

## CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

### NOTICE

September 27, 2023

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**TO:** All Concerned Personnel

**FROM:** Chief of Detectives

**SUBJECT:** GUIDELINES FOR TESLA STOLEN VEHICLE INVESTIGATIONS

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Notice is to provide officers and investigators with guidelines for locating and disabling stolen Tesla vehicles to assist in recovery and investigative efforts.

### **BACKGROUND**

In June 2023, Department personnel became involved in a vehicle pursuit of a stolen Tesla that concluded in a vehicle collision with an uninvolved community member. During the Multi-Disciplinary Collision Investigation, it was determined Tesla vehicles have several capabilities that could have minimized the Department's involvement in the vehicle pursuit. Such capabilities include the ability to limit the vehicle's speed and to require the entry of a PIN (Personal Identification Number) to operate the vehicle.

### **PROCEDURES**

In July 2023, Tesla Loss Prevention, in collaboration with Commercial Crimes Division (CCD), created the below guidelines when investigating a stolen Tesla vehicle. Responding officers shall conduct a thorough stolen vehicle investigation, and in doing so, determine the registered and legal owner(s) of the stolen vehicle.

If it is determined the victim is the registered owner (RO) of the stolen Tesla, the responding officers shall verify the RO has access to the Tesla App on their electronic device (cell phone, iPad, etc.). Through the Tesla App, the following commands can be activated by the RO: Remote Start, Unlock Doors, Open Trunk, Flash the Lights, Honk Horn, Obtain Current Location, Dog Mode (when parked, the ability to remotely view the vehicle's interior cameras), Sentry Mode (when parked, the ability to remotely view the vehicle's interior and exterior cameras) and **Limit Vehicle Speed** (Valet Mode, limits top speed to 40 mph). The responding officers shall request the RO activate Limit Vehicle Speed (Valet Mode) of their stolen vehicle.

If it is determined that Tesla is the RO of the stolen vehicle, the responding officers shall direct Tesla representatives to activate the **PIN to Drive** function of the vehicle.<sup>1</sup> The PIN to Drive function is a safety measure that requires the operator of a Tesla to enter the PIN to start the vehicle once the vehicle has been placed in Park. This function can only be initialized by Tesla Security.

Officers should be aware that Tesla cannot shut down vehicles that are in motion. The activation of Tesla's Limit Vehicle Speed and PIN to Drive functions will limit the vehicle's speed and ultimately reduce potential risk to the community.

Effective immediately, Department employees should utilize the above information when handling calls regarding a stolen Tesla vehicle.

**OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.** When investigating the theft of a Tesla vehicle, personnel shall complete the following steps:

- A Stolen Vehicle Report (CHP Form 180) shall be completed containing the elements of the crime in the narrative.
- Complete a Forgery report for the dealership where the vehicle was stolen via fraud (fraudulent application, identity theft, and/or forgery), and an Identity Theft report for the person or business whose information was compromised. The related Stolen Vehicle report will have the same Division of Records (DR) number as the Forgery report.

*Identity Theft* – The vehicle was purchased using a victim's personal identifying information (PII).

*Forgery* – The dealership verified the vehicle was purchased via identity theft, as the purchase application contains fraudulent PII and/or a victim's forged signatures.

- If Tesla is the victim, officers shall call and ensure the Tesla representative reporting has activated the vehicle's PIN to Drive function and assist in locating the vehicle via the Global Positioning System (GPS).
- For **critical incidents only** (i.e. kidnapping, homicides, aggravated domestic violence) contact Commercial Crimes Division during business hours and via the Department Operations Center during off-hours for liaison with the Tesla Security Operations Center.
- If the victim is the RO, officers shall direct them to place their stolen vehicle in Limit Vehicle Speed (Valet Mode) and provide the current location of the Tesla vehicle via the Tesla App.

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<sup>1</sup> A Tesla-owned vehicle is a vehicle that was stolen from their fleet or a vehicle purchased via fraud, identity theft, and/or forgery.

- Notify the Vehicle Information Processing Unit (VIPU) to ensure the vehicle information is entered into the Stolen Vehicle System (SVS).
- Officers shall attempt to locate and recover the vehicle.


**COMMANDING OFFICER'S / DETECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.** Commanding Officers shall ensure compliance with this Notice.

**COMMERCIAL CRIMES DIVISION RESPONSIBILITIES.** Commercial Crimes Division is available to assist Area detectives in liaison with the Tesla Security Operations Center. Additionally, when it is determined a stolen Tesla was obtained via fraud, identity theft, and/or forgery, officers shall contact Commercial Crimes Division for guidance. During off-hours, the CCD on-call team can be reached via the Department Operations Center at (213) 484-6700.

Should you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Commercial Crimes Division at (213) 486-5920.

APPROVED:

  
KRIS E. PITCHER, Deputy Chief  
Chief of Detectives

  
DANIEL RANDOLPH, Deputy Chief  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Chief of Police

DISTRIBUTION "D"