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When I tell the story of how we have had five cars stolen, had the people on video and had them identified on facebook...had copies of their Driver's Licenses in the cars, the police had text messages from them to the people where they were taking them to be stripped - BUT that is not enough evidence for the DA to prosecute.....when I tell people that there were at least another 12 cases related to this same person and that the detective in Gresham had it all together and gave to the DA but nothing was done on any of those cases either...no one believes me....yet I have a binder where I have all this documented.....only when that person committed armed robbery was he prosecuted.

Most people don't believe that when you steal a car in Multnomah County that you are not prosecuted - (case in point I met with Gresham Senior Citizens this morning and they did not know that car theft is not being prosecuted)...the only ones that are paying attention to this are the car thieves and as I stated in 2016 if we do not do something about this the thefts will only become more common place...that has happened....8th in the Nation for Gresham - 5th for Portland. This is wrong on so many levels....the cost to our business alone has been over \$100,000 (in losses and damages) and then this year our liability policy increased \$25,000 per year..so we will continue to pay. Obviously some of losses were covered by our insurance but then the rates go up and we have high deductibles so our out of pocket is significant. But just incase you think--you are a big business you can handle the expense - it doesn't stop with us .....insurance rates have increased on single moms and the damage caused to their vehicles many times has to be fixed at their own expense in an effort not to have another claim not to mention the cost of time and energy to handle being without a car.

In addition to the above we have had to hire private security which costs have doubled in the past 4 years due to raises in wages etc.

We have always believed in being good citizens, but when good citizens can't be protected from criminals.....isn't that truly the end of a civil society. We strongly urge you to do the right thing on behalf of ALL those law abiding citizens your represent and pass HB2328 UNAMENDED (becuase we shouldn't be discussing costs when it comes to lawlessness). If there are consequences to peoples actions the crime will be deterred - our current situation is proof of the opposite of this. If you should want to speak to me further my phone number is 503-665-0102.

Thank you,

Bess R. Wills, General Manager  
Gresham Ford