

# MPD INFORMATIONAL ALERT

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE

10/22/2021

**This is a citywide alert. Stay aware of your surroundings!**



### About the Crime:

A pattern has been identified - ride-share operators with Uber and Lyft operating within the City of Minneapolis are being primarily targeted. Multiple incidents include some or all the following actions:

- A request for service is made from a stolen phone.
- An individual meets the ride-share driver and asks them to wait a few minutes.
- A group of armed individuals may arrive in one or more stolen vehicles and block the exit of the ride-share driver.
- The group of armed individuals surround the ride-share vehicle, demand the driver to exit the vehicle, and take the driver's wallet, phone, and phone security code.
- Some drivers have been assaulted, including being pistol whipped.
- The group of armed individuals leaves in the vehicles they arrived in and take the ride-share vehicle, as well.
- Vehicles used by the suspects are typically listed as stolen and/or have stolen plates or no plates.

### Who should be most concerned:

- **EVERYONE!** To date, residents have rarely been the target of these car jackings, but everyone needs to take precautions.
- Ride-Share operators need to take extra precautions to stay safe.

### What you can do:

#### For Ride-Share Operators:

- Stay aware of your surroundings, even when in a locked vehicle.
- Avoid using your phone for more than a couple of seconds.
- Be extra cautious if asked to wait for the customer(s).
- If you are not in a populated area with visible pedestrian and vehicle traffic, leave immediately if you see one or more vehicles or individuals approaching nearby.

#### If you become the victim of this type of crime:

- Give up the vehicle - do not fight to keep the car.
- If you are confronted by an assailant(s), remain calm, do not argue.
- Along with a description of the suspect(s), try to remember any unique physical characteristics (scars, limp, acne, teeth, manner of speech, etc...).
- Never pursue fleeing assailants - provide information and suspect(s) descriptions to responding officers.
- If video surveillance equipment is available, please save a copy of the incident for investigating detectives.
- If approached by a witness to the incident, request contact information.
- Contact **911** immediately and remain on scene, if possible.

#### For residents:

- Call **911** immediately if you witness the elements of the crime(s) described above.
- Be sure to pay attention to specific details like license plates, vehicle damage, suspect(s) descriptions, and direction of travel. Provide this information to responding officers.
- If you have video surveillance, provide a copy, or contact information to the police.
- If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers: <http://crimestoppersmn.org> or 1-800-222-8477.
- For further information go to <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/public-safety/police-public-safety/crime-maps-dashboards/>