MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Driver and Vehicle Services

Emergency Communication Networks

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Minnesota State Patrol

Office of Communications

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Pipeline Safety

Office of Traffic Safety

> State Fire Marshal

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

1430 Maryland Avenue East • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106

Phone: 651.793.7000 • Fax: 651.793.7001

dps.mn.gov

Feb. 20, 2025

To: Minnesota law enforcement agencies

Re: Financial crimes and fraud consolidated under BCA

Following a Jan. 3 executive order by Gov. Walz, the BCA has realigned its financial crimes investigations to integrate the investigative personnel and functions of the former Commerce Fraud Bureau into the BCA's new <u>Financial Crimes and Fraud</u> section. This section will conduct investigations of insurance fraud, wage theft, traditional financial crimes, and fraud in state government programs. Financial crimes agents will continue to investigate large scale financial crimes related to identity theft as part of the work of our <u>Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force</u>.

In addition, the state's <u>Automobile Theft Prevention Program</u>, its Automobile Theft Prevention Grant Program and Equipment Lending Library are also now under the BCA umbrella.

Automobile Theft Prevention Grant Program accepting grant applications now

The Automobile Theft Prevention Grant Program provides grant funds to law enforcement agencies, county attorney's offices, neighborhood organizations, community organizations and business organizations committed to combatting auto theft.

The program provides funds for local projects that aid in:

- Identification of critical law enforcement issues related to auto theft
- Auto theft education for law enforcement officers and residents
- Investigation and prosecution of auto theft suspects
- Collaboration between law enforcement agencies working to reduce auto theft
- Prevention of auto thefts which result in lower auto insurance premium

Many efforts have been supported by this program, including:

- Jail interviews of known suspects and associates that yield a high rate of recovery and charges
- Increased crime scene processing of recovered stolen vehicles
- Mobile and stationary license plate readers that allow law enforcement to fight auto theft without hiring additional officers

Agencies can get <u>additional information and a grant application form</u> on the BCA website. If you have questions about the grant, please follow contact instructions on the application form.

If you have any questions about the BCA Financial Crimes and Fraud section, please contact us MNfraud.Bureau@state.mn.us or 651-793-3750.

Sincerely,

Drew Evans, Superintendent