

The Grand Rapids Auto Theft Unit investigated numerous reports of vehicle keys being stolen from salespeople's desks during the day. The dealerships would then have vehicles stolen at night.

Officers developed information that a local gang of youths was sending a group of members into targeted dealerships to distract sales personnel while they took keys from vacant desks. When the next key theft report came in, officers set up stake-outs on three dealerships and arrested six gang members as they attempted to drive off in new vehicles.

This cooperative effort between Grand Rapids PD and the Kent County Sheriff Department resulted in eleven arrests and stopped a pattern that covered a large portion of Kent County.