



Texas without Auto Theft Task Forces?

What would it be like?

An educational editorial by Brent Walker, TASIU chapter president

A few of you may know that I was first bitten by the "insurance fraud bug" as a young detective assigned to a state-funded auto theft task force. Since that first "stolen-burn" and its successful insurance fraud prosecution, I was hooked.

We have all probably dealt with, worked with and shared successes with a law enforcement peer in an ABTPA funded auto theft task force. Not only do these fine officers investigate auto theft, but they also regularly investigate insurance fraud too. Over the years, the insurance industry in Texas has enjoyed a steady decrease in the auto theft rate and I would personally attribute the state's auto theft task forces for this. Having these law enforcement resources dedicated to auto theft and insurance fraud investigation have been very valuable resources for our SIU investigations.

Well, now these auto theft task forces, statewide, are facing the very real possibility of losing their budgets.

Can you imagine a Texas without auto theft task forces? What would it be like?

Would we have as many law enforcement "go-to" contacts to send our insurance fraud cases to? No, we would not.

What can we do about this? Well, as a chapter, TASIU will carry out our IASIU mission by letting our state legislators know that we have concerns over the auto theft task forces possibly losing their budget and that we support continued and dedicated funds to these law enforcement peers who have proved themselves both friendly to the SIU industry over the years and extremely effective at fighting auto thieves and insurance fraudsters. You can do the same by asking your company's government affairs section to consider how your company feels about this and voicing any concerns.

For more information, please see the Texas Tribune article at:

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

We can watch this unfold from the sidelines and hope for the best or we can suit up and get involved.

I know what TASIU will do... *thanks in advance.*



TASIU recognized Charley Smith in January for his retirement from the SIU industry. Chapter president Brent Walker presented Charley a plaque of appreciation for his many years of service to TASIU, including his term as chapter president. *Best wishes*

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