



**Motor Vehicle Theft
and Insurance Fraud
Prevention Board**

2019 Annual Report

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
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www.criminaljustice.ny.gov

**New York State
Motor Vehicle and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board
2019 Annual Report**

This report is submitted by the Board as required by Section 846-1(3)(h) of the New York State Executive Law. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services provides staff support to the Board.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
State of New York

Michael C. Green
Executive Deputy Commissioner
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

**New York State Motor Vehicle
Theft and Insurance Fraud
Prevention
Board Members (2019)**

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Executive Deputy Commissioner
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Regional Director—Northeast Region
National Insurance Crime Bureau

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Progressive Insurance

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New York State Department of Motor
Vehicles

Joseph Kenny
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New York Police Department

James Potts
New York Central Mutual Fire Insurance
Company

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*Deputy Director of State Supported
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Program Manager

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MVTIFP Program Representative

Table of Contents

I. Introduction	1
A. Motor Vehicle Theft.....	1
B. Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud	2
II. Program Goals	3
III. Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board	3
A. Board Activity	4
B. Programs Funded by The Board for Calendar Year 2020	5
IV. 2019 Grant Program Descriptions	6
V. Appendix—2019 Statistics	30

I. Introduction

Motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud have a substantial impact on insurance rates in New York State and across the country. These crimes are highly sophisticated and cost law-abiding motor vehicle owners and insurance policy holders hundreds of millions of dollars in increased business expenses and significantly higher annual insurance rates.

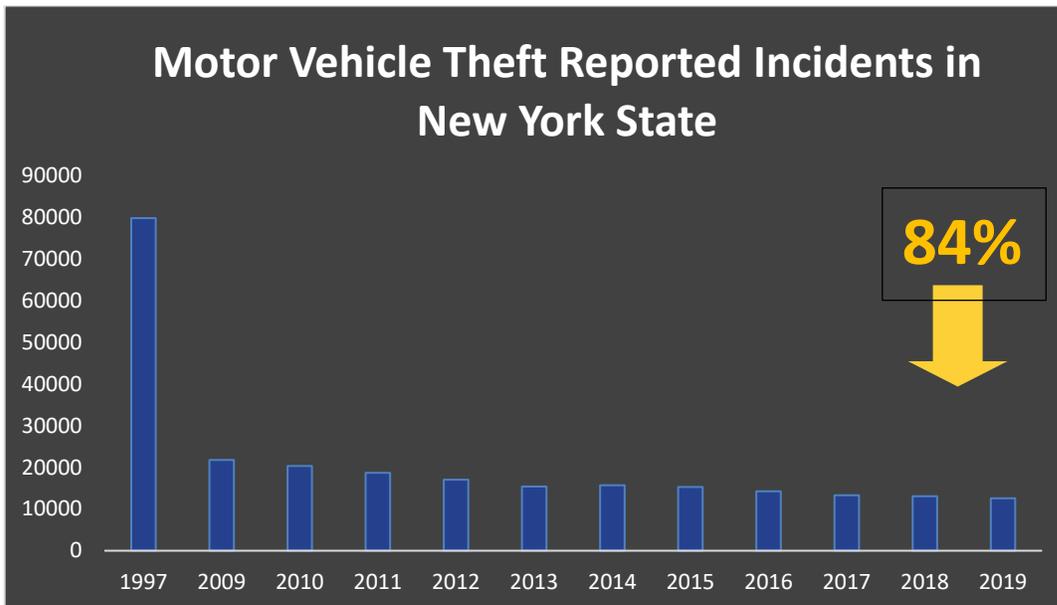
The *New York Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Demonstration Program* (MVTIFP) was created in 1994 by state Executive Law Article 36-A and was designed to reduce the overall cost of motor vehicle insurance in the state by targeting theft and fraud. A 12-member *Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board* – including representatives of law enforcement, consumers of motor vehicle insurance, insurance carriers, and relevant state agency representatives, selected by the Governor and the Legislature – is responsible for overseeing the program. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides staff support to the Board and the program’s participating agencies.

This 2019 annual report summarizes the activities of the Board and the program, during the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, and is published as required under Executive Law §846-1(3)(h).

The program is funded by a statutorily required fee assessed on each motor vehicle insurance policy issued in New York State. The 2018-2019 state budget appropriated \$3.7 million for the program, which was used to support grants to law enforcement agencies and other entities to combat theft and fraud during the calendar year 2019.

A. Motor Vehicle Theft

Great strides have been made in reducing motor vehicle theft in New York. From 1997 through 2018, reported thefts were down 84 percent. In 2019, there were 12,573 motor vehicles reported stolen in New York State, representing a slight decrease from the 13,075 reported stolen in 2018.



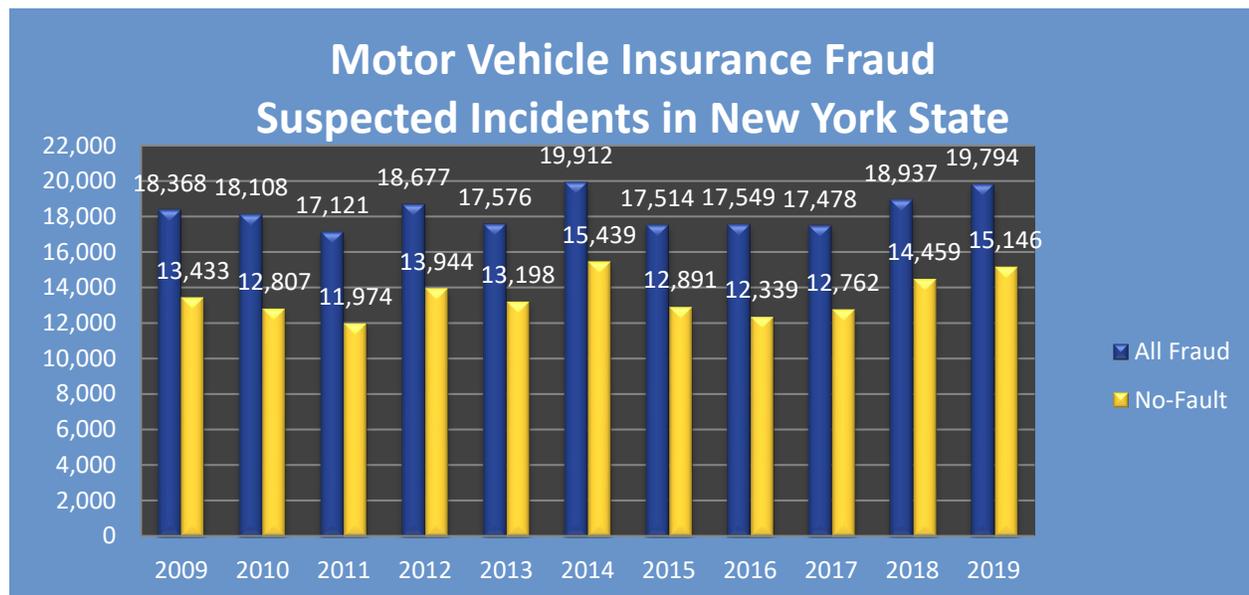
While much of the motor vehicle theft continues to occur in the New York City region, six non-New York City counties – Erie, Monroe, Nassau, Onondaga, Suffolk and Westchester – also rank among the top 10 counties for reported motor vehicle thefts. Six of the top 10 counties experienced decreases in incidents of motor vehicle theft from 2018 to 2019, while four experienced increases.

Motor Vehicle Theft 2018 vs. 2019 Top Ten Counties			
County	2018	2019	% Change
Kings	1,720	1,833	6.6
Queens	1,575	1,561	(0.8)
Bronx	1,312	1,267	(3.4)
Erie	1,172	1,029	(12.2)
Monroe	907	928	2.3
Suffolk	963	835	(13.3)
Onondaga	711	782	10.0
New York	742	682	(8.1)
Nassau	671	639	(4.8)
Westchester	457	460	0.6

B. Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud

New York State drivers are statutorily required to have automobile insurance that includes coverage for the following:

- **No-Fault Personal Injury Protection:** To pay medical expenses, lost earnings and other reasonable and necessary expenses for a driver or passenger injured in, or a pedestrian injured by, their vehicle.
- **Liability:** To protect against the harm their vehicle – or any vehicle they drive with the owner’s permission – might do to other people and their property.
- **Uninsured Motorists:** To protect against the injuries that they, their family or their passengers might suffer in a hit-and-run accident or in an accident with an uninsured vehicle.



Insurance carriers reported 19,794 incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud to the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) Insurance Frauds Bureau in 2019, including no-fault, motor vehicle theft, motor vehicle arson, larceny from motor vehicles, motor vehicle vandalism, motor vehicle collision damage, falsified motor vehicle invoices and fraudulent motor vehicle insurance cards. This represents an all-time high in incidents of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud, and an increase of approximately 5.6 percent from levels reported in 2018.

No-fault motor vehicle insurance fraud remained the most reported form of insurance fraud, accounting for approximately 59 percent of the total insurance fraud reports documented and 77 percent of all suspected incidents of motor vehicle insurance fraud reported. No-fault insurance fraud reports increased by approximately 4.7 percent, from 14,459 in 2018 to 15,146 in 2019.

While recent annual reports of suspected motor vehicle insurance fraud remain below historic highs, they have consistently equaled or exceeded 2008 levels, warranting a continued focus on reducing the incidence of these offenses.

II. Program Goals

The goal of the MVTIFP is to provide an integrated means to prevent, deter and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. The program provides funding for initiatives that include theft and fraud prevention education and the establishment and maintenance of specialized law enforcement units to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Eligible applicants for funding include local law enforcement agencies and not-for-profit organizations that administer one or more motor vehicle theft or insurance fraud prevention programs or driver safety programs conforming to a plan approved by the Board.

As required by Executive Law Article 36-A, statewide Motor Vehicle Theft and Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Plans of Operation are updated periodically on recommendations from the Board. These separate plans of operation include assessing the scope of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud problems, including a regional analysis of motor vehicle theft and/or motor vehicle insurance fraud incidents and related activities, and analyses of various methods of combating problems associated with motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

Both plans of operation are available under [Annual Reports and Publications](#) and provide guidance on the types of projects supported by program funding.

III. Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Board

The MVTIFP is administered by a 12-member Board with the DCJS commissioner or his or her designee serving as its chair. All board members are appointed by the governor: three are recommended by the speaker of the New York State Assembly, three by the temporary president of the New York State Senate and the remaining five by the governor. Members serve four-year terms and are not considered public officials. The Board includes representatives of consumers of motor vehicle insurance, motor vehicle insurance companies, law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. The Board meets at least four times annually.

The Board is charged with developing and recommending coordinated plans of operation that provide for the statewide reduction of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud. Elements of the plans must include:

- Assessments of the magnitude and scope of the problems, including an analysis of theft and fraud by region
- Methods for combating the problems
- Information relevant to the development of competitive request for proposals (RFPs) to fund local programs to combat both problems

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Board, Executive Law Article 36-A authorizes the DCJS Commissioner to:

- Execute contracts
- Accept grants and other contributions
- Make grants through an RFP process
- Appoint employees and affix compensation
- Request assistance and information from the New York State Police, police departments throughout the state, DFS, state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), state Office of Court Administration, any New York state agency or from any insurer
- Assist municipalities in the development of local programs
- Advise and assist the superintendent of Insurance pursuant to Insurance Law §2348 (this section now requires that rate filings reflect insurers' savings resulting from the program)
- Annually submit to the governor and chairs of the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means committees a report on the Board's activities, the activities of grant recipients and the results or impact of those activities

A. Board Activity

Board meetings in 2019 were conducted on April 3, June 26, and Sept. 11. The December Board meeting was cancelled due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts.

B. Programs Funded by The Board for Calendar Year 2020

In 2019, the Board approved the following award amounts for calendar year 2020:

New York City	Award
Bronx County District Attorney	\$329,991
Kings County District Attorney	\$250,873
New York County District Attorney	\$263,445
Queens County District Attorney	\$560,625
Richmond County District Attorney	\$ 50,144
NYPD Auto Crime Division	\$199,000
NYPD Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad	\$100,000
NYPD Auto Larceny Fraud Investigation Unit	\$ 24,873
Fire Department of New York City (FDNY)	\$124,800
New York City Suburban Region	Award
Nassau County District Attorney	\$114,300
Nassau County Police Department	\$145,869
Suffolk County District Attorney	\$283,210
Suffolk County Police Department	\$123,556
Westchester County District Attorney	\$277,963
Yonkers City Police Department	\$122,414
Capital Region/Hudson Valley	Award
Albany City Police Department	\$33,000
Albany County District Attorney	\$65,050
Finger Lakes Region	Award
Monroe County District Attorney	\$87,000
Monroe County Sheriff Office	\$36,500
Rochester City Police Department	\$49,520
Western Region	Award
Buffalo City Police Department	\$106,884
Cheektowaga Town Police Department	\$36,542
Erie County District Attorney	\$104,758
Niagara County District Attorney	\$109,443
Niagara County Sheriff Department	\$20,000
Niagara Falls City Police Department	\$23,400
Statewide	Award
New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc.	\$65,100
New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.	\$40,740

IV. 2019 Grant Program Descriptions

New York City Region

- Bronx County District Attorney’s Office
- Kings County District Attorney’s Office
- New York County District Attorney’s Office
- Queens County District Attorney’s Office
- Richmond County District Attorney’s Office
- NYPD Auto Crime Division,
Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad, and Patrol Borough
Queens South Auto Larceny Fraud Investigations Unit
- FDNY

Bronx County District Attorney’s Office
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The Bronx District Attorney’s Office Anti-Auto Theft Unit, in collaboration with individual New York Police Department (NYPD) precincts, has investigated both auto crime and insurance fraud since 1995 – the first year it received grant funding. The Bronx Anti-Auto Theft program received a grant of \$329,991 for 2019, which partially funded salaries of six assistant district attorneys, four investigators and a forensic accountant. The Anti-Auto Theft program aims to increase the number of successful prosecutions of defendants charged with grand larceny of a motor vehicle, criminal possession of stolen property, motor vehicle fraud, auto stripping and/or unauthorized use of vehicles, and insurance fraud.

The Bronx District Attorney’s Office owns several bait cars and a surveillance van used to enhance undercover operations. Working jointly with police precincts throughout Bronx County that have experienced an increase in car theft, the bait cars are positioned in high crime areas with plainclothes police officers stationed nearby. In 2019, prosecutors worked with Bronx precincts to conduct bait car operations and to use a license plate reader to supplement investigations. Joint operations between the NYPD and the district attorney’s Auto Crime Unit led to the recovery of 40 vehicles in 2019, valued at approximately \$1,051,395.

Investigators and assistant prosecutors at the Bronx District Attorney’s Office have maintained relationships and communications with collaborating partners in the fields of auto theft and insurance fraud. In 2019, investigators and prosecutors conferred with the following partner agencies: National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the New York City Auto Crime Squad, Auto Larceny Unit and NYPD precinct commands, adjacent and remote local police commands, the New York State Police, DFS, other prosecutors’ offices both inside and outside of New York State DMV, and special investigations units of major motor vehicle insurance carriers.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	112	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	94
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	90	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	92
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	98	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

Kings County District Attorney's Office

The Kings County District Attorney's Office received a \$250,873 grant in 2019, paying for part of the salaries of five assistant prosecutors, two senior prosecutors, one detective investigator and one deputy bureau chief, in addition to necessary training on advances in the field. Motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases are primarily handled by the Trial Division Zones, while the Investigations Division focuses on long-term investigations.

The Kings County District Attorney's Office did not provide information on 2019 activity for this report.

New York County District Attorney's Office

The New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney's Office received a \$263,445 grant in 2019, funding seven part-time assistant district attorneys, as well as part time paralegals. This bolsters the district attorney's ability to investigate and prosecute crimes, such as motor vehicle theft, unlicensed operation of motor vehicles, and automobile-part theft rings, fraudulent insurance broker schemes and combat the production, possession and use of counterfeit auto insurance and other motor vehicle related documents. Significantly, over the last four years the program has helped fund a major investigation into the tow truck industry.

Members of the Rackets Bureau conducted long-term investigations into sophisticated criminal schemes pertaining to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. Assistant district attorneys and support staff investigated and prosecuted several significant cases in 2019.

For the past four years, much of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office's MVTIF grant funding has been used to support a large-scale investigation into the tow truck industry. In the spring of 2016, the Manhattan District Attorney, in collaboration with NYPD, the New York City Sheriff's Office, New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, and the NICB, began investigating allegations of illegal activity within the tow truck industry, including instances of coercion and insurance fraud. As a result of this two-year investigation, the Manhattan District Attorney developed cases against a group of individuals who operate numerous tow truck companies, alleging that they are creating geographic monopolies on towing business, falsifying records to illegally acquire tow licenses; engaging in coercion and violence to maintain control over towing business; participating in insurance fraud by towing vehicles to auto body shops that they control; enhancing reports of damages to vehicles; and engaging in money laundering to hide the proceeds of their illicit activities.

In February 2018, multiple individuals and companies were indicted for maintaining this unlawful monopoly on the towing industry. Seventeen individuals and ten companies were indicted on charges including enterprise corruption, scheme to defraud, conspiracy, offering a false instrument for filing and other charges. Throughout 2019, grant-funded assistant district attorneys continued to investigate and build cases against these defendants. These cases are ongoing.

In addition to the tow truck investigation, the Rackets Bureau conducted two other investigations into motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud-related offenses. The first investigation pertains to a staged-accident ring involving pedestrians, often using fake or stolen identities, claiming to have been injured as a result of being struck by vehicles. So far, over \$50,000 in questionable treatment expenses have been tied to this ring. The other investigation involves individuals claiming to have been injured as a result of a motor vehicle accident, but evidence suggests that either the collision never occurred, or the individuals were not present at the time of the collision. Both of these investigations are ongoing and had not resulted in indictments by the end of 2019.

Additionally, attorneys in the Trials Bureau continue to investigate and prosecute cases of vehicle theft. In one notable case, the offender snuck into the backseat of a vehicle at a gas station. When the 70-year

old driver returned, the offender grabbed him by the neck, told him he had a gun and tied him to the seat. He then forced the driver to drive home to retrieve his ATM card and take out money, which he stole along with the vehicle. The following day, the offender was caught stealing another vehicle from a gas station. He was indicted on charges of kidnapping, grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property and unauthorized use of a vehicle. The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 11 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	12	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	10
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	9	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	15
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	4	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

Queens County District Attorney’s Office

The Queens County District Attorney’s Office received a \$560,625 grant in 2019, paying for three full-time assistant district attorneys, one supervisor and three full-time investigators assigned to the Specialized Auto Crime and Insurance Fraud Unit. This unit is comprised of attorneys, investigators and paralegals with special expertise in auto theft and insurance fraud. The unit focuses on long-term investigations and the handling of specially selected cases for trial and targets organized auto theft and insurance fraud activity. A major emphasis is placed on building enterprise corruption cases to ensure that the foundations of criminal activity are uprooted and to aggressively pursue individual prosecution and obtain maximum sentencing.

In 2019, the Queens District Attorney’s Office continued its strategy of combating auto crimes and insurance fraud through long-term investigative activity and targeting cases for specialized handling with strict dispositions and sentencing. This approach involves strong partnerships and coordinated efforts with local, state, and federal law enforcement, prosecutors, governmental agencies, and the insurance industry. Important components of the strategy include assignment of dedicated staff to enhanced investigative and prosecutorial initiatives, as well as the review and targeting of cases for strict dispositions and sentencing. Intensive investigative activity, including sting operations, development of confidential informants, surveillance and electronic eavesdropping is utilized. Other important components of the strategy include vertical prosecutions, intelligence gathering and sharing, crime analysis, and the use of state-of-the-art technology.

The following examples highlight some of the successful investigative and prosecutorial efforts in 2019: As a result of one investigation, an individual was sentenced to up to four years in prison after pleading guilty to grand larceny and insurance fraud. The defendant stripped, stole and resold parts from more than a dozen Econoline vans in Queens and Nassau counties. In addition, he was sentenced for his role in a separate case that involved faking vehicle collisions in order to obtain insurance payouts.

Another investigation involved a ring of defendants who were accused of supplying forged temporary license plates, registrations and other documents to buyers throughout New York City and Long Island. As a result of the investigation, seven individuals were indicted on charges including conspiracy, enterprise corruption and money laundering. Two defendants were sentenced to prison, four received conditional discharges, and one defendant is awaiting sentencing.

The office also investigated and prosecuted four individuals for the possession and sale of several stolen motorcycles. Charges included criminal possession of stolen property and conspiracy, as well as drug charges for one defendant who was involved in the sale of cocaine. Three defendants received conditional discharge sentences and the fourth is awaiting sentencing.

Another case involved a defendant who used a stolen identity to purchase a luxury vehicle with a loan of over \$70,000. The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to up to seven years in prison.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	16	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	13
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	30	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	45
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	49	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$1,500

Richmond County District Attorney’s Office

The Richmond County (Staten Island) District Attorney’s Office received a \$50,144 grant in 2019, partially supporting four assistant district attorneys. The Trials Bureau investigates and prosecutes all program felony cases, and the Criminal Court Bureau prosecutes cases with felony charges that have the potential to be pleaded down to a misdemeanor.

The primary goal of the MVTIFP is to provide an integrated means to prevent and reduce incidences of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud in Richmond County. The district attorney’s approach to case reviews includes interviews of suspects and witnesses to gain intelligence about defendants’ typical methods and to learn about the latest technologies employed by criminals. The district attorney’s office works closely with its key partners to address insurance fraud-related crimes.

In 2019, 198 cases were prosecuted for motor vehicle theft-related activities, including 126 felony arrests. Many of the felony defendants faced multiple counts. Some involved illegal drugs, and other cases included assaults. There were 27 felony convictions in 2019.

The office continued to record a considerable number of arrests involving vehicles taken by the owners’ relatives or friends without permission. Many of these cases seem to involve a link between domestic violence and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The investigators and attorneys are examining these cases for any trends that could aid in future investigations.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	198	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	67
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	162
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	198	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

New York City Police Department Auto Crime Division

The Auto Crime Division is part of the Criminal Enterprise Division of the Detective Bureau of the NYPD. Comprised of approximately 100 members, its mission is to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud within New York City through a coordinated approach involving law enforcement, crime analysis and prosecution. The Auto Crime Division utilizes an integrated approach to prevent motor vehicle crime, as well as to detect, investigate and prosecute these crimes. The Auto Crime Division received a grant of \$199,000 in 2019 to fund police overtime, vehicle forensics training, and equipment and rental vehicles for surveillance and investigations.

The Auto Crime Division utilizes several strategies to combat motor vehicle related crime. The unit utilizes an in-house team of analysts to monitor trends and data related to auto theft and insurance fraud crimes and to disseminate such information throughout the NYPD and other neighboring jurisdictions to help determine locations for targeted enforcement.

Through investigations into the sale of stolen vehicles and parts on social media and the internet, the Auto Crime Division has gained investigative leads into organized theft rings and has recovered numerous stolen vehicles and parts through buy-bust operations. The use of undercover officers and informants enhances these investigations. The division also maintains extensive interstate and federal law enforcement contacts, which enable investigators to develop information on individuals outside of New York who use the internet for criminal activity.

The use of modern technology – including wiretaps, GPS tracking devices, license plate readers, cameras and smart phone technology – plays an important role in auto crime investigations. Smart phones allow investigators to obtain immediate information in the field, including important records from DMV, the NICB, E-Justice and vehicle salvage records. In addition, advanced computers are used to view and enhance photos and videos to assist in the identification of stolen vehicles or vehicles used in crimes. In 2019, the Auto Crime School conducted a large training class on the use of Berla vehicle forensics technology, providing training and vehicle forensics kits to 20 auto crime investigators and ensuring city-wide availability of this technology.

In addition to its investigative work, the Auto Crime Division also maintains one of only two college accredited courses on Auto Crime and Insurance Fraud in the country. This four-day course is conducted twice a month and has trained 1,014 attendees in the fundamentals of auto theft and insurance fraud.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	1,488	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	140
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	5,435	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	5,150	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	107	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	564

New York Police Department Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad

The NYPD Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad (FCIS) received a \$100,000 grant in 2019. The grant paid for overtime for uniformed members and investigators, training and rental vehicles for surveillance, search warrants and arrests. The FCIS works with the Health Care Fraud Task Force (HCFTF) to combat no-fault insurance fraud at the state and federal levels, conducting both short- and long-term investigations.

In 2019, the FCIS worked with numerous insurance companies to investigate individuals filing potentially fraudulent accident claims involving rental cars. FCIS has worked closely with the insurance investigators and NICB to identify the individuals involved in these accidents and to determine any links between the claimants. Connections between those involved are established by surveillance, social media checks and interviews, in an effort to identify as many of the fraudulent claims as possible. Many of the fraudulent accidents result in extended claims involving significant medical treatment. In those cases, the HCFTF investigates the manner in which individuals are receiving treatment for further indications of fraud.

In 2019, FCIS received training in Berla and began utilizing the vehicle forensics technology, which allows investigators to acquire and analyze data from vehicle computer systems. This technology has been a valuable tool in determining what happened, when and where it happened, and who was involved when a suspicious accident is reported. This information can be used with video or other evidence to show inconsistencies in claimants' incident reports.

In one notable investigation in 2019, FCIS worked with the DFS on a case involving a group of individuals who are claiming to have been victims of pedestrian hit-and-run incidents on public roadways across New York City. These individuals have submitted insurance claims, often using fraudulent identification and are seeking treatment at various medical clinics. This investigation is ongoing and involves FCIS, members of NYPD's HCFTF, DFS and the New York District Attorney's office.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity

Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	NA*	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	18
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	NA	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	18
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	NA	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	15
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	NA	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	31

*The FCIS responds solely to insurance fraud cases and does not track theft-related statistics.

New York Police Department Auto Larceny Fraud Investigation Unit

The NYPD Auto Larceny Fraud Investigation Unit (ALFIU) is a specialized unit in Patrol Borough Queens South. It was formed to combat auto theft fraud in Patrol Borough Queens South. The unit consists of six full-time employees – four investigators and two supervisors. The sole function of the ALFIU is to investigate reported vehicle thefts that have indications of fraud. In 2019, ALFIU received a grant of \$24,873, which was used primarily to support overtime for the unit's investigation of fraudulent theft reports.

ALFIU investigators review all auto theft reports for indicators of fraud. When a case is selected for further investigation, the relevant parties from the insurance industry are contacted, and insurance investigators and ALFIU investigators coordinate efforts to reveal any inconsistencies in the details of the report. The

ALFIU’s collaborative program strategy to combat automobile fraud also includes routine communication with the Queens County District Attorney’s Office for case development and to ensure that maximum charges are brought against perpetrators of insurance fraud. Additionally, unit members often provide assistance and guidance to patrol officers to improve efforts to detect and prevent auto theft fraud.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	201	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	201
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	796	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	56
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	665	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	80
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	84	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	132

Fire Department of New York City

The FDNY received a \$124,800 grant in 2019 to fund fire marshals assigned to the Auto Fraud Squad. The Auto Fraud Squad continues to screen all motor vehicle fires throughout the five boroughs of New York City to identify priority incidents and, particularly, incidents of fraud. The focus of these investigations is forensic examination of the fire scene, evidence recognition and collection, and thorough document examination of the vehicles’ owners. The Auto Fraud Squad’s strategy is to employ all investigative techniques available in a coordinated effort to identify fraud.

In 2019, the Auto Fraud Squad continued its focus on citywide vehicle fire activity, specifically focusing on incidents involving staged theft, arson, insurance fraud, conspiracy and associated crimes. The squad identified, investigated, and brought to prosecution numerous incidents of arson and insurance fraud, resulting in convictions and/or denied or withdrawn insurance claims.

Members of the Auto Fraud Squad screened over 1,800 car fires in New York City in 2019. After screening, cases are selected for investigations that may lead to denial of fraudulent insurance claims, arrest of those making the claims, as well as apprehension of those hired to torch the vehicles. The Auto Fraud Squad maintained a strong collaborative relationship with the NYPD ALFIU, the Queens District Attorney’s Office and DFS, leading to successful investigation and prosecution of serial larceny and arson cases. Grant funding allows the assigned fire marshals additional work time to enhance investigations by canvassing for video and witnesses, screening relevant data from License Plate Readers, viewing various city-controlled security cameras and reviewing E-ZPass® records.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated	1,112	Responses to Motor Vehicle Fires where Fraud Is Suspected	202
Total Arrests	12	Number of Fire Insurance Claims Cancelled Due to Initiation of Law Enforcement Investigation	17
Responses to Motor Vehicle Fires	1,890	Total Value of Claims Denied/Withdrawn	\$211,315

New York City Suburban Region

Nassau County District Attorney's Office
Nassau County Police Department
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
Suffolk County Police Department
Westchester County District Attorney's Office
Yonkers City Police Department

Nassau County District Attorney's Office

The Nassau County District Attorney's Office (NCDA) received a \$114,300 grant in 2019, partially funding three assistant district attorneys, three investigators and an assistant dedicated to investigating and prosecuting theft and fraud cases. The office's Vehicle Theft and Fraud (VTF) Unit was created in 2008 to prosecute motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases, while working closely with members of the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD), the NICB and other law enforcement and insurance agencies, in an effort to detect and reduce the incidence of these crimes.

The NCDA's VTF Unit investigates and prosecutes cases relating to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. Staff work with and act as liaisons to other prosecutors' offices, law enforcement, private entities, and the public. The office's Just Ware Case Management System allows data analysis in tracking vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases to better follow and report these charges, analyze the types of offenses seen and record dispositions. The VTF Unit works closely with the NCDA's technical investigators on technical aspects of investigations, including monitoring and maintaining surveillance equipment and conducting forensic analysis of electronic devices.

In 2019, NCDA coordinated with the NCPD Vehicle Theft Section in the arrest and prosecution of three defendants involved in the theft of a dozen high-end vehicles that were stolen when key fobs were left inside the unlocked vehicles. This type of theft is a significant trend in Nassau County and has been the topic of numerous press releases and public awareness campaigns. In this particular case, the ringleader was held to a felony charge and faces a year of incarceration. The VTF also coordinated with NCPD in the arrest and prosecution of four defendants who stole credit cards from vehicles and often stole the vehicles as well. They would then use the credit cards to engage in identity theft. The ringleader was convicted of two felonies and sentenced to 20 months of incarceration.

In a case highlighting the importance of training and coordination with other agencies, an individual was awaiting sentencing on one theft and prosecution on another, when the VTF received a death certificate indicating that he was deceased. However, based on training and experience, the assistant district attorney determined that the death certificate was fraudulent and located the defendant in Pennsylvania to coordinate extradition. The defendant now faces up to eight years of incarceration.

The NCDA is seeing a growing trend of larcenies from auto dealerships, particularly for high-end vehicles. The VTF prosecuted two such cases, resulting in felony convictions for multiple defendants.

The VTF also investigated and prosecuted several insurance fraud cases, including falsely reported vehicle thefts, enhanced damages by a body shop, and an insurance brokerage involved in commercial rate evasion. Each of these cases resulted in guilty pleas to insurance fraud-related charges.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	13	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	2
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	2	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	19
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	20	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$31,405

Nassau County Police Department

The NCPD received a \$145,869 grant in 2019 to pay for overtime and training for officers, detectives, supervisors and intelligence analysts. This award allows police to conduct numerous operations designed to prevent, deter and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within Nassau County.

The NCPD, in collaboration with the NCDA, created strategies to prevent and reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within Nassau County. Strategies cover street-level enforcement, investigations and prosecution. The NCPD strategy involves detectives, police officers, intelligence analysts and supervisors throughout the county and incorporates intelligence-based policing for targeted and comprehensive enforcement and investigations.

During 2019, the department employed a variety of techniques to target motor vehicle-related crime. Intelligence analysts maintained data on motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud crime to map the locations of car thefts and larcenies from autos. They created intelligence bulletins and other actionable intelligence to conduct targeted and enhanced enforcement and investigations. This included both overt and covert operations at locations where a high incidence of stolen autos and larcenies from autos have occurred, including railroad stations, malls and shopping areas. These efforts led to several arrests and vehicle recoveries.

Detectives also utilized grant funds to conduct a wide variety of enforcement and investigation activities, including but not limited to: regularly reviewing theft activity; examining stolen vehicle reports and field interviews for fraud indicators; checking national databases for recovery information (such as parking tickets, plate reader hits, ISO, CARFAX and NYSPIN); and indexing stolen vehicles with NICB.

NCPD identified and investigated several crime patterns, including residential thefts; thefts of vehicles using fraudulent identification and credit cards to rent vehicles for use in the commission of other crimes; and tire and rim thefts. Detectives were also regularly called upon to conduct vehicle examinations to identify VIN numbers and other identifying information.

In a case that highlights the collaborative efforts of NCPD, detectives identified a pattern of high-end luxury vehicle thefts from driveways of private residences. Investigation revealed that most of the thefts involved vehicles that were accidentally left unlocked with the keys inside the vehicle. The Auto Crime Unit monitored the cases for fraud indicators, as well as recovery locations of the vehicles. Through collaboration with numerous agencies, including New York and New Jersey State Police, U.S. Customs & Border Protection, Suffolk County Police, NYPD Auto Crime Division, NICB, and the Waterfront Commission of New York and New Jersey, many of the vehicles were recovered in Newark, Staten Island, Virginia, and Massachusetts, often on shipping containers. As a result of these efforts, many stolen vehicles have been recovered and arrests made across various towns, cities and states.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity

Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	74	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	2
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	458	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	234	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	23

Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office

The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office has a Financial Investigations & Money Laundering Bureau (FIMLB) that targets white collar crimes, including insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft. The district attorney received a \$283,210 grant in 2019 to fund four positions – two assistant district attorneys, a detective investigator and a paralegal.

The creation and maintenance of FIMLB has allowed investigators and prosecutors to strengthen resources and knowledge, while increasing coordination, experience and expertise to combat vehicle-related crimes. FIMLB prosecutes all cases related to insurance fraud and motor vehicle theft, as well as all motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases generated by unit investigators, the Suffolk County Police Department, the New York State Police and the East End village police departments. FIMLB also handles referrals from DMV, DFS, the NICB, and special investigative units of insurance carriers.

The FIMLB successfully concluded several long-term and short-term investigations and prosecutions in 2019. The success of the FIMLB investigations relies heavily on collaboration between different law enforcement units and industry partners, who understand that, together, they can help reduce the incidents of motor vehicle theft and fraudulent insurance claims. As a result of joint efforts, in 2019 the FIMLB recovered \$40,000 to insurers and other victims of insurance fraud. In addition, the FIMLB recovered \$311,951 in restitution for victims of motor vehicle theft cases, including restitution paid directly to vehicle owners, dealerships and insurance companies.

One notable theft prosecution highlights the frequent ties between vehicle theft and other crimes, as well as how the technology and methods used in combatting theft can be utilized to investigate these other crimes. In this case, the defendant had stolen a 2018 Camaro and was operating it at high rates of speed when he crashed into another vehicle carrying four passengers, then an oil truck and a third vehicle. Five people were killed as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. Utilizing vehicle forensics, including a search warrant executed on the vehicle’s infotainment system, the Bureau was able to prove not only the theft of the vehicle, but the details of the subsequent crash. The defendant was sentenced to 27 years in prison.

In another successful investigation, a defendant was arrested and indicted for the theft, possession and sale of 10 motor vehicles and a working revolver to an undercover detective.

The FIMLB also successfully prosecuted several insurance fraud cases, including falsely reported vehicle accidents and/or thefts. Often these cases involve defendants who were involved in collisions and then reported the vehicles stolen to avoid culpability for the collisions.

Another insurance fraud investigation involved collaboration between FIMLB, Suffolk County Police, NICB, DFS and Met Life special investigators placing a sting vehicle into an auto body shop suspected of

enhancing damages. The vehicle was brought to the body shop with damage created intentionally and documented by an expert. After repair, the vehicle was re-inspected by the expert, who determined that the shop billed the insurance company for numerous parts that were never replaced or repaired and also repaired or replaced parts that had not been damaged. The owner of the shop eventually pleaded guilty and paid \$10,000 in forfeiture to NICB DFS.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	10	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	26
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	8	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	26
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	27	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$51,694

Suffolk County Police Department

The Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) received a \$123,556 grant in 2019 to pay for overtime and training. The SCPD employs an intelligence-based and data-driven approach to investigating motor vehicle and insurance fraud crime. The SCPD utilizes the Property/Auto Crime Unit (PAC) to maintain a centralized approach and a dedicated command focused on motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

In 2019, 922 vehicles were reported stolen in Suffolk County, 137 less than in 2018. The vehicle recovery rate increased to 85 percent. The department continued its collaboration with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, as well as with NICBDMV and other area police departments. Unit detectives attended collaborative meetings held by the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office and the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office.

Detectives conducted numerous vehicle theft investigations, resulting in 54 felony arrests and 18 misdemeanor arrests for charges including auto stripping, falsifying business records, grand larceny, insurance fraud and possession of stolen property. A majority of the reported vehicle thefts involved vehicles that were left unattended while running or with keys inside.

Detectives collaborated with other agencies, including DMV and insurance companies, to investigate incidents of insurance fraud. In 2019, only one insurance fraud investigation was initiated by SCPD. The investigation involved an auto body shop that was enhancing damages to vehicles and resulted in a felony arrest for insurance fraud, grand larceny and falsifying business records.

In addition, PAC detectives provided in-house training to other SCPD officers, detectives, recruits and supervisors on topics including vehicle theft, insurance fraud, forged/fraudulent documents, VIN identification and trailer identification.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	141	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	922	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	1
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	787	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	1
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	1	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	72

Westchester County District Attorney's Office

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office (WCDA) received a \$277,963 grant in 2019 to fund an Auto Crimes Unit with a senior assistant prosecutor and two police investigators. Since 2015, a crime analyst was added to the unit and works with a similar squad at the Yonkers Police Department. In addition to pursuing its own investigations, the unit provides daily assistance to the 42 police departments within the county on a variety of levels, including conducting extensive investigations with the local agencies.

The WCDA noted several loosely categorized trends in 2019, including: thefts of vehicles and components from dealerships; thefts of unlocked vehicles with keys left inside; theft of unattended running vehicles; unauthorized use of vehicles in the context of family/domestic relationships; fraudulent inspection stickers; out-of-state license plates; and stolen vehicle arrests resulting from license plate reader technology.

The increased use of license plate reader technology is a significant cause of the increased number of vehicle theft cases in the county. Most major highways and parkways, many cities, and an increasing number of police vehicles in Westchester County are equipped with license plate readers, which led to an increase in the apprehension of individuals driving stolen vehicles on the county's roadways. This includes vehicles that were rented using false or stolen identities and kept beyond the terms of the rental contract, as well as the recovery of vehicles that were reported stolen in other counties or states.

In addition, the WCDA investigated several insurance fraud cases in 2019. The first arrests were made in a long-term medical mill investigation in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, the New York State Police, NICB and DFS. Twenty-seven individuals were charged at the federal level. It should be noted that, because they were federal charges, these arrests are not reflected in the WCDA's performance statistics.

WCDA also received a referral from NICB leading to a complex multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency investigation into insurance fraud involving enhanced damages to vehicles. WCDA expects to make arrests resulting from this investigation in 2020.

In addition to investigations and prosecutions, WCDA continued to hold regular local collaborative meetings involving representatives from numerous county police agencies, as well as New York City and Connecticut agencies, to share information on trends and common investigative targets. These meetings also provide opportunities to host specialized training on topics relevant to vehicle theft and fraud.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity

Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	12	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	6
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	10	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	2
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	4	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

Yonkers City Police Department

The Yonkers Police Department received a \$122,414 grant in 2019 to pay for a full-time detective and overtime for complex investigations and officer training expenses. The department investigates reports of stolen vehicles, cars with stolen parts, altered VINs, bogus registration and inspection stickers, and out-of-state dealer plates or other suspicious tags. The department works closely with other agencies, such as the NYPD, New York State Police and other local jurisdictions to combat auto crimes across the City of Yonkers.

The Yonkers Police Department continued its commitment to hosting a designated specialized auto crimes unit within the Detective Division, funding a full-time detective to combat motor vehicle theft and pursue fraud investigations. The unit works closely with the NYPD, the New York State Police, the Westchester County District Attorney’s office, DMV and NICB to investigate auto crime.

The auto crimes unit continued the department’s technology-driven approach to investigating motor vehicle crimes. The assigned detective installs temporary surveillance cameras and license plate readers in critical motor vehicle crime locations, allowing these areas to be monitored during late night and early morning hours. The detective also installed a license plate reader on an unmarked patrol vehicle. These strategies have proven successful.

The Yonkers Police Department continued to see a rise in motorcycle theft in 2019. In many cases, offenders use a truck to lift the motorcycles from the street or from dealer lots. The auto crimes detective secured an abandoned motorcycle from a tow yard for use as a bait bike. The bait bike, which is equipped with a GPS tracking unit, is placed in high-theft areas and monitored with covert pole cameras. The city has also seen an increase in the theft of wheels from vehicles and has similarly combatted this problem with the use of a bait car and surveillance cameras. The bait bike, bait car and surveillance cameras have led to multiple successful investigations and arrests.

In 2019 the police department also worked with the WCDA’s Office to investigate a referral from NICB that led to a complex, multi-agency investigation into insurance fraud involving enhanced damages to vehicles. That case is ongoing.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	48	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	149	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	36	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	69

Capital District Region

Albany City Police Department
Albany County District Attorney’s Office

Albany City Police Department

The Albany Police Department received a \$33,000 grant in 2019 to pay for police overtime and training for officers assigned to its Auto Crimes Task Force (ACTF). The ACTF consists of 36 members, including patrol officers, detectives, sergeants and lieutenants. The ACTF operates within the department’s Criminal Investigation Division and is supervised by a detective lieutenant and a detective sergeant. The primary objective of the ACTF is to investigate all auto-related thefts and auto-related insurance fraud.

In 2019, the Albany Police Department has worked to solidify and expand its core group of officers and detectives who comprise the ACTF, further developing the skills and specializations of current members. The ACTF has utilized several approaches in deterring auto-related theft. Using information gathered by the Capital Region Crime Analysis Center (CRCAC), the ACTF works in concert with the Traffic Safety Unit, as well as the Neighborhood Engagement Unit, to stay up-to-date with current trends and to investigate crimes and crime sprees that may extend beyond normal day-to-day duties of task force members.

During the third quarter of 2019, there was a sharp upturn in the number of stolen motorcycles in the City of Albany. Information gathered by the CRCAC indicated that the thefts were occurring randomly throughout the city and that the motorcycles were likely being hotwired or loaded onto a trailer. A bait motorcycle was obtained, and the ACTF ran five details using the bait bike. In one instance, the bike was stolen and transported to the Bronx, where two of the previously stolen motorcycles had been recovered. The suspect was apprehended and admitted to two of the previous thefts as well.

A large number of the vehicles stolen in Albany were left running attended. In 2019, ACTF decided to go beyond the typical public education efforts historically led by the Neighborhood Engagement Unit and begin an enforcement campaign. With the assistance of the Traffic Safety Unit, ACTF conducted several details to issue tickets to drivers who left their vehicles running unattended, especially at hot spots such as convenient stores. These details resulted in the issuance of 42 tickets for leaving a vehicle running attended. While it is not yet clear if these details have impacted the number of thefts, ACTF hopes to conduct additional details in the future to discourage drivers from continuing to leave vehicles running attended.

The grant funding allows members of the ACTF to work outside normal shifts to thoroughly investigate vehicle crimes through surveillance, follow-up interviews and coordination with outside agencies. In 2019, ACTF partnered with agencies including New York State Police, Albany County Sheriff's Office, Colonie Police, Yonkers Police, Suffolk County Police and Westchester County Police to investigate vehicle crime.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	80	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	1
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	260	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	247	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	77

Albany County District Attorney's Office

The Albany County District Attorney received a \$65,050 grant from DCJS in 2019 to fund a part-time assistant district attorney and a part-time supervisory prosecutor. This enabled the office to address appropriate cases through the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Unit. The unit coordinated with law enforcement agencies on education, training, detection, investigation and prosecution of motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases.

The Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Unit of the Albany County District Attorney's Office continued efforts to build quality investigations and prosecutions through collaboration with area law enforcement agencies. The assigned assistant district attorney continued to meet with representatives of the Albany Police Department, the Colonie Police Department, the Albany County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police and DMV to discuss investigations and prosecutions.

The office continued to utilize a vertical prosecution strategy for new and pending cases involving auto theft, resulting in a number of felony convictions in the past year. The office used a coordinated approach between law enforcement, crime analysis and the district attorney's office to detect, prevent and prosecute these crimes.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity

Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	0	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	11
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	32
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	67	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

Finger Lakes Region

Monroe County District Attorney’s Office
 Monroe County Sheriff’s Office
 Rochester City Police Department

Monroe County District Attorney’s Office

The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office (MCDA) received \$87,000 in 2019 to fund an assistant district attorney and travel expenses. The assistant district attorney evaluates cases and prosecutes both felony and misdemeanor offenses. The attorney works closely with law enforcement and is aided by MCDA investigators, who interview witnesses, serve subpoenas, gather and organize evidence, and work with law enforcement to help solve crimes and build cases for prosecution.

The Monroe County District Attorney’s Office did not provide information on 2019 activity for this report.

Monroe County Sheriff’s Office

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) received a \$36,500 grant in 2019 to pay for training and overtime to investigate theft and fraud cases. The MCSO participates in the Monroe County Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud (MVTIF) Task Force, assigning a sergeant and three investigators to the MVTIF Task Force, which collaborates with other members of the law enforcement community in Monroe County, including the MCDA, the Rochester Police Department, New York State Police, DFS and DMV, to reduce motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud within the county.

The MCSO utilizes grant funds to conduct investigations into motor vehicle theft, auto stripping and insurance fraud. In 2019, the MCSO responded to 109 reported motor vehicle thefts and recovered 65 stolen vehicles. Investigative efforts resulted in 11 felony and eight misdemeanor arrests for motor vehicle theft. Members of the MCSO MVTIF Task Force investigated 12 cases of possible motor vehicle insurance fraud, working closely with DFS. This resulted in four felony arrests and one misdemeanor arrest for insurance fraud.

The MCSO continues to identify and track emerging crime patterns, including motor vehicle thefts and auto stripping cases. These patterns are communicated during monthly meetings of the Monroe County MVTIF Task Force to further identify patterns that may be occurring in other jurisdictions. In addition, MCSO works with the Monroe Crime Analysis Center (MCAC) to better map and track emerging crime patterns.

The MCSO also continued to conduct proactive details in areas where patterns of vehicle theft and/or auto stripping have been identified. These details often involve the use of both marked and unmarked units to interdict vehicle thefts and auto stripping incidents. Further, the MCSO is attempting to set the precedent for investigating insurance fraud cases in the region by working closely DFS.

For example, the county Task Force received a referral from DFS on a claim involving a suspect who had added comprehensive insurance coverage to her vehicle the day before filing an accident claim. In

December 2018, the suspect attempted to file a claim when her son struck a deer but was told that her insurance did not cover the damage. In April 2019, the suspect added comprehensive insurance coverage to her policy, affirming that there was no existing damage to the vehicle. The following day, she reported that she struck a deer and submitted a claim to the insurance company. The pictures of the vehicle damages were compared to those from the prior claim, and it was determined that the damages were the same. A MCSO investigator interviewed the suspect, who admitted that she had not repaired the damages from the original claim and had fraudulently submitted the second claim in order to have the repairs covered by her insurance provider. She was arrested for insurance fraud and attempted grand larceny.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	12	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	12
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	109	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	11
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	65	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	1
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	1	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	24

Rochester City Police Department

The Rochester Police Department received a \$49,520 grant in 2019 to pay for overtime for investigations and training on the latest motor vehicle crime trends. The Auto Theft Unit, under the command of the department’s Special Operations Division, is responsible for coordinating investigations into motor vehicle related crime initiatives and utilizes personnel from other divisions within the department, as needed.

The department’s auto theft grant manager coordinates investigations involving motor vehicle related crime, utilizing personnel from various divisions within the department. As a result, theft investigations are not directly linked to grant funding. The investigator is assigned to the multi-agency Monroe County MVTIF Task Force, which also consists of investigators from the MCDA, DMV Field Investigations Division and DFS’ Criminal Investigations Unit.

In 2019, grant funding allowed Rochester police to focus on targeted details and investigations. In 2019, the MVTIF Task Force began investigating a stolen rental car ring operating in Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse. Typically, cars were stolen from rental agencies and then rented out to city residents for personal use, and some vehicles were used in the commission of other crimes. Working closely with Buffalo, Syracuse and Greece police departments, the FBI, and several rental agencies, and the MVTIF Task Force worked for several months to identify, surveil, track, and arrest the two suspects responsible for running the theft ring. As a result of the investigation, 12 individuals were arrested, numerous vehicles have been recovered (including six by MVTIF Task Force members during grant-funded operating hours), and two individuals were arrested for a gunpoint robbery in which they used one of the stolen rental cars as a getaway vehicle.

The MVTIF Task Force continued to work closely with DFS to identify and investigate suspected insurance fraud cases by screening referrals and jointly interviewing suspects.

The MVTIF Task Force also continued to conduct unattended vehicle details to educate the public of the dangers of leaving their vehicles running unattended. As a result of four such details, 19 warnings and three traffic citations were issued.

Finally, MVTIF Task Force members continued to attend trainings to remain current on trends and

techniques in vehicle crime investigation. Two MVTIF Task Force members attended the IAATI Northeast Regional Conference. A Task Force member also presented Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud training to 84 new police recruits from nine different local agencies.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	25	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	36
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	779	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	4
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	355	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	4
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	4	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	29

Western Region

- Buffalo City Police Department
- Cheektowaga Town Police Department
- Erie County District Attorney’s Office
- Niagara County District Attorney’s Office
- Niagara County Sheriff Department
- Niagara Falls City Police Department

Buffalo City Police Department

The Buffalo Police Department received a \$106,884 grant in 2019 to pay for detective overtime, travel and training costs to enhance the program’s effectiveness. Due to organizational restructuring in 2018, motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigations are now handled by detectives in the department’s five patrol districts and overseen by the investigative services captain. In addition, the Neighborhood Engagement Team has begun community education on auto theft prevention to strengthen the department’s proactive approach to vehicle crime.

In 2019, the Buffalo Police Department utilized grant funding for overtime to allow detectives to investigate 766 instances of reported vehicle theft and recover 722 stolen vehicles. The department continued to collaborate with other agencies and the insurance industry. For example, one theft case involved a vehicle that was reported stolen and then recovered in a nearby alley that is a known location where stolen vehicles are often dumped. Investigation, with NICB and adjustors from the insurance company, revealed that the owner’s insurance policy had lapsed prior to the theft claim. The claim was denied, and the vehicle was returned to the owner.

The department has undertaken a major educational outreach effort regarding the dangers of leaving vehicles running unattended. In the winter months, the Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET) was mobilized to distribute over 1,000 flyers and posters throughout the city, especially in areas with high incidence of car theft. In addition to the flyers, television and print news covered the effort.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	766	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	0
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	964	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	722	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	0
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	288

Cheektowaga Town Police Department

The Cheektowaga Police Department received a \$36,542 grant in 2019 for police overtime and training. Ten of the agency’s 19 detectives handle motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases.

The police department has one detective assigned to lead the Auto Theft Squad. This detective coordinates motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud investigations and assigns cases to other detectives. This strategy has been in place for several years and has successfully reduced motor vehicle theft and fraud cases in Cheektowaga.

The Cheektowaga Police Department has continued to focus its grant activities on investigations into motor vehicle thefts and larcenies of property/auto parts from motor vehicles and fraudulent activities, including insurance fraud, forged vehicle identification numbers and forged titles. Grant funds were utilized to provide 549 hours of overtime for detectives’ investigations and to combat motor vehicle related crime.

The police department has a strong commitment to working with other agencies. Inter-agency cooperation and intelligence-sharing are main components of grant activities. A close working relationship with outside agencies proves to be beneficial for both Cheektowaga and the surrounding municipalities. In 2019, examples of such inter-agency collaboration included: fraud investigations with several different insurance carriers; multiple checks of confidential VIN numbers with assistance from NICB; an investigation with U.S. Customs & Border Protection into a stolen vehicle and identity theft; and investigations with other local and out-of-state police agencies. Several of these collaborations resulted in the denial of insurance claims, in addition to false reporting charges for the claimants.

In investigating auto thefts, crime scene detectives photograph and process every recovered stolen motor vehicle, submitting any evidence collected to the Erie County Central Police Services Laboratory for further processing. In 2019, 45 vehicles were processed.

The police department also continued a community awareness and education program in response to thefts of vehicles that were left running unattended and thefts of property from unlocked vehicles. A flier was developed and distributed to advise the public of the risk of theft of unattended vehicles, as well as some simple deterrents to auto theft. Detectives also routinely surveilled locations, such as gas stations and convenience stores, and, when unattended vehicles were observed, detectives advised the owners of the risk of theft and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law regarding unattended vehicles.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	102	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	3
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	111	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	60	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	3
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	3	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	13

Erie County District Attorney’s Office

The Erie County District Attorney’s Office (ECDA) received a \$104,758 grant in 2019 to pay for training and a full-time assistant district attorney. The assistant district attorney assigned to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases is supported by the staff of the Special Investigations and Prosecutions Bureau. The prosecutor works closely with detectives from the Buffalo and Cheektowaga police departments, while also meeting with other law enforcement agencies throughout the area, to collaborate with ongoing investigations. The prosecutor vertically prosecutes the more serious motor vehicle theft crimes, as well as all the insurance fraud cases in Erie County.

The ECDA office strategy for vehicle theft and insurance fraud had two major focuses in 2019. The first involved a sharpened focus on repeat offenders. The ECDA began instituting a zero-tolerance policy for repeat offenders, utilizing intelligence and law enforcement resources to identify repeat offenders and ensure that they are prosecuted, to effectively deter motor vehicle crime. The second strategy involved developing intelligence to identify and break up vehicle crime and insurance fraud crime rings.

Vehicle theft in Erie County can be divided into two distinct types: crimes of opportunity and crimes for profit. The majority of vehicle theft cases fall into the first category and involve vehicles left running unattended or vehicles parked with the keys inside. The vehicles are often taken for joyriding or are stripped for parts and then dumped. The second type of vehicle theft often involves drug-related thefts and/or thefts from rental agencies, which is a pervasive problem in the community.

In 2019, ECDA investigated and ultimately arrested an individual involved in numerous thefts of rental vehicles from rental agencies surrounding the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. The individual was recorded on surveillance video on two separate occasions stealing cars from rental agencies. In addition to the vehicle theft charges, he was also arrested for felony drug charges, which are being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Both prosecutions are ongoing, but it is believed that his arrest and prosecution will result in a significant drop in the number of thefts from rental agencies.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	119	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	5
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	4	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	57
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	0	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$0

Niagara County District Attorney’s Office

The Niagara County District Attorney’s Office (NCDA) received \$109,443 in grant funding in 2019 to support a Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Unit consisting of a full-time assistant

district attorney and a full-time investigator. The assistant prosecutor and investigator collaborate with all law enforcement agencies operating within the county, as well as other insurance fraud investigators. Investigations by law enforcement agencies are referred to the assistant district attorney for vertical prosecution to ensure that all cases are prosecuted to the fullest extent possible.

The NCDA continued its efforts to identify, combat and deter motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. The dedicated motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud prosecutor and criminal investigator continue to attend all related training offered by DCJS, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), NICB and the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI).

In 2019, NCDA continued its public service announcement campaign to advise the public of the risks of leaving vehicles running unattended, resulting in a decline in the number of these easily preventable thefts. In addition to reducing thefts and subsequent insurance claims, this also allowed NCDA to focus efforts on more prolific offenders and violent crimes.

NCDA continued to work closely with numerous local police agencies on an investigation into a ring of thefts of rental vehicles from the Buffalo International Airport. Although the thefts occurred in Erie County, many of the stolen vehicles are encountered or recovered in Niagara Falls or other parts of Niagara County, resulting in charges for criminal possession of stolen property. As a result of these efforts, NCDA was able to secure the indictment of an individual who has been identified as the ringleader of a multi-million-dollar theft ring suspected in the theft of approximately 60 high-end vehicles. In addition, the suspect has a history of involvement in shooting incidents and is a known prolific offender in the city of Niagara Falls. Both the investigation and prosecution are ongoing.

NCDA also continued its close collaboration with DFS by communicating early on in investigations. This has resulted in several notable insurance fraud prosecutions. One case involved a pair of co-defendants who were fraudulently transferring ownership of a vehicle among their associates, then staging accidents resulting in damage to the vehicle and filing multiple claims for those damages. NCDA successfully prosecuted the case by proffering information from one co-defendant against the other, resulting in a guilty plea. Other insurance fraud cases included a fraudulent no-fault insurance claim for injuries that were determined to have been unrelated to the vehicle and a false vehicle break-in claim to try to cover the fact that the individual lost his firearm while drunk and was afraid he would lose his pistol permit as a result.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	35	Total Indictments for MVTIF Offenses	9
Investigations Initiated – Fraud	32	Total Convictions for MVTIF Offenses	70
Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	215	Amount of Restitution Ordered as a Result of MVTIF cases	\$29,959

Niagara County Sheriff Department

The Niagara County Sheriff's Department received a \$20,000 grant in 2019 to pay for staff overtime and training. The Sheriff's Office's Stolen Vehicle Task Force includes deputies, supervisors and investigators tasked with reviewing cases, trends and field intelligence to combat theft and fraud. The Sheriff's Office continues to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to reduce theft and fraud throughout Western New York.

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Task Force, with road patrol deputies and investigators from the Criminal Investigation Bureau, continued to work diligently to curb

motor vehicle theft, larcenies of vehicle parts and accessories, and insurance fraud in 2019. As in recent years, the number of vehicles stolen remained at record lows. The Sheriff's Office received only 28 reports of stolen vehicles.

The Task Force worked closely with the Niagara County Crime Analysis Center to map crime areas, identify suspects and distribute timely intelligence to surrounding police agencies and the Niagara County District Attorney's Office. The Task Force also collaborated with law enforcement agencies from neighboring Erie County. The Sheriff's Office is notified of reported thefts from most surrounding areas and regularly looks for stolen vehicles at known vehicle dumping locations, including the Native American reservation in the county. The task force recovered many vehicles which had been reported stolen from Niagara Falls, Buffalo, and other Erie County agencies.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	28	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	3
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	28	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	26	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	1
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	0	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	18

Niagara Falls City Police Department

The Niagara Falls Police Department received a \$23,400 grant in 2019 to pay for staff overtime and training. The Motor Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit is managed as a special operation by the captain of the Criminal Investigation Division and emphasizes investigations and appropriate follow-up. In addition, the unit collaborates with the Traffic Division to identify suspicious accident reports and possible fraud cases.

The Niagara Falls Police Department, with the support of the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud grant, was able to provide city residents with 400 hours of overtime by detectives with a caseload of stolen motor vehicle investigations; 112 hours of surveillance by plain clothes officers to support the detectives with their investigations; and 55 hours of overtime for the detective lieutenant to complete necessary documentation for court proceedings specifically pertaining to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Investigations Initiated – Theft	168	Investigations Initiated – Fraud	21
Reported Motor Vehicle Thefts Agency Wide	146	Accidents Investigated in which Fraud Is Suspected	0
Recovered Stolen Motor Vehicles Agency Wide	125	Claims Withdrawn or Denied Due to Investigation	9
Thefts Determined to be Fraudulent Agency Wide	5	Total Arrests for MVTIF Offenses	217

Statewide

New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc.
New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.

New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association, Inc.

The New York Anti-Car Theft & Fraud Association, Inc. (NYACT) is a statewide not-for-profit educational organization whose mission is to reduce auto crime and insurance fraud in New York. In 2019, NYACT received a \$65,100 Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud grant from DCJS to produce training webinars, seminars, and conferences. The association also offers educational and training programs, collaborative sharing opportunities and online resources for law enforcement personnel, insurance special investigation units and claims personnel. NYACT provides information about motor vehicle theft and fraud to consumers and continues to sponsor and manage training events, meetings and outreach efforts in auto crime prevention and insurance fraud detection and investigations throughout the year.

NYACT's training efforts in 2019 concentrated on both vehicle crime and insurance fraud, providing effective professional and hands-on training in theft and fraud investigation and deterrence. NYACT continues to expand its outreach by improving cooperative working relationships with other associations and New York State agencies.

In 2019, NYACT assisted DCJS with two regional meetings, as well as the Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Annual Symposium. In 2019, NYACT also provided 15 additional training meetings and conferences, which included attendees from law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial offices, as well as representatives from the insurance industry.

NYACT continues to focus its efforts on the following areas:

Training and Education The most effective efforts to combat motor vehicle theft and motor vehicle insurance fraud require law enforcement and insurance investigation personnel to be aware of the latest techniques and information. NYACT focused on providing innovative and hands-on training through its seminars, meetings and conferences.

Collaborative Planning There is a wealth of knowledge and experience within NYACT's membership and affiliated agencies. The association taps into this professional community to obtain speakers for courses and training seminars for its membership. This collaborative community includes auto crime experts, experienced law enforcement leaders and other knowledgeable professionals from DFS' Insurance Frauds Bureau, the New York State Attorney General's Office, the FBI, DMV, NICB, the NYPD's Auto Crime Division, the New York State Police and prosecutors.

Expanding and Improving Communication NYACT expanded its communication outreach to law enforcement agencies and affiliate organizations across the state through an improved web presence and greater electronic communications. Law enforcement feedback about online needs and interests was solicited at every training session.

Building Greater Connectivity and Networking As an umbrella organization, NYACT fosters an effective networking arena and forum for sharing information with law enforcement, insurance carriers, DFS' Fraud Bureau, the DMV, and many other state agency fraud units. The association also cooperates with other not-for-profit organizations, such as the Northeast Chapter of the IAATI, New York State Special Investigative Units and New York Prosecutor's Training Institute (NYPTI) to encourage a strong networking relationship among them.

The NYACT Annual State Education Conference and the NYACT Vehicle Arson Awareness Program (VAAP) allow law enforcement and insurance industry personnel to learn from outstanding law

enforcement, legal, state government and insurance company sources. At the VAAP programs, hundreds of professionals are exposed to state-of-the-art investigative information and processes, as well as live demonstrations and the opportunity for hands-on investigation.

The spirit of cooperation fostered at the conferences and training events continues through the communication networks that are established among law enforcement investigators long after the programs conclude. NYACT's training classes offer attendees the ability to access many different agencies that they may not have contact with during the normal course of business. NYACT's training seminars have opened new information resources to law enforcement that will aid in their investigations of insurance fraud and other crimes through the sharing of information and expertise.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity			
Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Seminars, Trainings & Conferences	18	Webinar Trainings Produced	0
Verified Attendees	1,486	Verified Webinar Views	25
MVT Articles Published	0	MVIF Articles Published	0
Webinars for Law Enforcement Agencies	24	Webinars for Prosecutorial Offices	0

New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.

In 2019, the NYPTI received a \$40,740 grant to enhance training for on motor vehicle theft and fraud, with no cost to participating prosecutors and law enforcement professionals. In 2019, NYPTI hosted 30 conferences, attended by approximately 1,910 prosecutors and law enforcement professionals. In addition, 2,099 prosecutors earned 376 Continuing Legal Education credits from NYPTI's online training library.

For the first half of 2019, NYPTI continued to employ a senior attorney with over 35 years of experience as a prosecutor directing the motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud programs. The senior attorney retired in August 2019, when NYPTI's four other attorneys assumed shared responsibility for the program. NYPTI published six articles related to vehicle theft and insurance fraud on topics, including: civil forfeiture; asset forfeiture; discovery and bail reform; court of appeals decisions; and legislative updates.

NYPTI recruited experienced presenters to provide training courses on motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. In a training titled "A Look Under The Hood," presenters highlighted practical issues, utilizing a case study that illustrated organized crime involvement in automobile insurance fraud schemes; identified sources and proper methods for obtaining and using technology-based evidence; detailed issues with encrypted cell phones; discussed preparation of police witnesses; and provided a review of ethical issues.

A second training course, "Pursuing Vehicle Auto Theft & Fraud," covered finding, securing, and using evidence from social media information, geolocation data, ALPR and security camera images; preparing a major insurance fraud case; developments in forfeiture laws; and discovery reform. Videos of these training courses were made available online.

NYPTI attorneys also helped connect assistant district attorneys seeking legal assistance with experienced prosecutors in other jurisdictions to collaborate on legal issues relating to motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud. In 2019, NYPTI responded to requests for technical assistance from assistant district attorneys involved in 15 motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud cases.

Finally, NYPTI continues to update and expand the "Prosecutor's Encyclopedia." In 2019, prosecutors had access to 187,377 motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud related documents.

2019 Grant-Funded Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Activity

Performance Measure	Total	Performance Measure	Total
Seminars, Trainings & Conferences	2	Webinar Trainings Produced	0
Verified Attendees	88	Verified Webinar Viewers	0
Agencies Represented	30		
MVT Articles Published	6	MVIF Articles Published	6
Webinars for Law Enforcement Agencies	0	Webinars for Prosecutorial Offices	0

V. Appendix—2019 Statistics

2019 Reported Incidents of Motor Vehicle Theft						
Rank	County	MV Theft		Rank	County	MV Theft
1	Kings	1,833		32	Tompkins	32
2	Queens	1,561		33	Orleans	28
3	Bronx	1,267		34	Ontario	27
4	Erie	1,029			Steuben	27
5	Monroe	928		36	Allegany	26
6	Suffolk	835			Fulton	26
7	Onondaga	782			Herkimer	26
8	New York	682			Sullivan	26
9	Nassau	639			Warren	26
10	Westchester	460		41	Clinton	20
11	Albany	245		42	Franklin	19
12	Schenectady	184		43	Chenango	18
13	Richmond	179		44	Columbia	17
14	Niagara	177			Otsego	17
15	Oneida	165		46	Cayuga	16
16	Rensselaer	147		47	Tioga	15
17	Dutchess	124		48	Delaware	14
18	Broome	122			Putnam	14
19	Orange	107		50	Greene	12
20	Oswego	84		51	Madison	11
21	Chautauqua	73		52	Essex	10
22	Ulster	67		53	Schoharie	9
23	Rockland	66			Wyoming	9
24	Jefferson	54		55	Cortland	8
25	Cattaraugus	48		56	Lewis	7
26	Saratoga	45			Seneca	7
	Wayne	45		58	Washington	6
28	St. Lawrence	39		59	Livingston	5
29	Montgomery	35		60	Schuyler	3
30	Chemung	33		61	Hamilton	2
	Genesee	33			Yates	2

Appendix—2019 Statistics (continued)

2019 Suspected Motor Vehicle Insurance Fraud Incidents						
Rank	County	MV Insurance Fraud		Rank	County	MV Insurance Fraud
1	Kings	5,690		32	Allegany	13
2	Queens	3,534			Ontario	13
3	Bronx	2,692		34	Essex	12
4	Nassau	1,981			Fulton	12
5	New York	1,795			Warren	12
6	Suffolk	1,023		37	Steuben	11
7	Westchester	574			Tompkins	11
8	Richmond	410		39	Cayuga	10
9	Erie	385			Columbia	10
10	Albany	333			Cortland	10
11	Monroe	233		42	Cattaraugus	9
12	Orange	166			Chautauqua	9
13	Rockland	125			Chenango	9
14	Onondaga	100		45	Genesee	8
15	Niagara	69			Washington	8
16	Oneida	65		47	Clinton	7
17	Dutchess	58			Franklin	7
18	Schenectady	37			Lewis	7
19	Ulster	37			Livingston	7
20	Broome	33			Madison	7
21	Jefferson	30			Otsego	7
	Rensselaer	30		53	Delaware	6
23	Sullivan	24			Herkimer	6
24	Saratoga	20		55	Schoharie	4
	St. Lawrence	20			Seneca	4
26	Montgomery	18		57	Schuyler	3
	Putnam	18			Tioga	3
28	Chemung	17		59	Orleans	2
29	Greene	16			Yates	2
	Wayne	16		61	Hamilton	1
31	Oswego	14		62	Wyoming	1