

# *Buffalo Police Department*

*Sam Hartsell, Chief of Police*



FBINAA  
172<sup>nd</sup> Session



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## **Unlocking Vehicles**

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For years, the Buffalo Police Department opened vehicle doors when citizens inadvertently locked themselves out.

Presently officers are referring those in need of this type service to contact a locksmith. Reports from various agencies have been received concerning damage to vehicle locking mechanisms as a result of attempts to open vehicles. This provides information citizens need in order to allow citizens access to get into their vehicle safely rather than by using tools that could damage a vehicle causing a vast expense.

The advanced engineering techniques have gotten so technical that it's really impossible to unlock vehicles safely and effectively without the proper knowledge and tools. If an officer is to come across an emergency like a child locked inside a car then appropriate action will be taken. The department just can no longer arbitrarily open car doors.

Previously numerous calls concerning locked vehicles were responded to; however they were almost always non-emergency situations.

Your understanding is most appreciated. Thank you.

*Sam Hartsell*

Chief of Police