

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEAT TIPSTER HELPS DETROIT POLICE NAB
AT-LARGE CARJACKING SUSPECT**

Information lead to the recovery of almost 20 vehicles

LIVONIA, MI (2 August 2000) – A call to the HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts) toll-free tip line lead to the arrest of an at-large suspect who was wanted for a string of carjackings in metro Detroit.

“This is a really big case,” said Lieutenant Michael Lee of the Detroit Police Department. According to Lee, the suspect was behind more than 20 carjackings and auto thefts. Already, 18 vehicles have been recovered, valued at almost \$300,000.

While HEAT normally awards up to \$2,000 for a tip that leads to the arrest and prosecution of a carjacking suspect, HEAT Director Terri Miller said this case may warrant a larger award. “This suspect was wanted for an extremely large number of carjackings and HEAT wants to reward the tipster accordingly. When HEAT helps citizens and police work together against auto theft, we all win.”

Tipsters can call the HEAT[®] tip line, 1-800-242-HEAT, to confidentially report auto theft related information, including insurance fraud. Tipsters are rewarded up to \$1,000 if their tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief or a person suspected of auto theft related insurance fraud. Rewards up to \$10,000 are issued if a tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring and/or chop shop operators. HEAT[®] also rewards \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

HEAT's hotline is monitored by the Michigan State Police and funded by Michigan auto insurance companies. Since it's inception in 1985, HEAT[®] has awarded more than \$2 million to tip callers. During that period, the HEAT[®] tip line has received 6,165 calls

leading to the arrest of 2,319 suspects and has recovered 2,828 vehicles valued at more than \$32 million. In 1999, the program made a resounding impact on Michigan's fight against auto thefts. Last year, the hotline received more than 400 tips that led to the arrest of 154 suspects and the recovery of more than \$2 million in stolen property.

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