

RESOLUTION NO. 20240118-047

WHEREAS, the car manufacturers, Kia and Hyundai, did not install industry-standard engine immobilizer technology on certain models between 2011 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, vehicles with this vulnerability can be stolen within minutes using a universal serial bus (USB) cable screwdriver, and instructional videos on how to do so have spread widely on TikTok and other social media platforms; and

WHEREAS, this vulnerability has allowed youth under the age of 16 and unlicensed drivers to access Kia and Hyundai vehicles and drive recklessly, posing a risk to public safety; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Kia and Hyundai offered free software upgrades to address this vulnerability; however, not all impacted vehicles are able to receive these software upgrades; and

WHEREAS, according to the November 2023 Austin Police Department (APD) Chief's Monthly Report, car thefts in Austin increased by 63 percent compared to November 2022, and saw an overall increase of 34 percent from 2022 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, while only approximately nine percent of vehicles registered in Travis County are manufactured by Kia or Hyundai, about 35 percent of all stolen vehicle cases handled by APD involve Kias or Hyundais; and

WHEREAS, the number of stolen Kias or Hyundais in Travis County increased in 2023, with the previous year's totals only being in the five to seven percent range; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

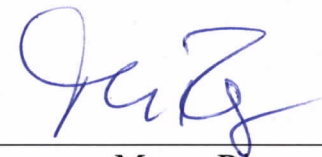
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

City Council calls on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to issue a recall of Kia and Hyundai models lacking immobilizer technology that are vulnerable to theft.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to update the City's Federal Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress to include advocating for the recall of Kia and Hyundai models lacking immobilizer technology that are vulnerable to theft.

ADOPTED: January 18, 2024 **ATTEST:**



Myrna Rios
City Clerk