

The Macomb Auto Theft Squad (MATS) initiated an investigation where keys were obtained for vehicles, and the vehicles were subsequently stolen. This investigation resulted in the execution of multiple search warrants in the city of Detroit where numerous vehicles were recovered. The investigation showed that this group was responsible for stealing many vehicles. The majority of the vehicles stolen were from the western Wayne County area, so MATS passed the case on to the Western Wayne Auto theft team for additional investigation. After a 16-month long investigation, Western Wayne successfully identified and arrested three individuals on a 569-count warrant.

The scheme involved getting vehicle keys cut at a dealership for vehicles they wanted to steal. Once they had the key, the three subjects would then simply unlock the vehicles and drive away. The vehicles were then retagged with a clean VIN and sold to 119 innocent purchasers at local malls. It is estimated these three subjects netted over \$1 million from this scheme.

The Macomb Auto Theft Squad continued the investigation in Macomb County and successfully arrested six other subjects on 156 counts. They also recovered another 24 vehicles with an estimated value of over \$300,000.

Both units are being recognized for a job well done by the North Central Regional Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IATTI).