

Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2016

Attendees:

Insp. John Card, MSP

Duane Cole, Kroger

D/Lt. Brad Cox, MSP

D/F/Lt. James Grady, MSP

William Hallan, Michigan Retailer's Assoc.

Douglas Lloyd, Eaton Co. Prosecutor's Office

John Mulvaney, Attorney General's Office

Tami Risner, MSP

John Schuler, Target

Ryan Themm, Meijer

Approve September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

ORC Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2016

The meeting minutes of September 8, 2016 were reviewed. Bill Hallan motioned to approve the minutes as written, and Doug Lloyd seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried.

Old Business

ORC Seminar – October 13, 2016

John Schuler reported that the ORC seminar was a success and had 150 attendees. A survey/program evaluation was sent out after the event with 60 percent of the surveys returned. Most of the comments were very positive, and Doug Lloyd's presentation received the highest number of positive comments. The complaints were all very small, mostly aesthetics. The seminar was well received by all, and the overall consensus was in favor of doing it again next year. There was discussion about possible changes to the venue for the next seminar, and possibly including breakout sessions. The costs for the seminar were completely covered by donations from the retailers and the Michigan Retailers Association (MRA), which allowed us to offer the seminar to attendees at no charge.

New Business

National Retail Federation (NRF) ORC Survey

Bill Hallan reported that the National Retail Federation (NRF) releases an annual ORC survey. With information from that annual survey, the MRA put together an infographic with updated information that will be added to the website. Mr. Hallan distributed copies of the infographic and will send out electronic copies to committee members within the next few days. The updated information will be available on the website as well.

MiROC.US Website

The new website has been launched. There are a few aesthetic issues and Internet Explorer issues being resolved. We are still in the process of putting together a training presentation in which all new members will be required to take. Atomic, the creator of the website is working on a training presentation on how to edit the website ourselves, and we are looking for a few people to be the website administrators. The website address is miroc.us.

ORC Case Discussions

The group discussed an ORC case in Lansing and surrounding areas where upwards of \$32,000 in Dysons have been stolen. These thefts are occurring in several counties all over the state, which makes it very difficult for the county prosecutors to get restitution. D/F/Lt. James Grady reported that he will look at the case information to see if his team can assist in the investigation. Lieutenant Grady reported that in southeast Michigan they are having trouble prosecuting cases that occur when retail loss prevention officers are not on duty, and did not witness the theft. The Dysons are being sold on garage sale sites like Craigslist, etc. There was discussion about the use of facial recognition technology available through MSP. This technology can be used when the retailer's video surveillance is saved in a bitmap file and sent to MSP. Retail fraud and fencing operations are very time consuming to investigate, as these criminals don't stay in one place for very long. D/F/Lt. James Grady reported that he and his team can help with the multijurisdictional fraud cases, and to please contact him. He provided his contact information.

Focus of the ORC Advisory Board for 2017

There was discussion about the focus for this board in 2017. Education is a high priority, specifically with regard to big city police agencies. We need to present to these agencies and recruit from all areas of Michigan. The problem of funding was discussed. It was reported that there is a Federal ORC agenda and there may be funding available. The goal is to get additional help from the locals to add to our investigative teams.

Roundtable

D/F/Lt. James Grady reported on a few cases that the teams have been working on. He discussed a Trenton area case where there were six victims dealing with credit card fraud with the total loss of several thousand dollars. The team has conducted surveillance, met with Lowes and U-Haul, interviewed victims, and gathered intelligence on the suspects. Search warrants are being issued and arrests will soon be made. He discussed the 14K case. The team used a female trooper from Gaming as an undercover. She had one transaction go very and it was all recorded. Lieutenant Grady reported on a West Michigan Meijer case where wireless routers were being stolen. The loss was estimated at approximately \$8,500. D/Sergeant Casperson issued a BOLO and sent video surveillance to the MIOC for facial recognition. The facial recognition got a hit and they identified the suspects and passed the information onto the local police departments. In an unrelated Meijer case, Trooper Clearwater investigated a multi-county retail fraud ring. The suspects were from Benton Harbor and had been using the same vehicle for all the crimes. They also were in possession of several IDs and are looking at identity theft charges as well. This case is in excess of \$17,000 in monetary damages and identity theft.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next ORC Advisory Board Mtg. Date

The next ORC Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in the Trooper of the Year conference room at MSP HQ.