

Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2016

Attendees:

Lt. Col. Tom Sands, MSP
Capt. Chris Stolicker, MSP
Insp. John Card, MSP
D/F/Lt. James Grady, MSP
Sgt. Matt Williams, MSP
Tami Risner, MSP

Dave Caminga, Meijer
Ryan Themm, Meijer
Bill Hallan, Michigan Retailer's Assoc.
Doug Lloyd, Eaton Co. Prosecutor's Office
John Schuler, Target
Richard LeBlanc, Westland City Clerk
Tony Rambo, Lowe's

Legislative Update

Sgt. Matt Williams reported that he and a representative of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) testified at a joint hearing in front of the House Agriculture committee. The testimony was a brief overview of MDARD and Michigan State Police (MSP) efforts regarding the gas pump skimmer issue. Legal and Legislative has been working with MSP fraud teams and MDARD inspectors to prevent the skimmers from going into the gas pumps. Meijer gas stations are not having issues with skimmers due to the use of their proprietary tape. There was discussion about the effectiveness of the new chip and pin technology.

ORC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2016

The meeting minutes of June 16, 2016, were reviewed. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Maynard emailed an edit to his portion of the roundtable discussion; the edits were made. Mr. Richard LeBlanc motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Bill Hallen seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried.

ORC Seminar

Mr. John Schuler reported that the ORC Seminar invitations have been sent out and registration in MI-Train has started. He handed out a copy of the seminar agenda for review. Mr. Schuler reported that Meijer, Target, and Kroger have all committed to donating \$1,000 each, which is great, but does not cover all the costs of the seminar. With a cap on attendance at 200 people, the total cost of the seminar will be approximately \$6,600. He reported tentative commitments from Walmart, Home Depot, Macy's, JC Penney, and CVS. We currently have 60 people registered, and another invitation is going out tomorrow reminding the group that the seminar registration deadline is quickly approaching. Mr. Bill Hallen stated that the Michigan Retailers Association would donate as well. There was discussion about how to cut costs of the seminar, including lowering the cap on attendees in MI-Train. The board approved the seminar agenda.

Proposed 2017 ORC Advisory Board Mtg. Dates

The proposed 2017 quarterly meetings dates for the ORC Advisory Board were approved. The meetings will be held on the second Thursday of every third month; March 9, 2017, June 8, 2017, Sept. 14, 2017, and Dec. 14, 2017.

Roundtable

Mr. Tony Rambo reported that Lowe's is seeing a spike in refrigerator water filter returns. These returns are costing approximately \$300 to \$400 per person. He also reported that a theft suspect, driving a primer grey van, has been hitting Lowe's for about \$5,000 every time. At the Big Rapids store he cut a cable on a log splitter and hooked it up to his vehicle and drove away. He reported that they don't have any identification on the suspect, but they do have his picture. MSP will run the picture through facial recognition software to help with the identification.

Mr. John Schuler reported that Target stores have identified an absconder who is frequenting Target stores to purchase two like TVs; a high def TV and a non-high definition TV. He then swaps the serial numbers on the TVs and switches the boxes and returns the non-high definition TV, stealing approximately \$200 each time. He has also attempted this at Sam's Club. He has been seen driving a Budget Rental truck.

Mr. Schuler brought to the Board's attention that Target was approached by a publication called the D&D Daily, a loss prevention periodical, which stands for Downing & Downing. They do stories about retail crime and would like to do a story on the MiRoc website and the ORC Advisory Board. They are a

respected publication and would promote the effectiveness of this board. Lt. Colonel Sands suggested that he be invited to the seminar.

D/F/Lt. James Grady reported on a new fraud case where a married couple, who are heroin addicts, stole approximately \$11,000 worth of merchandise from Home Depot. The fraud team put a GPS on the vehicle, found and arrested the husband on a weapons offense. He gave a lot of information about the fraud, including where they are fencing the product. The wife was also found and arrested on several felony warrants. During her interview, she gave narcotic information that will be forwarded to the MSP dope teams in Southeast Michigan. This case is just one example of how an ORC case is usually much more than just an ORC case.

Mr. Doug Lloyd talked about the difficulty in prosecuting these types of cases, in multiple counties and multiple jurisdictions.

Next ORC Advisory Board Mtg. Date

The next ORC Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in the MSP Headquarters, 3rd floor, B-wing, Trooper of the Year conference room.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.