



**Parking Operations**  
City of Lafayette, Indiana  
20 N. 6th Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901

## **Vehicle Safety Tips**

*Thefts from a motor vehicle* are one of the most preventable crimes that many Police Departments investigate on a regular basis. You can take steps to help ensure that you will not become a victim of a vehicle break-in. We want your parking experience to be as pleasant and carefree as we can possibly make it. No one wants to return to their vehicle, only to find that someone has entered it, and stolen their personal possessions.

“Car Hopping” occurs when suspects move from car-to-car, looking for those autos that are unlocked. In those instances where there is nothing visible inside the car, the perpetrator will quickly enter a vehicle and look inside the vehicle’s glove-box or console for something to steal, and then move on. We very rarely find an instance where vehicle entry is forced during “car hopping” events. **Therefore, we suggest that you keep your vehicle locked at all times.**

“Forced Entry” into an automobile generally occurs when a visible item is left inside of a locked vehicle. This might include a backpack, briefcase, purse, or package of some kind. The item(s) is perceived by a criminal as having a much higher potential for gain or profit. It is then that a criminal may take the risk, and forcefully enter a vehicle by breaking a window for example. **Therefore, we suggest that you NOT leave items of perceived value inside an automobile where anyone can see it.**

Here are some additional suggestions:

- Look for parking in areas that are well lit, and visible to others nearby.
- Check your surroundings before exiting your automobile.
- Have serial numbers of property recorded to help with their identification.
- Ensure larger items are placed in the trunk prior to parking your car.
- Do not leave your keys inside the vehicle.

We hope that your parking experience is a satisfying one.

**For more information please contact:**

Parking Operations at [parking@lafayette.in.gov](mailto:parking@lafayette.in.gov) or (765) 807-1160