
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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TODAY: Committee to hear new file on KIA and Hyundai anti-theft system issues

A communication file introduced by **Alderman Milele A. Coggs** and **Alderman Khalif J. Rainey** seeking direction from the Office of the City Attorney as to possible legal options the City may pursue related to the ongoing significant theft issues with KIA and Hyundai vehicles, will be heard today by the **Judiciary and Legislation Committee**.

The legislation – **Council file #210367** – asks the Office of the City Attorney to provide testimony today to the Judiciary and Legislation Committee on what legal options exist to address the issues with KIA and Hyundai models, which have been favorite targets of car thieves because of certain security system shortcomings. **Alderman Nikiya Dodd** and **Alderman Chantia Lewis** are listed as co-sponsors of the file.

The Judiciary and Legislation Committee meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. today and **will be televised live** on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.

Earlier this year (in nearly identically-worded letters), Alderman Coggs and Alderman Rainey urged the heads of KIA and Hyundai to bolster their anti-theft systems so as to make their models harder to steal. The letters noted the jump in frequency with which the KIA and Hyundai models are stolen in the City of Milwaukee, according to the Milwaukee Police Department and backed up by posts on social media.

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New KIA and Hyundai file/ADD ONE

The letters stated, in part: “We recently asked our police department to review what we perceived to be a spike in vehicle theft. The results were disturbing. To date in 2021, the number of thefts has increased 181% over the same period in 2020. This spike began in November 2020 and was almost immediately associated by police officials with automobiles manufactured by your company and one other. Vehicles manufactured by your two companies have accounted for 66% of those stolen in 2021 – a number wildly out of proportion with their presence in this city.”

The stolen vehicles are often involved in reckless driving incidents and crashes that are taking a toll on neighborhoods and victims across Milwaukee, Alderwoman Coggs has said, also noting the manufacturers owe it to their customers to fix the deficiency issues that make the vehicles easier to steal.

Alderman Rainey has said he believes KIA and Hyundai are directly responsible for the drain on police and other city resources that have been directed to deal with the rash of vehicle thefts and the havoc those thefts have brought to the city.

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