

2017

Annual Report



Maryland Department of State Police
1201 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD 21208
<http://mdsp.maryland.gov>

R.A.P.I.D
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MARYLAND RAPID LAWS



- **Maryland Business Regulation § 12 Subtitle 101-601 *Secondhand Precious Metal and Pawnbrokers Act*** – Regulates the acquisition of precious metal items and pawn transactions in counties that do not have pawn/secondhand laws.
- **Maryland Business Regulation § 17 Subtitle 10 *Junk Dealers/ Scrap Metal Processors***– Regulates the acquisition of scrap metal items.
- **Maryland Transportation Article § 15 Subtitle 5 *Automotive Dismantlers and Recyclers and Scrap Processors***– Regulates the licensing of licenses for Automotive Dismantlers, Recyclers and Scrap Processors.
- **Maryland Transportation Article § 25 Subtitle 2 *Abandoned Vehicles*** – Addresses the disposition of abandoned vehicles.

Maryland Department of State Police RAPID Help Desk

In 2017, the Help Desk responded to 4,342 calls for assistance. The RAPID Help Desk is staffed by Ms. Maureen Walter who has served in the law enforcement community for over 40 years. Her knowledge and experience of the Pawn/Precious Metal, Automotive Dismantler and Recyclers and Scrap Processors (ADRS) and Scrap industry is unsurpassed and is ready to assist law enforcement officers and dealers with questions and troubleshooting problems.

Please Contact [msp.rapid-helpdesk@maryland.gov](mailto:m.sp.rapid-helpdesk@maryland.gov) for any assistance needed with the system.





R.A.P.I.D

Regional Automated Property Information Database



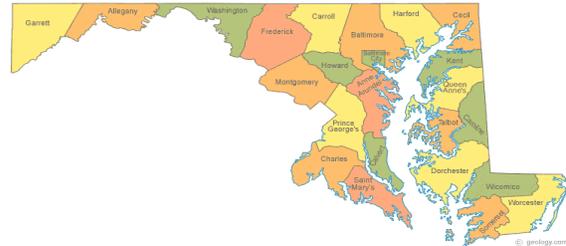
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RAPID Tops \$43 Million in Property Recovery

Volume 8 - January 2018

2017 – Another Great Year

The Maryland State Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID) program is now in its eighth successful year of joint partnerships with multiple agencies and states. Effective collaboration and support of this program by law enforcement, regulatory bodies and users have made this continued success possible. During 2017, RAPID was responsible for recovering \$5.1 million in stolen property, **bringing the total since 2010 to \$43.8 million in recovered property.**



RAPID Team

- Conducted 18 training sessions throughout the State attended by 284 users from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., West Virginia and Virginia.
- Conducted 54 business inspections of all three regulated industries (Pawn/Precious Metal, Scrap, and Automotive Dismantler Recycler) and assisted other agencies with multiple inspections and investigations.
- Researched and disseminated 53 criminal intelligence bulletins with a Maryland, District of Columbia, Delaware and Virginia nexus.
- Maryland RAPID team consulted with the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General's task force, which included representatives from New Jersey State Police, and the pawn industry, regarding best practices for electronic reporting laws.

NEW in RAPID

- **Cross Browser** - Keeping up with new technology is one of the most important features of a data program. The new version of RAPID is currently being tested by the RAPID Team and should be implemented by July 2018. This version will allow users the ability to access RAPID through multiple browsers. In addition, the new RAPID will offer imaging capabilities. Also included is a geo mapping program which can plot the search results on a map. Agencies can also upload their crime data which would be mapped with the secondhand transaction.

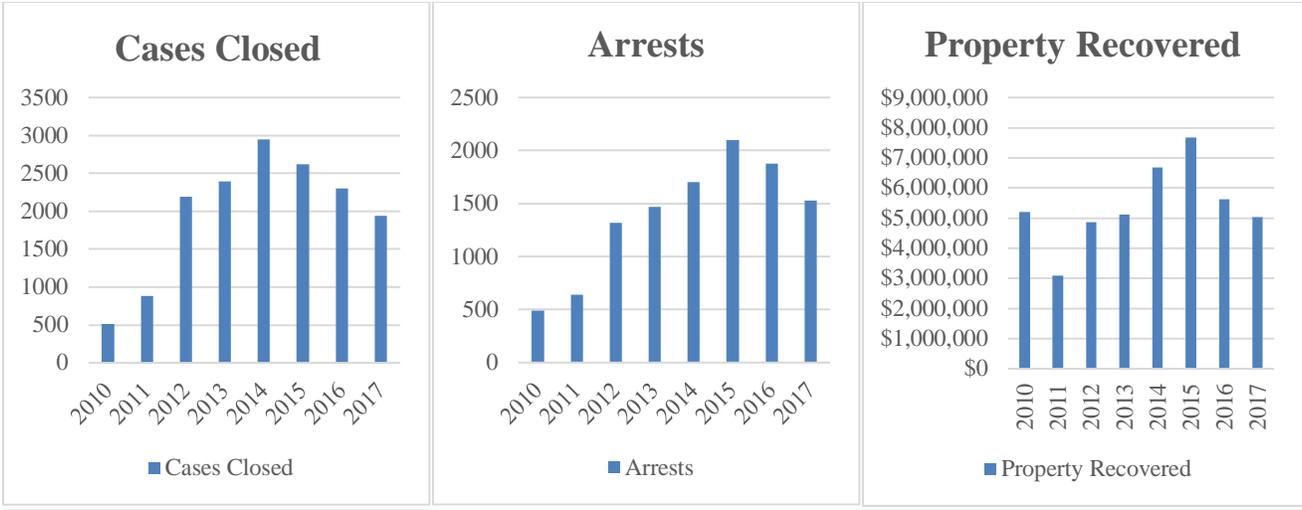
There are also changes to the reports which will make the administration of the program easier for the agencies. We have taken suggestions by our administrators and users and have incorporated some into this new version.

RAPID by County (Statistics) – 2017

Agency	Cases	Arrests	Recovery
Allegany*	1	1	1,200
Anne Arundel	99	98	161,456
Baltimore County	450	448	924,250
Baltimore City	395	318	2,312,470
Calvert	31	32	319,279.31
Caroline	2	3	**
Carroll	19	22	31,821.88
Cecil	11	5	**
Charles	42	42	67,245
Frederick	196	98	134,121.39
Garrett*	1	1	1300
Harford	44	51	92,419
Howard	56	66	166,411.55
Kent	0	0	0
Montgomery	73	2	318,291.45
Ocean City	11	3	2,550
Prince George's	192	133	181,521
Queen Anne's*	12	8	11,740
Somerset *	14	2	3,100
St. Mary's	77	77	195,000
Talbot/Dorchester*	8	8	15,299
Washington*	166	83	50,155
Wicomico	5	5	4,476
Worcester*	14	6	1,426
Westminster	23	21	35,558.13

*MDSP is the primary law enforcement agency
 **None Reported

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(Statistics and success stories are self-reported by the individual agencies.)

Working Together to Help Victims

366 law enforcement agencies in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia and Washington, D.C. use RAPID for their investigations. We would also like to thank the following agencies for their contribution to the program:



Comptroller of Maryland: The Comptroller’s Office has been a valued partner for our scrap/junk dealers. Law enforcement has been utilizing them for not only scrap cases but also investigations relating to secondhand transactions. One example of this is as follows: A scrap/junk dealer license was withheld due to child support non-compliance. Upon new dealers applying for a business license, the MD RAPID team checks with the Comptroller’s Office to ensure that their license is valid.



Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA): RAPID and MVA have again partnered for pro-active compliance and enforcement issues. In 2017, the new compliance program was very successful. 52 Automotive Dismantler businesses were inspected due to RAPID violations. Four new dealers were inspected, five unlicensed dealers were investigated, and six shops were closed. ADRS dealers were provided initial training by the RAPID Help Desk and were also provided with additional resources for troubleshooting.



Department of Labor, Licensing And Regulation: One of the missions of DLLR is to license and regulate individuals who buy or otherwise acquire from the public secondhand gold, silver, platinum and other precious metal objects, or otherwise trade with the public in secondhand precious metal objects. The program also regulates pawnbrokers in counties that do not have local laws that regulate pawnbrokers. DLLR received 29 complaints in 2017. Of those complaints: three were closed by consent order and fined \$3000; three were withdrawn, nine in pre-charge status, one is in the Administrative Hearing process, five were closed with additional training provided one closed without a violation, there are three pending criminal charges, and four are still under investigation.

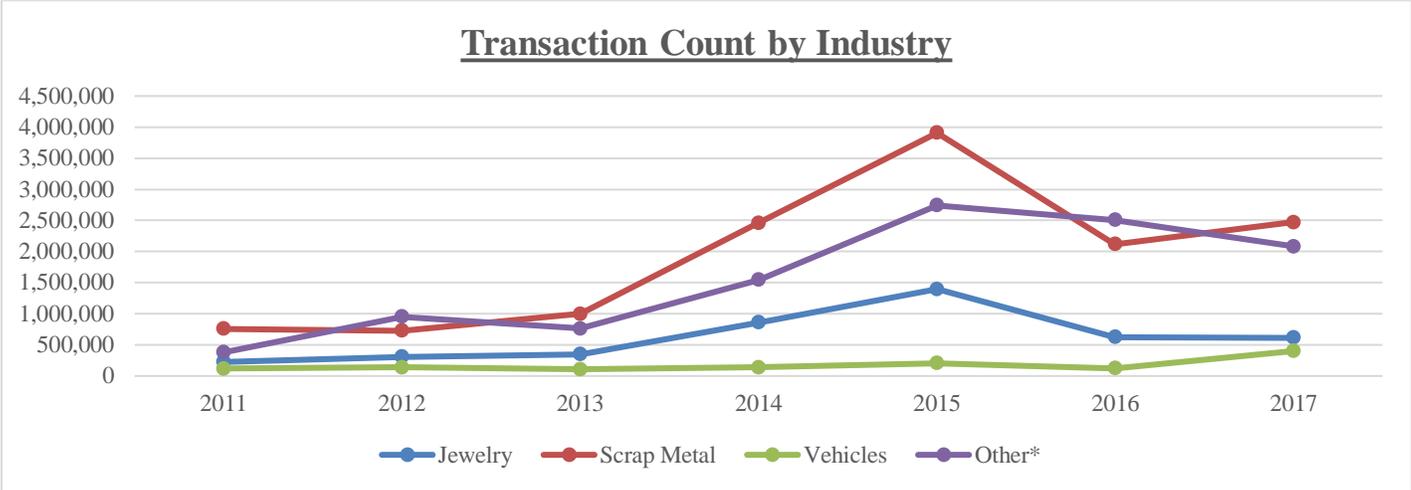


Business Watch International (BWI): BWI continues to be a valued asset for our victims. A new, updated version of RAPID will be released in 2018 (see New in RAPID). They also continue to seek new technology that will allow law enforcement to recover stolen property that is not sold directly to licensed dealers. BWI continues to listen to suggestions from our users and administrators and make the changes when possible.

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TRANSACTION COUNT BY INDUSTRY				
Industry	2014	2015	2016	2017
Jewelry	860,868	1,396,100	622,908	616,777
Scrap Metal	2,462,050	3,906,610	2,119,474	2,472,050
Vehicles	138,940	203,068	122,964	399,922
Others*	1,544,173	2,740,054	2,507,101	2,081,759

*Pawn and Secondhand transactions not specified under State law



*Pawn and Secondhand transactions not specified under State law



“RAPID has proven to aid the law enforcement community with successfully tracking and recovering stolen property. We look forward to having the same success in 2018. Thank you!”
 - Detective Metropolitan PD



RAPID GROWTH		
Year	Total Users	Total Queries
2010	1559	113,670
2011	2062	578,578
2012	2541	881,246
2013	3024	1,161,699
2014	4797	1,478,317
2015	5750	1,669,750
2016	5384	2,089,914
2017	5635	2,711,592

2017 – A Year of Partnerships

Licenses utilize electronic reporting to enter items brought in by the public to recycle or resell. The RAPID law enforcement team maintains open lines of communication and compliance records with all dealers/licenses that are required to report in Maryland. Having both law enforcement and the licenses working together, allows suspects and stolen property to be quickly identified and recovered.

In 2017, RAPID shifted focus on compliance by developing a rapport with Maryland Electronic Reporting Licenses. This focus allows law enforcement and our licenses to provide closure to victims of property crimes. Compliance audits and onsite inspections often result in opening doors for better communication and education opportunities for RAPID Licenses.

A good example of this type of partnership occurred in Washington County, when two defendants pled

guilty to one count of obtaining property of a vulnerable adult valued at \$1,000 - \$10,000 and two counts of making unlicensed loans. Maryland Department of State Police investigators along with the assistance of RAPID, DLLR investigators and the Washington County States Attorney's Office were able to recover many of the victim's vehicles that were held as collateral for the unlicensed loans. This licensee in Washington County was charged with violations from Maryland Business Regulation Title 12 of the Pawnbrokers and Precious Metal

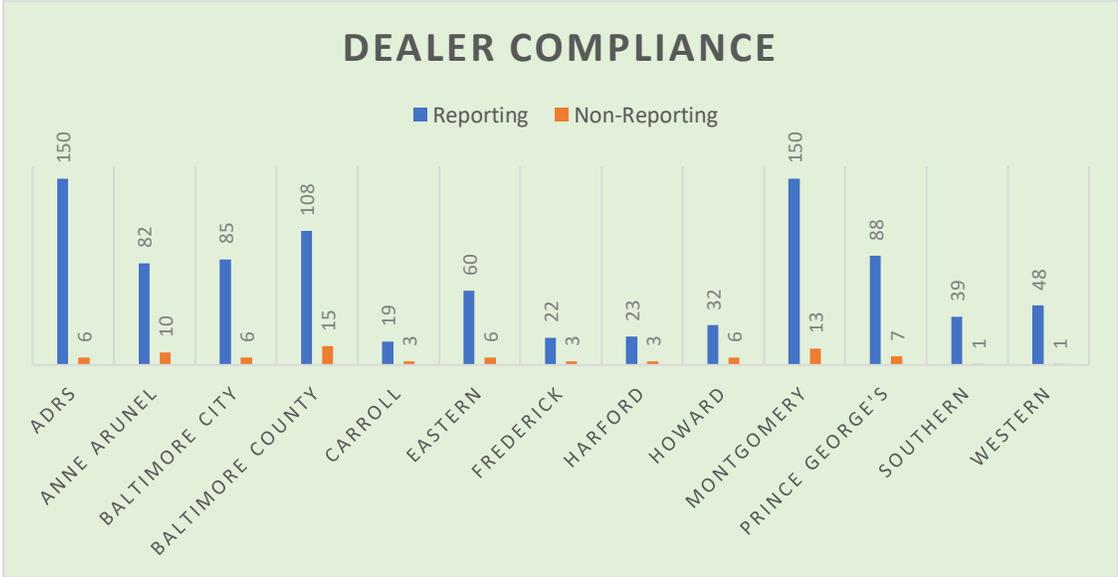
Act, as well as, other state and consumer loan violations. This particular licensee failed to report accurate and timely information and victimized many Marylanders by providing pawn/ vehicle title loans.

As the result of a collaborative investigation led by Harford County Sheriff's Office, five people were indicted by a grand jury for numerous counts of theft and theft scheme. The investigation revealed that an estimated \$70,000 worth of

goods were being stolen from local retail stores, and being sold as "New in the Box" goods to two licensed shops. With thorough and accurate reporting, the licenses were able to provide information to law enforcement, resulting in the arrest of the suspect. Investigators were able to recover \$20,000 worth of stolen property from six separate businesses.

A MDSP Easton Barrack trooper conducted a traffic stop on US Route 50 due to an oversized load in October of 2017. The subject was asked during the stop for his scrap license and he advised he did not have one. The Trooper ran the subject through RAPID and found that he had 2,871 scrap transactions up to the date of the stop. He was charged with operating without a license and pled guilty in court.

On many occasions, licenses will notify RAPID of unlicensed subjects operating in their area, as well as, suspicious circumstances surrounding sales at their businesses. Many times this information has resulted in the identification of a suspect and stolen property being recovered.



"RAPID is a valuable tool, not only for solving crimes, but we were able to identify a shop who was not reporting, keeping property out of state and destroying records."
 -Delaware Police Officer

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RAPID has many features that enhance law enforcement’s ability to return stolen property to their rightful owner. These features are developed from suggestions provided by law enforcement investigators using RAPID. Below are some successes that highlight the RAPID functions:

- Scrap Metal Search
- Related Transactions
- E-Bay
- Craigslist
- NCIC Report
- Top Pawner
- Quick Search
- Vehicle Search



SCRAP METAL SEARCH:

MDSP Princess Anne – Used RAPID to investigate a burglary and copper theft. The home suffered extensive damage as a result of the theft. A check of RAPID revealed that the items were sold to a scrap yard. Suspect was arrested.

Baltimore City Police – Investigated a theft involving an employee of a scrap company. RAPID determined that the employee had sold over 28,000 pounds of crushed scrap metal that was intended to be delivered to the Port of Baltimore. Instead, the employee sold the metal at various scrap yards for personal gain. Subject arrested.

RELATED TRANSACTIONS

Howard County Police – Investigated a series of commercial burglaries and the Related Transactions Feature in RAPID identified four suspects (relatives) who worked together in a criminal enterprise. All four were arrested and thousands of dollars of property were recovered.

E-BAY

Metropolitan Police - Used E-Bay Report within RAPID to locate a stolen watch. Their investigation revealed that the watch was originally sold to a Baltimore County store. The store did not report the transaction since the watch, although a Rolex, was not made of gold and was not required to be reported. The watch was recovered, the suspect was charged and the property recovered was valued at \$3,150.

CRAIGSLIST

Charles County Sheriff’s Office - Investigated a missing person who was known to use Craigslist and Backpage. The phone number was searched in the RAPID Craigslist Feature, and the subject located.

NCIC Report

Washington County Sheriff’s Office – Investigators checked the NCIC Report and located a serial number match to a stolen lawnmower. Their property was confirmed stolen, an arrest was made for theft over \$1000 and resulted in property recovery.

TOP PAWNER REPORT

Howard County Police - Used the RAPID Top Pawner Report and located three career shoplifters selling new in the box items. The investigation resulted in three arrests and the recovery of over \$10,000 in stolen property.

QUICK SEARCH

Baltimore County Police - Used the new RAPID Quick Search Feature, which identified a stolen laptop where the serial number reported was not accurate.

VEHICLE SEARCH

Charles County Sheriff’s Office - Investigated the theft of several tractor parts (including unusual items tracks, gears, plow). The suspect was seen operating a silver truck. A RAPID check revealed the suspect sold 2800 lbs of scrap steel to a scrap yard. All the stolen property was recovered and the suspect was charged.

Anne Arundel County Police – Obtained a partial tag number of a habitual shoplifter. The license plate was run through RAPID’s vehicle search and the suspect was identified and charged.

“The RAPID system was a great investigative tool that led police to a suspect that may not have been identified otherwise.”
Pennsylvania State Trooper

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RAPID HAS NO BORDERS

These successes highlight the importance of statewide reporting. These include cases that show cross border crimes solved, intra-state multiple jurisdiction cases and cases where the RAPID data helped to solve other crimes.

Baltimore City Police – Searched RAPID to investigate the theft of over \$28,000 worth of stolen recording equipment. The suspect was identified, charged and all the stolen property was recovered.

Anne Arundel County Police – When completing RAPID data audits, they noticed an unusual number of new items being sold at shops. The investigation resulted in two arrests, three cases closed and the recovery of over \$4,500 in stolen property.

Howard County Police – Had many successes by cross checking RAPID transactions against their crime and intelligence programs.

Charles County Sheriff's Office – Investigated a burglary with over \$8000 in stolen jewelry. RAPID was checked and the property was located. The suspect was arrested and the stolen property was recovered.

Prince George's County Police – Utilized RAPID to locate a stolen NFL championship ring. A suspect was identified and subsequently arrested. The investigation resulted in the recovery of the stolen ring, which was valued at \$1,000.

Frederick County Sheriff's Office – While investigating a burglary where silverware and other items were taken, RAPID was checked and some property located. Shortly after the burglary, a dealer contacted the administrator to see how they should enter the silverware. It was noted that this was similar to the stolen property and the investigation showed it was the same property. Arrests were made and the property was recovered.

Westminster City Police – Investigated the theft of jewelry. RAPID was checked and the property and suspect were identified. Case closed by arrest and the property, valued at over \$17,000, was recovered.

Harford County Sheriff's Office – Investigated a commercial business burglary where \$5,450 worth of property was stolen. RAPID was checked and the case was closed by arrest.

Howard County Police – Investigated a burglary of a small business with no alarm or video surveillance present. RAPID was checked and over \$15,000 worth of stolen property was recovered and an arrest was made.

Prince George's County Police - Using RAPID and the NCIC report, detectives were able to return a stolen computer to Rahway, New Jersey. The investigation is ongoing in New Jersey.

MDSP Cumberland – Checked RAPID while investigating a theft of firearms. The check revealed family members of the suspect sold the guns in Maryland and West Virginia. Subject was arrested and the stolen weapons were recovered.

Frederick County Sheriff's Office – Investigated the theft of several firearms. RAPID's serial number search was conducted and the stolen weapons were located in Washington County.

MDSP Centreville - Investigated several burglaries occurring in Queen Anne and Caroline Counties. RAPID identified three suspects and recovered 80% of the property which included four firearms stolen from Delaware. Property valued at over \$11,000.

Anne Arundel County Police - Using the RAPID NCIC report was able to recover several firearms which were stolen by a caretaker of a disabled person.

Washington D.C. Police – Using RAPID, detectives closed a minimum of 21 cases of burglary, robberies and thefts.

Virginia-Loudoun County – Investigators used RAPID to solve one burglary and one theft case. All property was recovered and subject arrested.

Delaware – Felton PD - Queried RAPID to locate property from two burglaries. Although the property was past the hold period, the records were used in court and the suspects were arrested.

Delaware State Police – Troopers located almost \$4000 worth of stolen property in RAPID. Suspect was arrested and property recovered.

West Virginia – Berkeley County Sheriff's Office - RAPID provided information on a stolen chain saw from Berkeley County, WV. Property was recovered and the investigation is continuing.

Pennsylvania State Police- Fogelsville – In October and November, troopers investigated a series of burglaries with no leads. RAPID was checked and property located. Troopers collaborated with detectives from Baltimore County on a common suspect. Due to their combined efforts, they were able to obtain a search warrant for the residence and recovered vast amounts of stolen property.

MDSP Princess Anne - Investigated a series of church burglaries in two counties. RAPID property search was conducted and located a guitar. As a result, one arrest was made and 13 cases were closed.

Carroll County Sheriff's Office – Utilized RAPID to investigate a burglary. Subsequent investigation revealed stolen property from Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Howard Counties.

Maryland Department of State Police RAPID Contacts



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SCOTT.LANTZ@MARYLAND.GOV

MS. MAUREEN WALTER – GLOBAL ADMINISTRATOR
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MAUREEN.WALTER@MARYLAND.GOV

Local administrators can be reached through the RAPID help desk at
mshelpdesk@maryland.gov.

Business Watch International’s help desk can be contacted at 1-877-404-3368, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Central Standard Time.)

“Since 2011, the RAPID system helped return over 200,000 dollars to the victims of property crimes in Prince George’s County.”

- *Detective – Prince George’s County Police*

“Due to RAPID, we were able to identify three suspects and recover 80% of the stolen property valued at \$11,700.”

- *MDSP Trooper- Queen Anne’s County*