



The Office of the  
**Minnesota Attorney General**  
helping people afford their lives and live with dignity, safety, and respect

March 2, 2023

Kia America  
Hyundai and Genesis Motor North America

Dear Mr. SeungKyu Yoon and Mr. José Muñoz:

Like many cities across the country, Minneapolis and Saint Paul are working to prevent auto theft. Twin Cities drivers deserve to be and feel safe while operating and parking their vehicles. It's clear that that very basic safety standard is not being met, especially for drivers and owners of Kia and Hyundai vehicles. We've seen a horrific increase in stolen Kia and Hyundai vehicles over the last year – an 893% increase in Minneapolis and a 611% increase in Saint Paul.

This is an entirely preventable crime that starts with ensuring all Kia and Hyundai vehicles missing engine immobilizers are equipped with the industry-standard anti-theft technology.

In 2022, the Twin Cities saw 3,293 reported thefts of Kia or Hyundai vehicles, a figure that stood at 384 the year prior. Additionally, more than 198 of those owners had their Kia or Hyundai vehicle stolen more than once, and 11 owners had their vehicle stolen three or more times last year.

The Minneapolis and Saint Paul police departments have also seen a significant increase in stolen Kia and Hyundai vehicles being used in violent crimes or involved in serious, and sometimes fatal, traffic crashes. In Minneapolis alone, stolen Kia or Hyundai vehicles were tied to five homicides, 13 shootings, 36 robberies, and 265 motor vehicle accidents in 2022.

The lack of anti-theft technology in Kia and Hyundai vehicles makes them a prime target of auto theft, and social media trends have clearly shown how simple tools can be used to break into them. Innocent lives are at risk.

The recently announced software upgrades Kia and Hyundai owners can access is a step in the right direction, however, there needs to be a more robust and timely improvement plan for all vehicles. We urge you to immediately recall all Kia and Hyundai vehicles that require the necessary industry-standard anti-theft technology and to equip all new vehicles with the same safety updates.

We look forward to seeing your future efforts to ensure all Kia and Hyundai owners, drivers, and passengers in the Twin Cities and the surrounding region are protected from auto theft.

Sincerely,

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey

Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison