



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

May 17, 2023

Mayor Brandon Scott  
Office of the Mayor  
250 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Commissioner Harrison  
Baltimore City Police  
601 East Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Scott and Commissioner Harrison,

We found it interesting that Baltimore City is joining a lawsuit against Hyundai and Kia, due to alleged susceptibility of auto theft.

We understand your concerns about auto theft in Baltimore City. Numerous people have told us they fear getting carjacked or having their vehicle stolen, discouraging them from visiting the city. According to your May 11th press release, Hyundai and Kia's model cars are more vulnerable to theft than other brands, constituting 41% of all stolen vehicles. This implies that 59% of stolen cars belong to different brands.

Baltimore City Police Department data shows over 2,200 auto thefts and 159 carjackings in the 5 ½ months this year. Last year, there were 2,473 auto thefts, but only 397 arrests were made - only 7 of which received a guilty verdict. **That works out as one conviction for every 353 cars stolen.**

One conviction for every 353 cars stolen shows that if a criminal steals a car in Baltimore City, they are nearly guaranteed to get away with the crime. However, if the criminal is caught, they will receive a slap on the wrist, leaving victims of car theft and carjackings not receiving the justice they deserve.

Auto theft and carjackings involve the loss of property and put people in physical danger, even resulting in death. The victims and taxpayers of Maryland deserve better. These crimes lead to the loss of life and property, drive up insurance costs, and have a

negative economic impact when tourists and visitors stay away from the city. Residents and visitors to Baltimore City should be safe, and so should their vehicles.


**We urge you to send a clear message that Baltimore City Police and prosecutors will hold criminals accountable for auto theft and carjackings.** Therefore, in addition to the current lawsuit against Hyundai and Kia, we believe that more should be done to create awareness, assist people in measures for their protection, and invest in better technology and other strategies to ensure that criminals are caught and prosecuted appropriately. By adopting a well-publicized and aggressive law and order approach to fighting carjackings and auto theft, Baltimore City can assure citizens and tourists that their safety is the top priority.

We stand ready to support any legislation you need in the next legislative session to get more criminals apprehended, prosecuted, and incarcerated when they engage in carjackings and auto theft. Furthermore, we hope to see legislative initiatives introduced to hold juveniles accountable when they commit these heinous crimes that have even led to the death of innocent bystanders.


Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Matt Morgan  
Delegate


  
Robin Grammar  
Delegate

  
Mark Fisher  
Delegate

  
Ryan Nawrocki  
Delegate

  
Lauren Arian  
Delegate

  
Kathy Szellga  
Delegate

  
Brian Chisholm  
Delegate

