The Chicagoland area has seen a dramatic increase in carjackings this year. In light of the recent killing of Retired Chicago Fire Department Lieutenant Dwain Williams, we'd like to offer you some tips to help avoid becoming a victim.

- No vehicle is worth your life. If someone threatens you and tries to take your car, let them have it.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Never leave your car running and unattended. Criminals are looking for cars with the keys in the ignition. Gas stations are a prime location for carjackings.
- As you approach your vehicle, have your keys in your hand.
- Always park in well lighted areas.
- Check your backseat before you get into the car.
- If a suspicious person approaches your car, drive away carefully.
- Avoid using drive-up ATM machines.
- When stopped in traffic, make sure to leave room to escape, if necessary.
- If you suspect someone is following you, don't go home. Drive to the nearest police of fire station or a well-lighted, populated area for help.
- If you are targeted, don't resist, especially if the thief has a weapon.

Dial 911 in an emergency

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