



The Texas chapters of the International Association of Special Investigation Units

February 10, 2011

Since its establishment by the 72nd Texas Legislature in 1991, the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) has been charged with assessing the vehicle burglary, vehicle theft, and economic vehicle theft (burglary or theft committed for financial gain) problems in Texas and providing financial support to combat them.

Since the ABTPA's inception, vehicle theft rates in Texas have been reduced by 70 percent.

Our organizations represent the North and South Texas chapters of the International Association of Special Investigation Units, which is comprised of more than 4,600 individuals representing more than 600 insurance and self-insured companies around the world. Collectively, our North and South Texas chapters are comprised of over 200 members responsible for insurance fraud investigation employed by 45 insurance companies doing business in Texas and 11 local, state and federal law enforcement and fire agencies.

We routinely investigate questionable claims involving reported stolen, burned or burglarized vehicles under suspicion of insurance fraud. During the course of these investigations, our chapter members often work very closely with auto theft task forces funded by grants from the ABTPA. These law enforcement resources provide invaluable partnership and assistance with the investigation of vehicle-related insurance fraud and its prosecution.

The Texas ABTPA, itself, recognizes insurance fraud as growing problem and has formed an Insurance Fraud Committee, comprised of representatives from insurance companies, Office of the Attorney General, Texas Department of Insurance, and law enforcement agencies to deal with issues relating to vehicle theft "give-ups or walkaways," arson, VIN switches, and insurance fraud.

This collective focus on combating Texas vehicle-related insurance crimes is absolutely necessary. Texas ABTPA task forces provide much needed assistance to the insurance industry with the investigation and prosecution of vehicle-related insurance crime.

This translates into lower automobile insurance rates for all Texas drivers.

As nonprofit organizations whose membership includes insurance fraud investigators from both the private and public sectors, we stand together and strongly support any and all legislative efforts to maintain funding for the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority so that it can continue to serve the State of Texas, and its citizens, in the battle against all forms of motor vehicle crimes. Likewise, we stand against any effort to limit, reduce or take away ABTPA funding and do not wish to imagine a Texas without auto theft task forces or ABTPA resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Walker".

Brent Walker
President (Texas-South IASIU)
Texas Association of Special Investigation Units
www.tasiu.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amie Plunk".

Amie Plunk
President (Texas-North IASIU)
North Texas Chapter of IASIU
www.ntiasiu.org

Reference:

http://www.txdmv.gov/About_Us/abtpa.htm
http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/atpa/fact_sheet_2011.pdf
http://www.texastribune.org/texas-taxes/2011-budget-shortfall/texas-lawmakers-propose-raiding-auto-theft-fund/?utm_source=texastribune.org&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=Tribune%20Feed:%20Main%20Feed