



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Motor Vehicle Thefts**

OWATONNA, Minn., September 2, 2025

Owatonna Police Chief Jeff Mundale is encouraging residents to help prevent theft by locking vehicle doors, removing valuables and never leaving ignition keys inside a vehicle.

Over the Labor Day weekend, the Owatonna Police Department (OPD) received four stolen vehicle reports and arrested two juveniles, one of whom is being held at a juvenile detention center. One of the juveniles was arrested by OPD for motor vehicle theft on August 13, 2025. All four vehicles were recovered by OPD and released to their owners.

On Saturday, August 30, 2025, at 7:12 a.m., the OPD took a report of a vehicle stolen on the 1800 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE. This vehicle was recovered later that day and released back to its owner.

Additionally, on Sunday two more vehicles were reported stolen to OPD, and multiple instances of motor vehicle tampering and thefts from motor vehicles.

On Monday, September 1, 2025, at 12:49 p.m., an OPD Detective conducting surveillance located one of the stolen vehicles on the 800 block of N. Elm Avenue. A second stolen vehicle from the day, was observed leaving the Lakeside Foods parking lot. An OPD Officer attempted to stop this vehicle, and it began to flee. After a brief vehicle pursuit, the stolen vehicle was abandoned at Saint John's Cemetery off 12<sup>th</sup> Street NE and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The juvenile suspect was apprehended after sustaining a self-induced injury during the foot pursuit.

Shortly thereafter, a second juvenile suspect was seen in the area walking toward Darts Park from the intersection at Elm Avenue and North Street. The juvenile male was stopped and detained by police. The investigation revealed he was in possession of car keys of a fourth stolen vehicle from the 100 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Street NE. This vehicle was located, processed for evidence and released to the owner. This juvenile male suspect was arrested and held at a secured juvenile detention center.

These incidents remain an active and on-going investigation.

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