Dear Friends:

Since 1909, the deputies of Palm Beach County have provided a safe environment for thousands of people who live, work and visit Palm Beach County. The Sheriff’s Office is committed to improving awareness, and sharing the fundamentals of crime prevention in order to ensure our community is safe and secure.

The goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. In order to accomplish this effectively, it is important to remove opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you and your property. You are attempting to prevent either victimization or criminalization by presenting an unattractive target to the criminal. This can be as complex as installing a high tech alarm system and lighting to something as simple as locking your doors.

Crime prevention is using instinct, common sense, and taking action to eliminate or greatly reduce the criminal’s opportunity. We all have a personal part to play regarding crime prevention. A large share of the responsibility of reducing criminal opportunity lies with you.

Thank you for working with us to make Palm Beach County a safer place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Ric Bradshaw, Sheriff
Palm Beach County
“Operation C.A.T.” is a volunteer decal program which is intended to combat vehicle theft. The goals of “Operation C.A.T.” are to deter auto theft and to make identification of a stolen vehicle timelier.

By enrolling in the program the registered owner signs a waiver which states that the vehicle is not normally operated between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., and that law enforcement has the owner’s permission to STOP THE VEHICLE between those hours and treat it and the occupants as if the vehicle was stolen. At such time, if the vehicle is determined not to be stolen, it and the occupants may proceed on their way.

The indicator that a vehicle is a member of C.A.T. is a decal affixed to the inside of the rear window (driver’s side), which is clearly visible. The decal is bright yellow and includes a C.A.T. insignia and a registration number.

**What is...**

**C.A.T.**

**How do I register?**
Residents of unincorporated Palm Beach County can register their vehicles by contacting the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit at 561-688-3805. Individual persons requesting to be registered will be given an appointment at one of the Sheriff’s Office sub-stations, or communities can schedule an event.

**What do I do if I am stopped?**
If you lend your vehicle to someone, be sure to tell him or her that you are a member of the C.A.T. Program.
1. Remain calm
2. Turn on interior lights (law enforcement officer can then see you clearly)
3. Place both hands on the steering wheel unless directed otherwise by the law enforcement officer
4. Listen for and follow any instructions given by the law enforcement officer over the officer’s vehicle public address system
5. Tell the law enforcement officer if you have an emergency
6. Present all information requested by the law enforcement officer (driver’s license, registration, etc.)
7. Remember, you volunteered for this program, a stop says it works

**What if I sell my car?**
If you sell/transfer your vehicle, or change your address or telephone number, you must immediately notify the Sheriff’s Office in writing, email or by phone.

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office
Community Services
Crime Prevention Unit
3228 Gun Club Rd
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406
561-688-3805

The vehicle owner must also fully remove the Operation C.A.T. decal from the vehicle.

DECAL# _____________
DATE REGISTERED ____________

**Don’t make it easy for professional thieves or joyriders to take your vehicle!**
- Lock it and pocket the key when you leave for a minute or several hours
- Control your keys. Never leave your keys unattended
- Secure valuables in your truck
- Park in well-lighted and busy areas
- When buying a car, ask about anti-theft devices
- Keep your vehicle information and description in a safe place at home