

A Long, Fast Trip to Jail. Thwarting Fleet Thefts.

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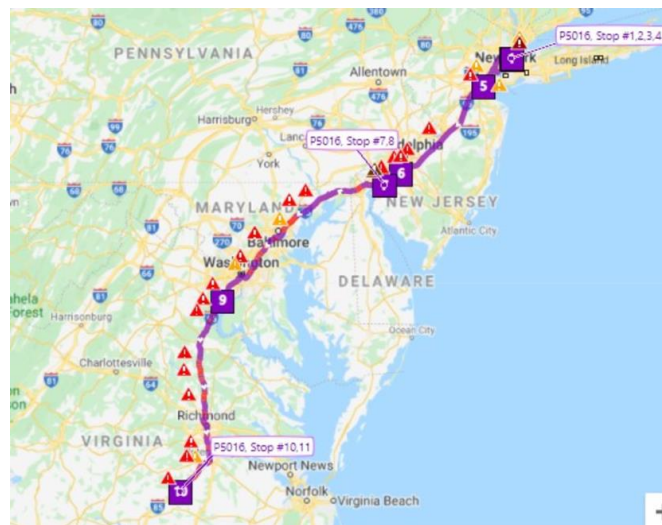
In the last year, we have seen an increase in theft and vandalism tied to City fleet units and equipment. On and off-road equipment has been stolen, including in some brazen ways such as impersonation of towing companies.

Theft themes have included catalytic converters, especially on Prius units, and theft of off-road John Deere gators and other off-road units. The New York Times reported recently on nationwide thefts of catalytic converters, showing this is part of a larger trend. In 2019, NYPD worked with DCAS and City agencies to stop a previous theft ring of converters. You can read about it in [NYC Fleet Newsletter Issue 259](#).

DCAS tracks all theft and vandalism in the CRASH module of NYC Fleet Focus. When learning of a theft, we will also immediately reach out to NYPD, DOI, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

It is critical that all thefts and vandalisms be reported to NYPD and DCAS Fleet immediately when they happen. The faster thefts are reported, the better the chance of recovering the vehicle. Stolen public vehicles could also be used in the commission of crimes or violent acts. It is critical we prioritize recovery.

Recently, NYPD, Parks, and DCAS were able to use fleet tracking with the support of the Virginia State Police to coordinate the arrest of a group that stole a Parks pick-up truck. The thieves took the pick-up and rushed at high speeds to Virginia. Our Fleet Office of Real-Time Tracking (FORT) mapped their paths with automated and real-time system alerts screaming constantly. Thanks to good work at Parks and NYPD, the thieves rushed right into the hands of the police. For more information on this, check out [the Daily News article](#).



Screenshot of the route the thieves drove the pickup truck until they were apprehended.

In partnership with the NYPD Law Enforcement Unit at NYPD Fleet Services, we remind City staff of the following guidelines to safeguard our equipment:

- Secure vehicles including locking doors, closing windows, and never leaving keys in vehicles that are unattended.
- Make sure that tracking units are operational for all on-road fleet units. Please reach out to DCAS Fleet to address any units not reporting.
- No equipment should be scheduled for pick up by vendors or dealers during off-hours or weekends. This should be clearly understood by all agency security employees who also should be placed on the alert for potential equipment thieves.
- No person or representative of a vendor or dealer, driver or tow operator, should be permitted to enter City agency property or take control of any asset unless the agency has foreknowledge of the removal. Tow staff must produce valid government-issued photo ID. Agencies should take pictures or copies of this ID and the license of the towing units. If there are any questions about an equipment removal, contact DCAS immediately before the tow unit is removed.
- Should any unauthorized person(s) attempt to enter a City facility to remove equipment and refuse or lack appropriate photo identification, 911 should be called immediately to report a suspicious person. A full description of the person(s) and any vehicles involved including make, model, color, and license plate should be given to the 911 operator.
- Agencies should take steps to secure off-road equipment such as generators, generators, Bobcat loaders, and light towers especially overnight. Easily movable equipment should be stored in a manner to deter theft. Avoid parking or storing equipment in locations that have been subject to previous thefts. Secure vehicles using fencing, block with other vehicles, install security cameras on parking areas when possible, or take other steps to deter or interrupt theft.

Working together we can prevent and address these thefts. Thank you for your attention and support to this important concern.

Interference with the GPS tracking devices can lead to administrative and criminal penalties.

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