

Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2019

Attendees:

Insp. John Card, MSP
Insp. Scott Marier, MSP
D/Sgt. Taylor Bonovetz, MSP
Sgt. Chris Gerard, MSP
Mr. Steve Beatty, MSP
Ms. Tami Risner, MSP

Mr. Bill Hallan, Michigan Retailer's Assoc.
Mr. Doug Lloyd, Eaton Co. Prosecutor's Office
Mr. Shannon Simon, ORC Board Member
Mr. Rod Maynard, Lowe's
Mr. Sean Frame, Home Depot
Mr. Duane Cole, Kroger
Mr. Greg Stevens, Meijer

Legislative Update

Sgt. Chris Gerard introduced himself as the new Michigan State Police (MSP) Legislative Liaison. He reported no new legislation has been introduced as it is very early in the legislative session and they are currently giving department presentations and overviews. There was discussion about the civil forfeiture bill. Sergeant Gerard reported that very little has changed in the bill, but it is a work in progress for now.

There was discussion about Senate Bill 56 regarding the racketeering statute. This bill will allow police departments easier forfeiture and will allow retailers to spend less on controlled sales.

Old Business

ORC Seminar

There was little discussion regarding the ORC seminar, as Mr. John Shuler was absent. Mr. Shuler is keeping the advisory board members updated on the seminar planning progress via email. The ORC seminar update will continue at the next meeting.

Articles of Incorporation

Mr. Steve Beatty was asked to review the draft articles of incorporation, on behalf of MSP legal, to strictly consider its impact on the department. The ORC, as a body, is governed by the statute. The duties of the board, as a statutorily created body, include, among other things, recommending actions to be taken by the department and law enforcement to further combat organized retail crime. MSP is clearly responsible for acting as chair for this board and conducting the meeting at least four times each year (quarterly).

The development of an ORC database is required by the statute. The ORC seminar is the advisory board's effort to raise the money to support the costs incurred in the creation and upkeep of the database (MiROC.) As a general matter, MSP lacks the legal authority to accept private funds and any gift or donation to any state entity must go through the Governor's office and is subject to appropriation. There was discussion about the consideration of requesting an appropriation. Other considerations to raise funds for the ORC seminar will be discussed at a future meeting.

An association and articles of incorporation may be created for ORC, and members of the ORC Advisory Board may serve as members, but it must be operated as a separate organization. Mr. Bill Hallan will edit the proposed articles of incorporation, per this conversation. It was suggested that this conversation regarding the articles of incorporation be tabled to the next meeting, when the revised version will be discussed.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss at this meeting.

Roundtable

The group gave updates on current cases.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded. The meeting adjourned 2:48 p.m.

Next ORC Advisory Board Mtg. Date

The next ORC Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. in the Centennial conference room at MSP HQ.