

WASHINGTON AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS
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"The mission of the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority is to prevent and reduce motor vehicle thefts and other associated crime in the State of Washington."



WATPA MEMBERSHIP MEETING: November 6, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Pierce, John Batiste, Mike West, Emil Dammell, Dan Satterberg, Steve Strachan, John Lovick, Harvey Gjesdal, and Ken Hohenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim LaMunyon, WATPA Director; and Merle Pfeifer

GUESTS PRESENT: Jo Arlow, WASPC Policy Director, Grant Clark, WATPA Public Awareness Coordinator; Nancy Morris, Accounting Services Support; and Cynthia Jordan, Division Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER:

Don Pierce, Chairman called the meeting to order and requested that an executive session, 14 A be added to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 MINUTES:

Mike West noted that on pages 2, 3 and 4 there is a date of 5/8/2008 from the previous meeting. On page 3, under legislative session 2nd paragraph down, strike "it is" and replace with "follow the issue", next sentence strike "work". Next paragraph the "Governor's" should be capitalized. Next paragraph strike "to put on", replace with "working on." The last paragraph was a suggestion not a correction, but instead of "borders" replace with "border-crossings" Mike West made a motion to .approve the minutes with corrections of September 11th, 2008, with the friendly amendment. The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

There is a large balance remaining, but that is because there have been very few grant payments made to date. Under the financial report there was \$31,451.68 in grant payments made so far this quarter. We were under the projections although we have seen a monthly increase. Jo Arlow reported that the current cash balance is \$3.466M. The total cash receipts for the biennium are at \$12M as of October. We had projected \$13M, so we are behind projections. Motion to approve the financial report was approved unanimously. The financial status of the WATPA account as reported during the meeting is incorrect. The actual account balance was \$5,334,335 and the total cash receipts were \$6,634,527.

*Washington Auto Theft Prevention
Authority*

JOHN BATISTE
Chief – WA State Patrol

EMIL DAMMEL
Insurance Industry

HARVEY GJESDAL
Sheriff—Douglas County

KEN HOHENBERG
Chief—Kennewick

JOHN LOVICK
Sheriff – Snohomish County

MERLE PFIEFER
General Public

DON PIERCE
Executive Director - WASPC

DAN SATTERBERG
Prosecuting Attorney – King County

STEVE STRACHAN
Chief—Kent

MICHAEL WEST
Automobile Industry

JIM LAMUNYON
Executive Director - WATPA

POLICY AND PROCEDURES STATEMENT:

Review the recommended changes to the WATPA policies and procedures.

- Page 2 – Previous discussion regarding who could speak on behalf of the Authority. We have given enough latitude now that anyone can talk about WATPA at speaking engagements. The exception is when speaking about the official position of WATPA.
- Page 2 – Added the Vice-Chair.
- Page 4 – Added meeting attendance and added a provision for conference call if necessary.
- Page 4 – There is an “Order of business” that doesn’t need to be included because there is an agenda.
- Page 5 – The quorum is 6.
- Page 6 – Delete the “grant committee” Grant review and decisions will be made by the Authority members.
- Page 7 – Grant selection priorities were followed and went well so we will keep those.

Mike West made a motion to adopt the policies and procedures as presented. Motion carries.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COORDINATOR:

Grant Clark reviewed the public awareness materials and contacts that he developed for the WATPA. Samples of the brochures and posters were included in the meeting packet. Promotional items with the WATPA logo will include ice scrapers, pens, and steering wheel clubs. Grant has been calendaring speaking engagements and auto shows. Crime Stoppers are a good resource and King County has “Cop Talk” that would allow air time. The Authority members would like public awareness materials sent to them for their public speaking engagements. Overall the Authority was pleased with the product that has been developed. It was suggested that Grant research and get into the rotation of the PSA’s that the utility companies distribute monthly. Possibly put the PowerPoint on the WATPA website. We should know in February or March what the total number of stolen cars in Washington was for 2008. This would be a great time to do some press conferences to raise awareness. An e-mail will be sent to let Authority members know what WATPA resources are available to them such as the banners, tablecloths, etc.

ALPR MODEL POLICY UPDATE:

The ALPR model policy was preliminarily adopted allowing the WATPA funds to be released. This policy is not required to be adopted to have an ALPR but the WATPA does require agencies to consider it when adopting their own policy. The WATPA and WASPC do not mandate the adoption of model policy, they give best practices for consideration.. A concern is that WSP may become overwhelmed with upcoming request for ALPR information. Chief Batiste will check with his staff and share this concern. Don stated that if it is determined that the increased

workload might impact WSP, WASPC might consider funding a staff person. No one has taken issue with ALPR data retention period of 60 days. It seems to be an acceptable time period.

GRANT AWARDS:

Not all of the grant award recipients have submitted quarterly reports. Approximately \$30K of WATPA grant monies will be refunded by mid-November.

We need to be clear to legislature that the money in the account has been obligated for grants.

In regard to the grant applications for July of 2009, all the current task forces will be encouraged to reapply.. They may ask for enhancements in their request for continuation funding. New applicants will be considered as well as one time equipment funding.

Grant announcements will be made after the first of the year. Equipment proposals out by January 1st with the application due back by February 16, so that equipment could be received by the June 30th cutoff. Non-equipment grant period would open up January 15, 2009 with a due date of March 15, 2009. The Authority will make the final award decisions at the May 7th meeting. We should model the equipment RFG after what WASPC currently does for the traffic safety grants. Check with Heidi Hughes, a Financial Technician in the WASPC Administrative Division, as a resource. We may want to revisit what we had decided to keep in reserve.

09-11 BUDGET:

Jim has asked if any of the Authority members have ideas for the budget that they please send them to him. At this point in time we don't need to do any work on the 09-11 budget.

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

We need to clearly understand the status of our fund, what is encumbered and what is not so that we can accurately share that information with legislature so they too will understand. Although we have over \$1M in surplus we have another grant period coming up. Let them know that not having those monies in the account could be detrimental to law enforcement agencies throughout Washington. That officer's and deputies will lose their jobs and public safety will be impacted. WASPC and WATPA will be giving a presentation on December 5th during a work session of the House Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Sheriff Lovick and Dan Satterberg will be there December 5th to give testimony as well.

The data for the number of auto thefts in Washington State supports the message that we have been spreading that auto theft is down. In 2006 there were 44,967 stolen vehicles, in 2007 there were 36,932, and so far in 2008 there are 11,865. The large decrease has a lot to do with the work that King County has been doing. The PowerPoint presentation should reflect the statistics that show that although auto theft is down the financial impact on our state has increased.

We not only need to protect those dollars in the fund for the work of WATPA, but also the funding mechanism. Sheriff Lovick shared that Snohomish County is seeing a significant

decrease in auto theft in their region as well. They have gone from an average of 75 per week in the county and this last week there were only 25.

We might see the juvenile sentencing issue come up again. What the juvenile sentencing piece does is establish consequences for auto theft that involves juveniles. The mandatory minimum is a home detention for the first offense. An important component is the assessment piece that requires these juveniles be evaluated to find out what might be going on in their lives that can be addressed to correct this criminal behavior early. There is also a mandatory fine that we may be able to look at since it might place a hardship on the families of these juveniles.

VEHICLE THEFT STUDY:

The study is due the beginning of December; however it may not be finalized until mid-December. If it is ready prior to that time it might be good information to share at the presentation.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Snohomish County Task Force is up and running. They are already having a huge impact on auto theft, so some good work is being done.

WATPA 2009 MEETING SCHEDULE:

- January 15 (3rd Thursday)
- March 19 (3rd Thursday – we can conduct our regular business and address the equipment grants at this meeting)
- May 7 (1st Thursday – the 3rd Thursday is during the WASPC Spring Conference week – this meeting will include regular business and the review and final decisions on the grant applications for the July 1, 2009-June 30,2010 award period.)
- September 17 (3rd Thursday – this gets us through the summer without a meeting)
- December 17 (3rd Thursday – this may not be a good date due to its proximity to the holidays – we may want to meet on the first Thursday which is December 3rd)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The meeting was recessed for an Executive Session. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, Chairman Pierce reconvened the regular meeting, and Mike West made a motion which was seconded and passed, to authorize WATPA to enter into an employment agreement with Executive Director Jim LaMunyon.

Reconvened and with no further business Chair Don Pierce adjourned the meeting at noon.

**The next regular scheduled WATPA meeting will be held on
January 15th, 2008, 10 AM – 2 PM, WATPA Conference Room**