



INFORMATION RELEASE:

FREE STEERING WHEEL LOCK GIVEAWAY



URBANA POLICE DEPARTMENT INVITES URBANA RESIDENTS WHO OWN HYUNDAI OR KIA VEHICLES (RESTRICTIONS APPLY) TO RECEIVE A FREE STEERING WHEEL LOCK

Urbana, IL – August 25, 2023 – Urbana has seen a rash of Hyundai and Kia vehicle thefts linked to a nationwide social media trend. As a result, the Urbana Police Department is giving away free steering wheel locks to Urbana residents who own affected Hyundai and Kia models to help secure their vehicles against theft. This steering wheel lock give-away is made possible through a partnership with Hyundai Motors.

The locks will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to Urbana residents with affected vehicle models, specifically 2011 to 2021 Kia or 2013 to 2021 Hyundai vehicles without an engine immobilizer.

In order to receive a free steering wheel lock, vehicle owners must provide:

- **Proof of residency in Urbana (UIUC Students can provide mail and I-Card) and;**
- **Current vehicle registration to verify ownership of an affected Hyundai or Kia.**

Manufacturers are also offering a software patch that renders the vehicles undrivable without a key. Kia and Hyundai owners are also encouraged to contact local dealerships and schedule an appointment to receive the software patch as soon as possible.

Urbana residents who have been a victim of any vehicle theft are encouraged to report the incident immediately to the police by calling 217-384-2320. To report a theft in-progress, residents are encouraged to contact 9-1-1.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Time: 10a.m. – 12p.m.

Required Documents: Proof of residency in Urbana and proof of ownership of affected vehicle (2011 to 2021 Kia or 2013 to 2021 Hyundai vehicles)

Location: Urbana Police Department - 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, IL

Enter City Hall lot from east side via High Street. Will exit area on Vine Street through Urbana Fire Department truck bay.