



VILLAGE OF PINECREST  
Press Release

**For Additional Information:**

Michelle Hammontree  
Communications Manager  
305.234.2121, Ext. 122  
mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov

Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC  
Village Clerk  
305.234.2121, Ext. 120  
clerk@pinecrest-fl.gov

Media Contact: Michelle Hammontree  
Communications Manager  
[mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:mhammontree@pinecrest-fl.gov)  
786-606-3042

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Police alert residents about car hoppers and how to stop them*

**Pinecrest, Fla.** – Pinecrest Police is alerting residents of “car hoppers” who go from car to car in residential areas checking to see if cars are open. Many auto burglaries escalate to auto thefts because keys are not stored in a safe place away from the car.

A simple method to avoid being a victim of an auto burglary and/or car theft is to lock the car, and to store car keys and any other remote devices in a safe place inside the home.

Newer car models offer two special convenience features: keyless smart entry, and push button start. All that’s required for these features to work is that the smart key be within close proximity to the vehicle.

Since January 16 cars have been stolen from residential areas in Pinecrest – eight of those cars had the keys inside of the car and nine were unlocked. In addition, four of the car owners weren’t certain if the car was left unlocked and three were not certain if the keys were left inside.

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