**Neighborhood Watch Incident Report**

April 25, 2025

The Neighborhood Watch Committee would like to inform you about a recent incident that occurred in our neighborhood, with the goal of raising awareness and encouraging increased vigilance.

On the evening of April 23, 2025, or the early hours of April 24, two vehicles were broken into on Buckeye Street. Both cars were locked, and the perpetrators forcibly gained entry by shattering the windows.

The first vehicle targeted was a RAM TRX truck. The suspects attempted to start the vehicle using an On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) device, a known method for exploiting certain engine types. Fortunately, the owner had installed a kill switch, which prevented the truck from starting.

After being unsuccessful with the RAM TRX, the suspects proceeded to a second vehicle just a few car lengths away, a Jeep Trackhawk. Unfortunately, this vehicle did not have a kill switch installed and was successfully stolen.

According to a patrol officer who monitored video taken by the victim's security camera, the suspects are believed to be two Black males who may have been driving a Kia. The officer noted that many vehicle theft rings currently use Kia vehicles in the commission of these crimes.

The patrol officer also shared a significant trend: criminals are specifically targeting vehicles equipped with Mopar engines. Mopar engines are commonly found in brands such as RAM, Dodge, Jeep, Chrysler, Fiat, and Alfa Romeo. These engines are vulnerable to theft due to the ease with which an OBD device can be used to start them.

Most of these vehicle thefts are occurring citywide between 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM. Home burglaries are still most common during evening dinner hours.

Recommendations for Eastbluff Residents:

* If you own a vehicle with a Mopar engine, consider installing a professionally installed kill switch.
* Always park in well-lit areas or inside a garage if possible.
* Avoid leaving valuables in your car.
* Be alert for suspicious vehicles, especially those circling the neighborhood in the early morning hours.
* Have at least one security camera pointed towards your vehicles.
* If you see suspicious activity, report it immediately to the Newport Beach Police Department Non-Emergency Number 949-644-3717

Let's continue to look out for each other and keep Eastbluff a safe and secure community by calling the NBPD on any suspicious activity; I cannot stress this enough. If you have security footage from last night that might be helpful, please share it with local authorities.

Bill Calhoun

Neighborhood Watch Committee