



## Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 27, 2018

AATA Office - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

1110 W. Washington Suite 105, Phoenix AZ 85007

#### Board Members Attendance:

Matt Reed, Chair, State Farm Insurance Companies

Chief Daniel Sharp, Vice-Chair, Oro Valley Police Department

Sheriff Paul Penzone - Maricopa County Sheriff's Office – **NOT PRESENT**

Sheriff Joseph Dedman, Jr. – **NOT PRESENT**

Joe Brosius – Public Member – Telephonic

Director Eric Jorgensen – Jackie Gentner representing

Director Frank Milstead – Arizona Department of Public Safety, Lt. Col. Daniel Lugo representing

Chief Michael Soelberg – Gilbert Police Department - Telephonic

Bill Montgomery – Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Auto Theft Bureau Chief, Kristin Sherman representing

Dean Butler – Farmers Insurance - Telephonic

Mary Snider- Public Member- **NOT PRESENT**

#### AATA Legal Council:

Tom Raine, Assistant Attorney General, AZ Attorney General's Office

#### Public/Guests:

Captain Paul Etnire- Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, Department of Public Safety

Karen Smith- Heinfield, Meech CPA firm

Misty Fauth- Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Yvette Echandi-Mott- La Paz County Attorney's Office - Telephonic

Kent Volkmer- Pinal County Attorney's Office - Telephonic

#### AATA Staff:

Frederick W. Zumbo, AATA Executive Director

Art Myer, AATA Chief Financial Officer

Ann Armstrong, AATA Grants Administrator

Amanda O'Halloran, AATA Administrative Assistant III

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- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL-  
Conducted via sign in sheet
- II. AATA BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - REVIEW, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
- Mr. Reed, AATA Board Chairman, prior to starting the meeting, offered a moment of silence for AZ. DPS troopers involved in an incident the "night before last."
  - Mr. Reed recognized Chief Minter for his years of service to the AATA Board as he moves onto his next Chief position in Georgia.
  - Mr. Reed asked for a motion to approve May 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting minutes
    - Chief Sharp motioned
    - Jackie Gentner second

- All Board members present voted “Aye” -Motion Passed
- Chairman Reed welcomed new AATA Board member Chief Michael Soelberg, Gilbert Police Department.
- FY’ 18 Theft Task Force Audit
  - Chairman Reed asked Mr. Raine if this needed to go to executive session.
  - Mr. Raine advised to discuss as much as possible in open session.
  - Chairman Reed asked for status of FY’18 Theft Task Force Audit.
    - Ms. Karen Smith with Heinfield, Meech was introduced to board and advised that a documentation request has been placed with the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) regarding information to the FY’18 Vehicle Theft Task Force grant has gone unfulfilled.
    - Lt. Col. Lugo, representing Arizona Department of Public Safety, brought forth concerns regarding the scope of the audit and information requested pertaining to ongoing investigations, the conduct in which the notification of the audit was received as well as the intent in which the audit is being requested.
    - Board members discussed documentation request and concerns pertaining to the FY’18 Vehicle Theft Task Force Audit.
      - It was determined the FY’18 Theft Task Force audit and requested documents were for the purpose of determining monies spent from the grant were spent in accordance with the specifications of the grant as funded. In addition, the audit was to determine if control issues brought to light by the findings of the 2015 Vehicle Theft Task Force Audit had been resolved.
      - Lt. Col Lugo requested all further communication be directed towards AZ. DPS regarding the FY’18 Task Force Audit go to the attention of Colonel Frank Milstead.
      - A meeting between Board Chairman, Heinfield & Meech, AZ. DPS, and AATA will be planned to rework the scope in a manner satisfactory to all parties.
- Update on the Agency Succession Planning
  - Chairman Reed advised the AATA presently has only 3 employees and are slotted for 4. Chairman Reed has concerns the agency doesn’t have a back-up plan and advised there’s a need for a succession plan going forward.
  - He requested Board members form a Subcommittee to examine where the agency is and where the Board desires the agency to be in regards to a succession plan.
  - Chief Sharp advised that since this is an administrative request, perhaps the Director [Zumbo] come up with a plan and submit it to a board for review.
  - Direct Zumbo advised that he could provide that.

### III. AATA REPORT - REVIEW, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- FY’20 AATA Budget Submission

- Director Zumbo advised that the FY'20 AATA Budget Submission will be exactly what the AATA asked for last year - \$7.5 million and submitted on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> of 2018.
- Director Zumbo advised that the fund balance is growing still.
- Director Zumbo advised board that the AATA has over three quarters of a million dollars in Operation Night Watch Grants pending and we were unable to fund. Advised that the AATA would like to fund those this year if possible.
- Director Zumbo advised the AATA was able to fund one LPR grant for La Paz County through Operation Night Watch in FY 2018.

### III. AATA FINANCIAL UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- AATA Financial Report for fiscal year ending in June 30, 2018
  - Please see attached documents.
- FY'19 Spending Plan Update
  - Please see attached documents.
  - Mr. Myer requested Board approval for Spending plan FY'19
    - Chief Sharp motioned to approve Spending plan.
    - Ms. Gentner 2<sup>nd</sup> request to approve Spending plan.
    - All voted "Aye" – Spending plan approved.

### V. AATA PUBLIC AWARENESS & GRANT PROGRAMS REPORT

- 2018 Auto Theft Prevention Campaigns
  - Ms. Armstrong – presented slide show of Crime Prevention Conference and Cargo Theft Training.
  - Ms. Armstrong advised that Ms. O'Halloran provided an Auto Theft Training class as well introduced the #9PMRoutine to the 2018 ACPA Crime Prevention Conference.
  - Ms. Armstrong advised additional training will be in Superior, Casa Grande, and partnership with AATIA to provide another Metal Theft training, utilizing remaining SIMS monies.
  - Ms. Armstrong updated that Kingman PD's LPR speed trailer project has been rolled out.
  - Ms. Armstrong recapped a story where a van was caught with a stolen license plate purchased at a swap meet.
  - Ms. Armstrong advised that NICB just released their 2017 Hot Spots Report and recapped Arizona's standings.
  - Fiscal FY'18 grants are closing out and grantee have been submitting their financial reports and performance reports.
  - Ms. Armstrong advised that July Auto Theft month kicked off and that AATA just launched advertising campaigns with ABC 15/Sonoran Living as well as some paid digital billboards featuring the #9PMRoutineAZ, Auto Theft Prevention messaging.
  - Ms. Sherman advised she and Misty went to an auto theft and vehicle burglary multi-agency info/training session. She advised they spread the word about the #9PMRoutine, prevention tips.

### VI. LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Chief Sharp- Nothing to report.

VII. PUBLIC AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Mr. Brosius- Thanks to Ann for doing a great job.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Chairman Reed – has several meeting lined up with legislators
- Chairman Reed – reported on his meeting with Mr. Farnsworth, advising that Mr. Farnsworth very open to dialog, and a follow up meeting referencing the AATA.

IX. VERTICAL PROSECUTION SUBCOMMITTEE & AUTO THEFT PROSECUTORS REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Maricopa County Attorney's Office – Ms. Sherman shared that the Auto Theft Authority is working on best practices for the Vertical Prosecution model and they will continue to support the AATA in this endeavor.
- Ms. Sherman advised that her staff has been very busy and advised that Misty Fauth did a ride along with the Task Force detectives.
- Ms. Fauth – Advised that in June the Task Force did a "West Valley Detail" and allowed the MCAO to accompany. It allowed the prosecutors to have firsthand knowledge of how the investigations work.
- Pinal County Attorney's Office- Kent Volkmer – has no report as this time.
- La Paz County Attorney's Office- Yvette Enchandi-Mott – They have struggled with a few investigations, and the amount of legwork that needs to be done on these cases. Ms. Echandi-Mott advised they had a case with Edward Barcomb who was sentenced to 3 years for theft of means and 1 year for theft. Def. was stealing generators and the BLM, Quartzsite Police Department set up a decoy generator to catch him. Edward Vasquez who was one of three co-defendants who stole a car and "cold plated" it. She advised they also had a case with Taylor Brotherton who "cold plated" a car from Oklahoma and brought it out to Arizona and rolled it, in addition to fleeing the scene. He is scheduled to be sentenced to 4.5 years next Monday.

X. ARIZONA VEHICLE THEFT TASK FORCE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Captain Paul Etnire, Arizona Vehicle Theft Task force shared personal sentiments at the recent loss for the AZ. DPS Trooper killed, others injured in the line of duty.
- Captain Etnire advised recounted that since the last board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> the Task Force has recovered 349 vehicles with an estimated value of \$3.75 million dollars. YTD the Task Force has over 980 vehicle recovered with estimated value of \$10.5 million dollars.
- Captain Etnire advised that recent stats reflect a 46% increase from last year in recovered vehicles and up over 52% for value of those recoveries.
- Captain Etnire advised the Task Force is only about 240 vehicles away from matching last year's recovery rate.
- Captain Etnire reported the Task Force is averaging 145 recoveries, which is increasing in the past few months along with arrests slightly. Since last Board meeting, the Task Force has had 58 arrests for auto theft, 31 for auto theft, 13 additional drug related charges.
- Captain Etnire advised that since the three months he has been assigned to the Task Force, he has seen many more related crimes to auto theft, more than just a property crime.

- YTD 243 arrests -123 for auto theft and 67 for drug related charges. Captain Etnire advised that they are a little lower than last year but tactics are changing and the Task Force has been using a different methodology and taking a slow and deliberate approach. The Task Force is working for a more safe and efficient manner to take someone in custody.
- Captain Etnire has submitted 8 search warrants since last Board meeting.
- Captain Etnire advised of the West Valley Operation that included 5 other agencies. In that 2-day period they had 15 arrests, - 9 were warrant arrests, 77 grams of Meth and 1 gun. Seized 2 vehicles with altered or missing VINs and 21 stolen vehicle and investigated 1 chop shop.
- Captain Etnire noted that during that time MCAO prosecutors were which included a successful K9 rescue.
- Captain Etnire advised the Task Force worked a failure to return Cargo Van case. Offender was known to have a violent past and SWAT was called, however, upon arrival the person was already gone. A "keen" detective happened to see the vehicle 15 miles away and recovered the van on a traffic stop. His wife was driving and the suspect barricaded himself in the business for 2 hours. SWAT was called and call ended with his suspect's surrender.
- Scottsdale detective was investigating a crime in Glendale, and had a gun drawn on him from a suspect in a stolen vehicle. Phoenix Firebird followed the vehicle and the Task Force was able to make an arrest.
- Detective spotted another stolen vehicle and followed it. Upon the arrest, they found personal amount of drugs – Heroin and meth as well as 50 stolen ID's and 38 different Jiggle keys.
- Currently the Task Force has 10 agencies represented and 29 personnel assigned to the Task Force included detectives, sergeants, and analysts.
- Detective Bernie Castillo has accepted a position with the NICB and will be leaving the Task Force. He has been with AZ. DPS with 29 years. He would like to see Bernie Castillo be recognized for his years of work with the Auto Theft Task Force and AATA.

XI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Chairman Reed made a call to the public.
- Ms. O'Halloran reported all Ads, graphics featured on the billboards and in the slides where created "In House" by AATA staff, resulting in cost savings.

XII. REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

- Next AATA Board meeting is Sept 21, 2018.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2018.

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

By: Matthew Reed

Matt Reed, AATA Board Chairman