

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2022

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MAYOR HORNİK ANNOUNCES ‘TAKE THE PLEDGE’ SAFETY INITIATIVE

Community/Police Partnership to Keep Homes and Vehicles Safe

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (May 31, 2022) – Mayor Jonathan Hornik and Chief Peter J. Pezzullo ask residents to go on-line and ‘Take the Pledge’ agreeing to take basic steps to keep home and vehicles safe and to communicate with the Police at the first sign of suspicious activity. In return, a Marlboro Police Officer will deliver a ‘We Took the Pledge’ lawn sign to the resident’s home.

In 2018, in response to a number of school shootings throughout the United States, Mayor Hornik launched the ‘See Something. Say Something. [®] We will Do Something’ campaign. The program successfully increased engagement between members of our community and our police and offered our Public Safety Officials a window into our schools that has allowed them to more effectively keep students and staff safe. This program was recently broadened to include vehicle and home safety.

Mayor Jon Hornik said, “This past March, in response to an increase in vehicle thefts, I expanded the ‘See Something. Say Something. [®] We will Do Something’ program to include home and vehicle safety.” He continued, “By asking our residents to take basic steps such as locking your car door, removing the key fob, ensuring your home is secure and, most importantly, immediately reporting suspicious activity to the Police, we have made a difference. Posted lawn signs at the end of a driveway reminds neighbors to take precautions and sends a message to potential thieves to ‘Get out of Marlboro!’”

Earlier this year, Mayor Hornik reached out to Governor Murphy with concerns about the alarming uptick in vehicle thefts in Marlboro and other suburban communities. In response, Governor Murphy held a press conference in Marlboro Town Hall on April 29, 2022 to announce a \$10 million investment in automated license plate recognition. Further, Acting Attorney General Platkin announced the reversal of a recent non-pursuit policy and will now allow police officers to pursue auto thieves.

Chief Peter Pezzullo stated, “The investment in technologies and the ability to pursue when necessary, in addition to public awareness is making a difference. Thefts have decreased since we expanded the program and when residents contact our police dispatch center immediately upon seeing something out of place or suspicious we are able to

respond quickly.” He continued, “This community partnership has resulted in twelve (12) arrests since the rollout in March. My police officers have done an outstanding job and I commend every one of them for their vigilance and service.”

Mayor Hornik said, “Virtually every vehicle stolen has been left unlocked with the key fob inside. Even more concerning is that an unlocked car give thieves access to your home via the garage door opener.” He continued, “Public awareness began with social media posts, emails and nightly police SWIFT 911 texts reminding residents lock their cars and take the fobs. Asking residents to take the safety pledge and display a lawn sign is the next step in public awareness.”

The on-line pledge asks residents to agree to hide valuables left in vehicles, lock the car and remove the key fob, not to leave a car running unattended, secure residence (set alarm, lock doors, and close garage doors), and to report suspicious activity to police immediately.

Mayor Hornik announced the initiative at a recent Township Council meeting. A video has been posted on Township official social media page and an email sent to those registered. A link to the ‘Pledge Portal’ is on the ‘Quick Links & Actions’ section of the website homepage at www.marlboro-nj.gov

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