

Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Advisory Board Meeting

March 18, 2021

Attendees:

Ms. Jamie Hansen, MSP	Chief Chad Baugh, Canton Twp. PD
D/F/Lt. Chris Hawkins, MSP	D/Lt. Theresa Maylone, MSP
Mr. Bill Hallan, Michigan Retailers Assoc.	Sgt. Chris Gerard, MSP
Mr. Dave Cammenga, Meijer	Ms. Fadwa Hammoud, AG
Mr. Doug Lloyd, Eaton Co. Prosecutors Office	Mr. John Shuler, Target Loss Prevention
Mr. Ryan Themm, Meijer	Mr. Ed Henkel, Walmart
Mr. Shannon Simons, Public Representative	

Prior Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from December 17, 2020, were approved by committee.

Legislative Update

Sergeant Gerard updated the board on the following bills:

- Senate Bill 134 –Senator C. VanderWall, refers to health policy. Would add section 4.10.c Penal Code, prohibiting a person from distributing, delivering, possessing with intent to sell a drug masking product.
- House Bill 4241 – Representative D. Wozniak, forfeiture funds from seized vehicles. Would amend Section 625n of the Michigan Vehicle Code.
- House Bill 4472 amend 174a of Public Act 328 of 1931 (MCL 750.174a), to include elder adults in the crime of embezzlement.

Chief Baugh inquired if ORC needed to be re-introduced to the Racketeering Statue (Senate Bill 56).

Sergeant Gerard noted that the bill did not receive a hearing.

Old Business

None.

New Business

2020 ORC Report was provided to all board members. Noted that the stats continue to increase but similar to 2019.

MIORCA has been participating in the nation-wide effort to get more Organized Retail Crime groups to be aligned across the country, sponsored by Loss Prevention Magazine. Providing training services, resources for ORCAs, and best way to communicate trends. Next step is to start subcommittees to start working on different services.

Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) has started conversations with ORC legislation at the federal level. A program that is in development, will allow third party marketplaces to collect information on products for sale and maintain the contact information to cut down on ORC. This is in process with Michigan Retailers Association.

Roundtable

Mr. Hallan provided an update on the legislation.

Mr. Cammenga mentioned that RILA is working with Facebook Marketplace to recover stolen property and answering subpoenas.

Chief Baugh appreciates any collect efforts through the southeast Michigan.

Mr. Schuler mentioned finding a new sponsor for the Senate Bill 56. Mr. Hallan mentioned that House Bill 4946 (2019) that adds ORC to the racketeering provision. Ms. Hammoud is going to undertake the task of finding new sponsors for the bills.

Mr. Lloyd indicated that the court systems are back to having jury trials in person.

Mr. Henkel is seeing trends with unemployment cash out activity turning to money laundering. Internet crimes are showing signs of refund fraud.

Mr. Schuler is seeing a spike in elder fraud, where suspects are tricking people to purchase gift cards. Retailers are trying to educate the victims of this scam. There has been a huge spike in return fraud, suspects are mailing empty boxes back to the retailers. Unfortunately, retailers are unable to prosecute the suspect or mail services for the loss of the items.

D/Lieutenant Maylone updated the board on on-going cases.

Ms. Hammoud is looking forward to working with this board, has a large background pertaining to organized retail crime and will aid those on the board.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at Michigan State Police Headquarters. This is contingent upon COVID-19 operational procedures.