OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

NOTICE
1.14

April 25, 2023

TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE RECOVERY OF UNOCCUPIED STOLEN VEHICLES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Notice is to inform Department personnel that any unoccupied stolen vehicle shall be impounded immediately **unless** specified in the exceptions delineated in this Notice.

BACKGROUND

The Department is committed to safeguarding the lives and property of those community members who reside, visit, or work in the City of Los Angeles. Unfortunately, motor vehicle thefts have become commonplace. The theft of a vehicle can be a traumatic event with serious financial implications. The loss of transportation can negatively impact an individual's or family's ability to respond to work, school, or other obligations.

PROCEDURES

When a located stolen vehicle is determined to be unoccupied, Department personnel shall immediately conduct the following:

- Complete a "Recovered" Vehicle Report, California Highway Patrol (CHP) Form 180;
- Notify the Vehicle/Property Unit, Records and Identification Division; and,
- Adhere to procedures delineated in Department Manual Section 4/221.10, *Releasing Recovered Stolen Vehicles and/or Vessel*, which states:

> ***221.10 RELEASING RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLES AND/OR VESSEL.*** *When feasible, a recovered stolen vehicle and/or vessel which does not require a hold shall be released to the owner registered and/or legal (or the owner's agent) without impounding. In the event there is possible evidence associated with the vehicle that cannot be easily removed (e.g., latent prints, DNA, etc.), officers shall contact the Area Auto Detectives for advice and request a supervisor at scene, who shall then determine the feasibility of the vehicle's field release.*
>
> > ***Note:*** *Upon verification of the identity or authorization of the registered and/or legal owner, or the owner's agent, the reporting officer shall document the identity of the person taking possession of the vehicle.*

Determining Feasibility. *Officers who recover a vehicle and/or vessel which appears to be available for field release shall determine the feasibility of making a field release based on the following factors:*

- *The practicability of immediately contacting the registered and/or legal owner (e.g., availability of registered and/or legal owner's telephone number);*
- *The time required for the owner to arrive at the recovery location;*
- *The registered and/or legal owner's willingness to receive the vehicle; and,*
- *The current unit call load and need for police service.*

EXCEPTIONS

At times, a stolen vehicle may have been involved in the commission of a crime or is a part of an ongoing investigation. When this occurs, it is incumbent upon the assigned investigator to notify the Vehicle/Property Unit, Records and Identification Division, so the Stolen Vehicle System (SVS) can be properly updated with the relevant information. The information, which appears in the miscellaneous (MIS) field of the SVS printout, will normally contain any of the following:

- Suspect information;
- Advisement to hold the vehicle when impounded; and/or,
- Call Auto detectives when the vehicle has been located.

Upon verification of the SVS printout and all relevant information, Department personnel shall be guided by the watch commander and advising detective on how to recover the stolen vehicle.

The expectation is that the Department will make every effort to locate, recover, and return the stolen vehicle to the rightful owner as quickly as possible without jeopardizing ongoing investigations.

If you have any questions, contact Traffic Coordination Section, Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0690.

MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

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