

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

### First and foremost, theft of energy service is a safety issue

- **Energy theft places innocent unsuspecting tenants, renters, duplex owners and neighborhoods in harms way - stemming from either escaping gas or electrocutions as the gas or electricity is diverted to bypass the meter and avoid payment**
- **Energy theft is also a danger to any utility employee – unaware they might be going into a dangerous situation**
- **Energy theft is especially dangerous to First Responders like fire and police personnel who mistakenly believe that they have shut off gas or electricity to the meter, and thus the house or business, only to be victimized by exploding gas or electrocution**
- **Persons stealing electricity are abusing with extension cords – not taking into consideration that anyone could come into contact with an illegal electric condition and get injured or killed from an exposed energized wire**
- **Persons stealing natural gas are abusing with garden hose – not taking into consideration that they are creating a possible explosive atmosphere**
- **Honest customers who pay their utility bills end up paying for every kWh of electricity and MCF of gas stolen**
- **Theft of service is growing – millions of dollars have been documented**
- **Theft of energy service is a huge source of revenue loss. More importantly, however is the fact that theft of service is a safety issue. Meter tampering, bypassing, and other means used to steal service place those committing the theft, their families, neighbors, emergency service personnel and innocent bystanders in grave danger**

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

- So often we hear about identify theft, stolen credit cards, hold-ups, and personal robberies. Yet one of the most prevalent thefts is that of electric and natural gas service, as shown by the following graph:

