

For Immediate Release  
July 11, 2024

## Somerset Hills Towns Unite to Combat Vehicle and Home Theft: New Safety Ordinances Passed

Bedminster, Bernards Township, Bernardsville, Bridgewater,  
Far Hills and Peapack & Gladstone, New Jersey

In a collaborative effort to enhance community safety, the six towns of the Somerset Hills—Bedminster, Bernards Township, Bernardsville, Bridgewater, Far Hills and Peapack & Gladstone, New Jersey have joined forces to address the alarming increase in motor vehicle thefts, burglaries, and home invasions throughout the Somerset Hills. Each participating municipality has unanimously passed a groundbreaking resident protection ordinance. These ordinances empower local authorities to prosecute vehicle and home theft crimes more effectively, particularly in cases where the State’s Attorney General has set precedent for such crimes to not be prosecuted.

Modelled after similar Ordinances introduced in a few Union County towns, key provisions of these Ordinances include:

1. **A Collective Effort:** Addresses the alarming increase in motor vehicle thefts, burglaries and home invasions that have occurred in the six towns.
2. **Strengthening Laws:** The new ordinance bolsters existing laws, providing additional tools for law enforcement agencies to combat theft-related offenses. It specifically targets car burglaries and loitering on properties with the intent to steal vehicles.
3. **Targets Trespassers:** The new ordinance makes it illegal to enter private property and if a person is not licensed or privileged to be there. Further, it targets the use of electronic devices that may aid in the theft of a vehicle.

**Mayor Larry Jacobs of Bedminster** stated. “This ordinance provides an additional tool to combat car thefts, although it isn’t a silver bullet”.

The Somerset Hills municipalities are committed to safeguarding their communities. By passing these ordinances, the Somerset Hills Mayors hope the message is clear to thieves, that that theft will be taken seriously, and perpetrators will be held accountable. They are also sending a clear message to State Legislators to revamp policies, carry a hard line on thefts, and reverse bail reform.

For more information, contact: **Somerset Hills Public Safety Committee** c/o Mark Corigliano, Mayor, Borough of Peapack and Gladstone (1 School Street, Peapack, NJ 07977), or by email at: [mcorigliano@peapackgladstone.org](mailto:mcorigliano@peapackgladstone.org).