



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
www.lancasterpolice.com

Author: Auto Theft Unit

Contact Number:

Date: 31 Oct. 2009

Vehicle Theft Arrest

At approximately 2220hrs. on 31 October 2009 Officer David Williams and Officer Jessica Higgins spotted one the cars that the suspect was believed to have taken. This was a white Pontiac Grand Am. He had previously taken this same vehicle and retained the ignition keys in order to steal it again once it was returned to the vehicle owner. The below suspect was taken into custody in the 1st blk Green St. without incident. The suspect was interviewed by Detectives from the Lancaster Auto Theft Unit and admitted to three vehicle thefts from the Northwest area. All of these thefts were taken because he located the vehicle keys in the car. The second listed suspect was a passenger in the white Grand Prix and was also charged.

Suspect: Alexander Luis MACHADO; Hsp/M/18

429 Manor St.,
Lancaster, PA. 17603

Charged by Det Heather Halstead with four counts of Theft by Unlawful Taking, F-3

Hsp/F/17
400 blk. Manor St.,
Lancaster, PA. 17603

Charged by Det Halstead with Receiving Stolen Property; F-3

Despite these arrests residents are reminded that in order to prevent the theft of their vehicle they should:

1. Always lock your vehicle no matter how short a period of time you will be away from the vehicle.
2. Never leave keys for your vehicle in the vehicle, even using "hidden" locations. The suspects are well aware of these hidden boxes and check those areas for keys.
3. Never leave your vehicle running unattended, even with the doors locked. Suspects can, and have, broken windows to gain entry.
4. Never leave valuables, electronics, purses, or wallets in plain view within your vehicle. Often the suspects target the vehicle solely for those items and happen across a key for the vehicle.
5. Remove all "valet keys" or other spare keys from the glove box that were included with your vehicle.



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Anyone with information on people responsible for the theft of vehicles or Theft from Vehicles is encouraged to call the Lancaster City Police Auto Theft Unit. Callers may remain anonymous 717 735-3300.

(end of release)