



February 14, 2023 to February 21, 2023

POLICE CRIME REPORT

KIA & HYUNDAI AUTO THEFT TREND

Do you own a Kia of model years 2011-21 or a Hyundai of years 2016-21? Does it start a steel key instead of a push-button ignition?

Law enforcement and national [media outlets](#) have recently confirmed a common design flaw in these vehicles that allows auto thieves to easily hotwire them with a screwdriver or USB cable. Thieves have quickly become aware of this flaw through social media, particularly on TikTok.

Perpetrators exploiting this flaw typically force entry through the vehicle's window and use the stolen car for dangerous and costly joyriding.

The [BBC reports](#) that these Korean automakers have released a free software patch to help protect their drivers.

If you have a crime or concern to report, you can call the Rockville City Police Department at:

Non-Emergency: 240-314-8900

Emergency: 9-1-1

We provide a weekly report of serious crime to serve as an overview of police activity occurring within City Limits. Please note this summary does not include every reported incident that has occurred during this time frame and that the words "arrested" and "charged" do not imply guilt.

ARRESTS

02/15/23, a male, age 39, was arrested for burglary in the 1000 block of Twinbrook Parkway

02/19/23, a male, age 31, was arrested for DUI in the 500 block of Marcia Lane

02/20/23, a male, age 37, was arrested for simple assault and violation of a protective order in the 600 block of Monroe Street

INCIDENTS

800 block of Hungerford Drive, after auto-repair shop employees left a vehicle unlocked, their customer discovered that someone had entered the car, taken a credit card, and used it to conduct fraudulent purchases on 11/15/22 and on 11/17/22. **Incident reported: 02/18/23.**

1900 block of Stanley Avenue, allowing her car to automatically lock upon exit, a resident returned to find her purse stolen from inside sometime between 12:30 p.m. on 02/13/23 and 8:00 a.m. on 02/14/23.

100 block of Upton Street, the owners of six nearby vehicles found that someone had entered their cars to steal property at about 5:00 a.m. 02/14/23, having shattered car windows in four cases.

1100 block of Edmonston Drive, an unknown subject shattered the window of a vehicle with a rock to steal cash between 7:47 a.m. on 02/15/23 and 7:50 a.m. on 02/16/23.

1700 block of Redgate Farms Court, unknown subject(s) forced entry into a vehicle parked in an isolated overflow lot and removed its seats, airbag, dashboard, battery, and console components sometime between 9:00 p.m. on 02/16/23 and 9:00 a.m. 02/17/23.

400 block of Hungerford Drive, after refusing a cashier's request for ID, an unknown subject walked behind the store's counter and grabbed multiple packs of cigarettes. **The subject is described as:**

Black male—medium-build, 5 foot, 9 inches tall, 175 pounds, clean-shaven, short black hair, medium-complexion—Last seen wearing a black jacket

Unit block of Upper Rock Circle, an unknown subject took an SUV via unknown means between 7:00 p.m. on 02/16/23 and 12:43 p.m. on 02/17/23.

900 block of Gaither Road, arriving in a dark-colored minivan, a masked subject shattered a vehicle's side-window to steal a luxury briefcase at about 8:00 a.m. on 02/17/23.

200 block of Rollins Avenue, a group of unknown subject(s) stole a Hyundai sedan by tearing-out its ignition and ultimately crashed it against another stolen vehicle in Germantown between 4:00 p.m. and 9:43 p.m. on 02/17/23.

1800 block of Greenplace Terrace, an unknown subject took an unsecured bicycle from a bike-rack between 9:00 a.m. and 3:10 p.m. on 02/17/23.

12900 block of Twinbrook Parkway, a group of five juvenile boys reportedly taunted two juvenile brothers in a tennis court. One member of the group approached the brothers, struck one twice, and chased them at approximately 6:00 p.m. on 02/18/23.

700 block of Falls Grove Drive, an unknown subject summoned a food delivery driver and, upon the driver's arrival, the would-be customer displayed a handgun and took the driver's food and cash. **The subject is described as:**

Black male—18 to 20 years old, 5 foot, 5 inches tall, medium-build—Last seen wearing a black face-mask, black jacket, and gray pants

2100 block of Veirs Mill Road, an unknown subject assaulted a business-owner while ordering her to open their cash register. **The subject is described as:**

Black male—approximately 30 years old, 5 foot, 5 inches tall, 150 lbs—Last seen wearing a black hoodie, dark jeans, and with a white trash-bag over his face

12900 block of Twinbrook Parkway, an unknown subject shattered an SUV's window to steal a purse from inside at about 5:20 p.m. on 02/18/23.

1700 block of Yale Place, an unknown subject shattered a car's window to steal a purse from inside between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on 02/18/23.



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The Rockville City Police Department is a Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency.
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