all prime factors leading a thief to react (Johnson, Summers & Pease, 2009). Theft from a motor vehicle is more likely to occur if there is no one around and easy access to the vehicle is apparent. One instance would be leaving the keys in the car or the doors unlocked. Data has also shown the people who engage in this type of crime do not want to travel a significant distance to commit it. Johnson, et al., point out that the probability is high that those who steal from motor vehicles live in the area where the crime occurred (2009). The lack of sufficient arrest data in the present study hampers the attempts of the research team to draw conclusions as to the validity of the U.S. Route 1 hypothesis.

Leaving valuables visible in a vehicle also increases the risk for TFMV. For example, leaving a laptop in the passenger seat could draw attention to the vehicle. Additionally, would-be thieves hone in on indicator lights on cell phone chargers. "All auto-burglaries generally have one thing in common: something to steal ... something valuable left in the car. ...many auto-burglaries are „crimes of opportunity. and they could have been avoided had simple preventative steps been taken" (Hamilton, 2010, para. 1).

Many victims of crime tend not to report vehicle crime to the police, mostly because of embarrassment. "Reporting crime may be an embarrassing admission of one's own vulnerability of culpability in the crime and may lead to disapproval of one's peers (Tarling & Morris, 2010, p. 475). This has been confirmed by the present research in Presque Isle. Reporting crime is important if the goal of crime prevention is to be achieved. "By not reporting crime, the police will be unaware of the event and have no prospect of apprehending the offender, who is free to victimize others" (Tarling & Morris, 2010, p. 475). The absence of crime data sometimes reflects that the level of crime has dropped, but it can also indicate lack of confidence in the police to be able to resolve a crime issue. This is certainly not the case in Presque Isle, an assertion supported by research data indicating a tremendous level of support of the PIPD in its mission

A conclusion can be drawn that TFMV is a crime that often goes unreported. It can be deduced that the general public is not informed of this increasing trend of TFMV by the examples of behavior shown that leave them vulnerable. As has been shown, the Beverly Police Department educated the public about the issue and saw a decrease in thefts. Simple measures

taken can provide results that prevent the crime as well as deter those who plan to commit the crime. The UMPI research team has a few recommendations that are based on best practices presented in the academic circles.

Recommendations

The Presque Isle Police Department should consider adopting a ticketing policy similar to that of the Beverly Police Department. There needs to be a focus on hotspot policing in the Presque Isle area. Simply stated, that means that problem areas should be identified after which a policy to reduce noted crime is enacted. Finally, there needs to be a focus on educating the public about the connection between their routine activities and the likelihood that they will be targeted with TFMV. As the research data show, the vast majority of thefts occurred to vehicles that were unlocked. Most people feel that the crime will not happen to them until after they are victimized. Public service announcements can serve to educate the public as to the factors leading to TFMV. Voluntary compliance from the public should thereby increase. By implementing a ticket warning system such as that in Beverly, Massachusetts, the Presque Isle Police Department would not only educate the public about locking car doors and hiding valuables, but the message that the PIPD is concerned for the well-being of citizens of Presque Isle would also be conveyed.

In addition, the research team suggests that more extensive research be done on this topic. As indicated in the conclusions section that follows, the present study focused on only ten streets. Additional research should be conducted that incorporates various parking venues, such as shopping centers as well as residential communities.

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, our survey has found that there is a problem with TFMV in the Presque Isle area. There is a cultural issue with people not locking their vehicles when they are parked, which is leading to higher incidents of TFMV than are necessary. According to the observational data, as well as the data provided by the Presque Isle Police Department, the research team is unable to isolate any other factors to determine if they increase or decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim of theft. Even though the survey showed thefts occurred in well-lit areas as well as poorly-lit areas, it is the educated opinion of the researchers that it is best to park in well-lit areas. Methodologies that the police can employ to combat TFMV include focusing on hotspot policing, Routine Activities Theory, and by implementing a ticket warning system.

Though the research team hypothesized that thefts from motor vehicles could result from a largely transient population funneling through Presque Isle via U.S. Route 1 from outside the city, research data indicates that most reported offenses occur in residential areas. This does not mean that shoppers who park in shopping center parking lots are immune from being victimized. The likelihood of such victimization increases as targets of opportunity convene with criminal opportunists. This is especially true during peak shopping periods, such as the Thanksgiving-Christmas season.

This study served the PIPD, the City of Presque Isle, and UMPI to establish a working baseline on which to build future relationships between city and police policymakers and academics. The mission of the National Institute of Justice, under the direction of Dr. John Laub, was thereby promoted by this project. The small sample size indeed limited the ability of the research team to conduct strengths of causal relationships. There exists a strong need for future research on the topic of TFMV, as well as additional police-crime concerns, police-business concerns, and police-citizen concerns.

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WANTED

NOMINATIONS for EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICES

The following criteria apply:

- ✓ More than one person can be nominated for each position
- ✓ You can self-nominate!
- ✓ If nominating someone else, please obtain their agreement to be nominated.
- ✓ *The due date for nominations is Friday, September 30, 2013*

Executive Board members **MUST** be paid members
of ACJS and the Police Section

Positions available (and nominations thus far)...

SECRETARY (term 2014 to 2016)

Nominated at the Police Section Annual Business Meeting in March 2013:

- ☆ Veronyca James of Virginia Union University

EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR POSITION 1 (term 2014 to 2017).

Nominated at the Police Section Annual Business Meeting in March 2013:

- ☆ Penny Shtull – Norwich University
- ☆ Pat Nelson – Minnesota State Mankato and Minneapolis Police Dept.

Nominations should be sent to Charles Johnson, Police Section Chair, at
webcougs@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

Executive Board Members Seated

Election results are in and the following Police Section members have been formally seated in vacant Executive Board positions:

John DeCarlo (John Jay, CUNY) – Vice Chair (March 2013- March 2015)

Michael Buerger (Bowling Green State Univ) – Exec Counselor (March 2013 - March 2015)

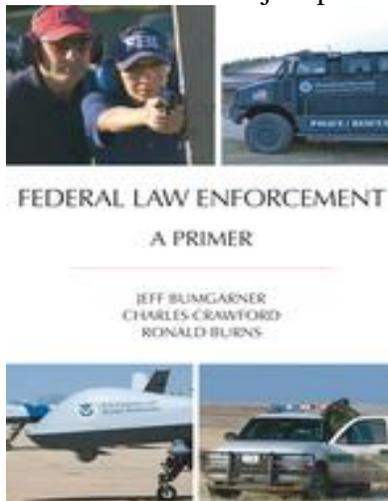
Jeff Smith (Lawrenceville, GA Police Dept) – Exec Counselor (March 2013 – March 2016).

Congrats to these members on their elections. We thank them for their service to the Police Section.

Please note the Call for Nominations which appears elsewhere in this edition of the *Police Forum*. The Police Section secretary position and one executive counselor will be vacated in Feb of 2014. The Police Section is currently receiving nominations for these positions.

New Book on Federal Law Enforcement

Jeff Bumgarner (University of Minnesota, Crookston), Charles Crawford (Western Michigan University), and Ronald Burns (Texas Christian University) have co-authored a book entitled *Federal Law Enforcement: A Primer*. The book was just published by Carolina Academic Press.



The book highlights history, scope, and future of federal law enforcement in the United States and examines 20 specific federal law enforcement agencies. The book also includes a chapter relating to federal law enforcement careers.

DRAFT
Minutes
ACJS Police Section General Business Meeting
Dallas, Texas

March 22, 2012

Meeting called to order at 1705. 16 in attendance.

1. Approval of 2012 General Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion made and seconded. Approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report

Chairwoman Ahmad presented Treasurer's Report. We continue to be the largest ACJS section, with 251 members at the end of November, 2012. Balance at the end of FY 11-12 was \$26,195.73. Ahmad presented the FY 13-14 proposed budget. Projected revenue is \$7400. Proposed expenses are \$5,450, including \$5,000 for the *Police Quarterly*.

3. Annual Meeting Highlights

Chairwoman Ahmad discussed highlights of Police Section activity as the current ACJS meeting, including the roundtable of O.W. Wilson Award recipients and the Police Section reception. The reception was very well attended.

4. *Police Forum*

Editor Jeff Bumgarner discussed the *Police Forum*. Some have asked about whether the *Police Forum* is peer-reviewed; it is not. Generally, there has been a dearth of submissions. He and incoming Chairman Charles Johnson have had informal discussions about what kinds of pieces will be included in the *Police Forum* going forward.

5. *Police Quarterly*

Chairwoman Ahmad gave the editor's report. There were 102 submissions in the past year, which is double the number of submissions prior to becoming an indexed journal. The impact index of the journal is even with *Police Practice & Research*. The journal has a 25% acceptance rate. There will be a special issue coming out in 2013.

6. Police Section Archives Report.

Police Section Historian Lucy Hochstein could not attend the ACJS conference this year. Thus, no report was given.

7. Old Business

Chairwoman Ahmad discussed that the website for the section continues to be housed at the ACJS website. Information about current officers can be found there, as well as links to the current and recent editions of the *Police Forum*. Ahmad also discussed that details of the contract with SAGE for the *Police Quarterly* are still being negotiated. Finally, Ahmad discussed the fact the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) desires to partner with higher

education and that the ACJS Police Section could serve a valuable role in facilitating such partnerships.

8. Awards and Recognition

Randy Gardner was recognized as the section Immediate Past Chairman. Lucy Hochstein received the Police Section Outstanding Service Award for her many years of service as our historian. Finally, David Carter of Michigan State University was named the O.W. Wilson Award recipient for this year.

9. Changing of the Chair

Charles Johnson was introduced as the new chair of the Police Section. He discussed his background and his vision for the section. His goals are to increase membership, including student membership. He also wants to explore the possibility of offering the option of lifetime memberships to section members who have ACJS lifetime memberships.

10. New Business

Nominations were received for posts which will begin in 2014. Nominations from the floor included: Penny Shtull (Norwich University) for executive counselor; Patricia Nelson (Minnesota State University, Mankato) for executive counselor; Jeff Bumgarner (University of Minnesota Crookston) for Secretary; and Veronyca James (Virginia Union University) for Secretary. Jeff Bumgarner withdrew his name from contention.

Other new business included discussion of possible section sponsored events at the next ACJS meeting, which is in Philadelphia. Charles Ramsey of PERF was mentioned as a possible speaker. Other possibilities mentioned included a tour by the National Park Service and a panel focusing on federal law enforcement.

Ken Peak announced that he is looking for any material other members may have on old police science programs. He is giving a keynote address at the Western Criminal Justice Association annual meeting about the history of police education.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Bumgarner, Secretary

Call for Papers, Authors, Applicants?

If you are working on a project and need authors for book chapters or encyclopedia entries, let us know. We'll include that call in the *Police Forum* for free.

Or, if you are hosting a conference or seminar and need participants, let us know that too. We'll be happy to help spread the word. For free.

Or, if you have a job opportunity—particularly of interest to those teaching or researching in areas related to policing—we'd love to help you announce that position...and yes, we'll do it **for free!**

Send any announcements that you would like to have included in the next issue of the *Police Forum* to Jeff Bumgarner at...

bumg0004@umn.edu.

ARE YOU AN ACJS LIFETIME MEMBER?

Please remember that you still must pay the Police Section dues annually to remain a member of the Police Section. Membership is \$37 per year and includes a subscription to *Police Quarterly*. Payment of dues is made to ACJS. Thanks!!!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS POLICE SECTION AWARDS

The Police Section of the ACJS confers two awards annually at its general business meeting during the ACJS Annual Meeting and Conference in February 2014. All Police Section members are encouraged to nominate individuals for the following awards.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Awarded to people who are deemed deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contribution to the Police Section. The Police Section Outstanding Service Award was established as an annual award to honor the person who has provided the significant service to the Police Section.

O. W. WILSON AWARD

Given to recognize outstanding contributions to police education, research, and practice. The nominee should be a practitioner, policy maker, researcher, or educator who, over a number of years, has exemplified and supported the following ideals:

1. Quality higher education for the police field.
2. Careful and scientific police research.
3. Cooperation and collaboration among police educators, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners.
4. Effective, equitable, and accountable policing.

The nominee is not required to be a member of the Police Section.

AWARD PROCEDURES

1. Nominations for each award must be submitted to Charles Johnson, Police Section Chair, by **Friday, November 1, 2013**.
2. Nominations must be submitted by a Police Section member.
3. Submission of supporting materials with nominations is encouraged but not required.
4. The nomination should include the following information:
 - a. a brief summary of the nominee's contributions in accordance with the award criteria;
 - b. an explanation of the significance of these contributions;
 - c. a current vitae or resume of the nominee.

Email nominations and supporting materials to Charles Johnson, Chair Police Section, at webecougs@gmail.com.

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2013

OPEN LETTER TO POLICE SECTION MEMBERS

RE: INVITATION TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (IACP)

March 19, 2013

Dear Academic Colleague:

The IACP is the oldest and largest law enforcement leadership organization in the world. Under our banner of ‘Serving the Leaders of Today, Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow’ we seek to create dynamic and innovative leadership in federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement across the country.

One way we are achieving this goal is through a strong partnership between law enforcement and academic researchers in U.S. colleges and universities. Our *Research Advisory Committee* (RAC) serves as a model of academic/practitioner partnerships, with equal representation of both disciplines among the 30 appointed members.

As the Co-Chairs of the RAC, we write to invite you to become a member of the IACP. We strongly believe that joining IACP can be of great assistance to you as you achieve your academic mission. Here are just a few examples of the products and services IACP can provide:

Cutting edge, evidenced-based, policing and justice system policy publications to enhance you and your students’ awareness of emerging issues and the police leadership role

Our monthly *Police Chief Magazine* that highlights innovative police practices and ground-breaking police/academic research results

Opportunities within our Student Internship Program, offering 12-week internships to both undergraduate and graduate students in the justice and/or law enforcement field

Advice and support to you, those that teach in your department and your students as they design and carry out thesis or dissertation-level research in justice and law enforcement

Direct linkage to over 22,000 federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement leaders (IACP members) to help you in your work, and to help you guide students considering careers in law enforcement

Membership in the IACP is only \$125.00 per year and it entitles you to a broad spectrum of information and services well beyond the few examples listed here. If you would like to become a member, we'd be pleased to be sponsors for your application. A copy of that application is attached here with our IACP membership numbers already included. And if before joining you have questions, please contact John Firman, IACP's Director of Research and the staff liaison to our committee.

We hope you'll join us as we work to build a stronger bridge between the academic and practitioner communities that we know will benefit both groups equally and in the end ensure increased public and officer safety to American citizens.

Sincerely,

Ed Davis
Commissioner
Boston Police Department

Laurie Robinson
Professor
George Mason University

Editor's Note: Please contact Laurie Robinson via email at laurieorobinson@gmail.com if you would like join. She will provide you with a sponsor number, which will be needed for the application.

THE POLICE SECTION CONGRATULATES

DAVID CARTER
RECIPIENT OF THE
2013 O.W. WILSON AWARD

AND

LUCY HOCHSTEIN
RECIPIENT OF THE
2013 POLICE SECTION
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Submission Guidelines for the *Police Forum*

Format Criteria

The format criteria for all submissions are as follows: reasonable length (less than 30 pages), double-spaced, and in a font similar to 12 pt Times New Roman. All submissions should be in Word format. All charts, graphs, pictures, etc. must be one page or smaller and contained within standard margins. Please attach these at the end of the submission as appendices. Due to formatting limitations all appendices must be in a Word, Excel or similar format - PDF's cannot be used.

Feature Articles

Feature Articles can be quantitative or qualitative. Tables, figures and charts should be kept to a minimum and should be inserted at the end of the document with an appropriate reference to placement location within the text. The page limits are flexible, however the editors reserve the right to edit excessively long manuscripts.

Practitioners Corner

Articles written from the perspective of persons currently or formerly working in the field, expressing personal observations or experiences concerning a particular area or issue. Page limits are flexible, however long articles may be edited for length.

Academic Pontification

Articles for this area should focus on making an argument, presenting a line of thought, or formulating a new conceptual idea in policing.

Point/Counterpoint

Authors are encouraged to work with another person to develop a point/counterpoint piece. The initial argument should be between 2 and 5 pages. The initial argument should contain roughly 3 to 5 main points. Following exchange of

Submission Guidelines – cont.

articles between debating authors, a 1 to 3-page rejoinder/ rebuttal will be submitted.

Research Notes

Research notes should describe a work in progress, a thumbnail outline of a research project, a conceptual methodological piece, or any other article relating to research methods or research findings in policing.

Reviews

Book reviews on any work relating to policing. Reviews of Internet sites or subjects concerning policing on the Internet are also welcome.

Policing in the News

News items of interest to the police section are welcomed in any form.

Legal News in Policing

Reviews of court cases, legal issues, lawsuits, and legal liability in policing are welcomed submissions.

Letters to the Editor

Questions, comments or suggestions pertaining to a given Criminal Justice topic, article or research.

This Date in History

Submissions on prior hot topics, research or research methods in Criminal Justice from the past.

Submission Guidelines – cont.

Good News

Submissions relating to professional and personal good news for our members - promotions, new jobs, marriages, etc.

How to Submit

Submissions may be made electronically by sending copy in a Word format to bumg0004@umn.edu or by sending a copy on CD or memory stick to Dr. Jeff Bumgarner, Editor, Police Forum, 2900 University Avenue, Selvig Hall 217, Crookston, MN 56716. CDs or sticks can be returned if requested.

Disclaimer

The editor(s) of this publication reserve the right to edit any submissions for length, clarity or other issues.



www.ipes.info

IPES Institutional Supporters

The International Police Executive Symposium, IPES, www.ipes.info, is a registered not-for-profit educational corporation for the encouragement of police educational endeavors and providing professional service to the police of the world. **It is in special consultative status with the United Nations.** It relies on the assistance of institutional supporters to carry out its mission.

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- Free copies of IPES publications which include official brochures and executive summaries of annual meetings
- Participation in United Nations Meetings as IPES representatives
- Publication of the names of all Institutional Supporters in every issue of the Journal, in all IPES books and IPES website

For all inquiries about Institutional Supporter issues, please contact: ipesinfo@yahoo.com and/or pprmeditor@gmail.com. Institutional Supporters may also contact IPES President, Dr. Dilip Das, at dilipkd@aol.com

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

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