

WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS
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Jim LaMunyon, WATPA Executive Director

“preventing auto theft in the State of Washington”



MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Pierce (Chair), Merle Pfeifer, Mike West, Emil Dammel, Dan Satterberg, John Lovick, Harvey Gjesdal, Ken Hohenberg, Jim LaMunyon (Staff)

PROXIES REPRESENTED: Steve Davis for John Batiste

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Strachan

GUESTS PRESENT: Jamie Yoder, James McMahan

CALL TO ORDER:

Don Pierce, Executive Director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs called the first meeting of the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority to order at 11:00 am on January 9, 2008. Following brief remarks by Mr. Pierce, self introductions occurred.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Pierce introduced Jim LaMunyon as the Interim Executive Director. Mr. LaMunyon is contracted to fill this position until October, 14, 2008. At a later date the Auto Theft Authority will need to make a decision on hiring a permanent director.

Mr. Pierce informed the Authority that a chairperson needs to be selected and opened the floor for nominations. **Dan Satterberg made the motion to nominate Don Pierce as the chairperson for a term of one year. Mike West seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

John Lovick thanked James McMahan for his work on E3SHB 1001. Dan Satterberg also thanked James for his work. Mr. Satterberg went on to share information regarding the history of auto theft in King County and outlined the work on this issue done by his predecessor, Norm Maleng.

Mr. Pierce announced that the Authority should expect a number of amendments to be brought forward regarding E3SHB. James McMahan indicated a drafting error on page 32 of the 2007 legislation. An incorrect reference to auto theft in the first degree was made and an amendment will be offered to correct the language.

At this time Mr. Pierce outlined the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs for members of the authority not familiar with the Association. Mr. Pierce also outlined how the Authority came to be housed within the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Brief discussion regarding public disclosure laws occurred.

Jim LaMunyon made a presentation outlining the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Key points included: an outline of auto theft facts for Washington State; authorizing RCW's; funding sources; required tasks; Authority membership; grant allocations; and contact information.

Clarification regarding reimbursement of travel, lodging and meal costs was discussed. RCW's 43.030.250, 43.030.050 and 43.03.060 were reviewed. It was established that non-governmental members of the Authority are entitled to compensation at the rate of \$100.000 per day and travel expenses. **Dan Satterberg made the motion to approve mileage/travel, meals and lodging expense reimbursement for governmental employees. John Lovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

James McMahan and John Lovick explained the funding mechanism and how it was developed. The current funding mechanism, a ten-dollar surcharge on all traffic infractions, was the mechanism with the least push-back.

Jim LaMunyon discussed communications within the Authority. Jim would like Authority members to know that he is here to serve the Authority. Mr. LaMunyon will keep in contact with members of the Authority and will be sending out periodic updates. Contact information for each member of the Authority was distributed to members present.

Don Pierce indicated that the Authority is required to complete studies regarding auto theft. The Authority must decide if the concurrence of the group is to (1) contract out studies or (2) hire staff personnel to conduct studies. Mr. Pierce's recommendation to the Authority is to contract work at this point and to revisit the issue at a later time. With a unanimous concurrence the Authority agreed to contract rather than hire additional staff.

Discussion on the sustainability of the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority occurred. The Authority has no 'sunset' date; however, the Governor performs periodic reviews to ensure boards, commissions and councils are still necessary and meeting expectations.

Mr. Pierce requested direction from the Authority on voting rights and representatives. The Authority has three options: (1) if a member cannot attend, he/she cannot send a representative and forfeits voting rights; (2) if a member cannot attend, he/she can send a representative but forfeits voting rights; and (3) if a member cannot attend, he/she can send a representative and the representative can vote in place of the absent member. **Ken Hohenberg made the motion that if a member of the Authority cannot attend a meeting he/she has the option to send a representative; the representative will not have voting rights. John Lovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.** It was clarified that by statute, Don Pierce and John Batiste may have voting designees attend in their place.

Harvey Gjesdal requested a meeting schedule. Mr. LaMunyon requested direction from the Authority on the frequency of meetings (quarterly or every-other-month). It was decided that for the time being the Authority will meet on an every-other-month basis and when appropriate will meet on a quarterly basis. Mr. LaMunyon also requested direction from the Authority on holding a 1.5 day working retreat to establish a mission, vision, and goals for the Authority. Authority members are open to the concept of holding a working retreat.

Mr. LaMunyon and Mr. Pierce outlined the Proposed Budget for the Auto Theft Authority (attached, #1). Discussion on the Executive Director position and the Public Relations Consultant Position occurred. Also discussed at this time was the potential of the WATPA leasing office space in the WASPC building. Both Mr. LaMunyon and Mr. Pierce have made a site-visit to the Arizona Auto Theft Prevention Authority; during the trip networking and information sharing occurred. Additional discussion and clarification on the Proposed Budget occurred; a breakdown of administrative service costs was also distributed at this time (attached, #2). **Mike West made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Dan Satterberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Additional Discussion on holding a working retreat and the meeting schedule occurred. Mr. LaMunyon will research dates and locations for the retreat and report back to the Authority. If the retreat is held in April, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held in June or July.

John Lovick requested that the Authority make a presentation to Representative Al O'Brien and the Human Services and Emergency Preparedness Committee during the 2008 legislative session. The presentation should provide the Committee with an update on the Authority and its progress thus far.

Discussion on 'bait cars' occurred. There is value in agencies having access to these tools and it would be helpful to local law enforcement if there was a 'bait car' pool for use state-wide. Additional research on this idea will occur.

Mr. Pfeifer indicated he hopes that the Authority will work to curb the trend of stripping cars as well as overall auto theft. Sheriff Lovick added that something to that end should be included in the vision/mission statement for the Authority.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business Don Pierce, Authority Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.