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**From:** Ian Abston <[ian.mke@gmail.com](mailto:ian.mke@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 9:11:06 AM  
**To:** Bauman, Robert <[rjbauma@milwaukee.gov](mailto:rjbauma@milwaukee.gov)>  
**Subject:** Stolen Vehicle 3rd Ward Recap

Good morning Alderman Baumann,

Thank you kindly for the quick follow up with MPD last week regarding the stolen vehicle. After our discussion, and you connecting me directly with the Captain, the MPD response was impressive and prompt. Thank you.

I want to acknowledge the incredible work the MPD does each day in Milwaukee. We all want Milwaukee to be a safer city to raise our families. I also acknowledge that far more serious crimes happen every day than car theft, as the time I was in the police station at 50th and North a woman came in shaking, having just witnessed a shooting. I want to be thoughtful of the effort these brave officers put in every day. I have the privilege of living in this urban environment and understand that city life can also have setbacks along with all the incredible benefits.

**I'm sharing the below time line not as a complaint, but hopefully a fresh perspective as a citizen in hopes of a change in policy For vehicle theft in the future.**

June 27th - my car was broken into between 7 and 8 AM in the third ward.

I checked my phone app and saw my laptop and earbuds were located at 30th and Wisconsin. I called the police to report the stolen car and give them the whereabouts in hopes of retrieving the car and backpack. I talked to three separate operators and I was in disbelief as each told me that I'm unable to call in a missing vehicle. I have to find my own ride to a police station to report this.

Having just had my car stolen I had instinctively put a pause on all of my credit cards and didn't realize this would make it untenable to get a rideshare from Lyft. I called several friends looking for a ride and in 30 minutes Kyle Weatherly picked me up from the third ward.

During this time, I continued to track my vehicle and backpack as I had the exact coordinates of each. I also called Marquette police and the area. My vehicle was sitting was just outside of their jurisdiction so they could be of no help.

We drove to the apartment complex where my laptop is located on my phone, hoping to retrieve the backpack. The car was missing, but I saw several items from my car scattered in the parking lot. I was also able to track down the exact location of my backpack and laptop to two vehicles. Both cars were locked, and I took photos of the vehicles and license plates.

I called the police again to see if reporting stolen items with known whereabouts would lead to different action but unfortunately it was not.

I realize trying to track down our items is dangerous and frowned upon, however when there's nobody available to help a citizen we stupidly take it on ourselves to retrieve our belongings.

Around 9 AM, we arrived at 50th and North to report the vehicle missing and a very nice officer wrote down my information after asking me several questions. I don't recall signing any paperwork nor could I show any ID in person as these were all stolen so at this point, I'm still confused on the need for an in person Claim.

The officer wrote down my information on pen and paper and asked me to take a seat while he processed.

He then started to type the handwritten information into a computer slowly while pecking one key at a time. I'm assuming this is because the officer is well trained at protecting the community and not well skilled at administrative paperwork. About 10 minutes later, he called me back up to the glass to repeat my license plate, he must not have been able to decipher his handwriting or misheard me from what he wrote down by hand to what got entered into the system.

I was asked to repeat a couple of other items, but nothing out of the ordinary.

After 20 minutes, he handed me some handwritten paperwork and let me know that a police officer would be assigned to my case.

Although I had an exact location on my backpack and cars, still there seem to be no availability or additional officers to inspect in a timely matter. At no point do I believe security cameras were looked at to view perpetrators, nor was this suggested to me as a follow up item for third Ward businesses. I did call several with no response. Also, Jim Playstead of the Bid was helpful in getting me information to possibly find footage. But this was an independent act, and not one by MPD.

The next morning at 3 AM I received a call from the police officer that my car had been found. ( Impressive! Thank you MPD )

Early this week, after reaching out to your office and connecting with leadership at MPD directly, a squad was sent to the last location that my backpack pinged the satellite. No surprise, but the backpack was no longer in this location. However, the interaction with the MPD was swift and kind.

My apologies if this is too much detail, but I wanted to share all aspects of my experience because some was very positive.

I think the opportunity exists, considering the technology readily available at our fingertips to enhance this protocol.

Why does the protocol exist that a citizen must get to a police station to report a missing vehicle, in person, after their vehicle has just been stolen? Not only do you waste valuable time as most people are able to track their belongings until the thief is able to

extract Them. There's probably a small hour to two hour window at best where the technology on my phone could provide police valuable information to stopping not only this crime but future crimes that these same criminals would commit.

I spent a total of 45 minutes with one officer reporting information in person and 65 minutes, trying to get to that officer to report the crime. The officer wrote down my information incorrectly and had to write it down multiple times to transition it from a pen and paper to the computer. This seems like a process that could be easily sidestepped saving yourself valuable time if I would have been sent a link to enter in all of my information. This way I know all info will be correct and we save precious time in retrieving items, while also removing an officer from administrative duty and allowing them to serve the community.

**Solution:**

Integrate technology via a quick survey that can be texted or emailed to the citizen to quickly fill out this info. This is free tech via a google survey or dozens of other free data collection services offered. OR allow the 911 operators to enter their info while on the call.

Next, we can share our "FIND MY" info with MPD directly so they can have access to real time location of the stolen items.

Thanks kindly for your time.

Best,

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