



## Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 15th, 2019

AATA Office - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
1110 W. Washington Suite 105, Phoenix AZ 85007

DRAFT

#### Board Members Attendance:

Chief Daniel Sharp, Chair, Oro Valley Police Department  
Matt Reed, Vice- Chair, State Farm Insurance Companies – **Not Present**  
Joe Brosius – Public Member  
Dean Butler – Farmers Insurance  
Sheriff Joseph Dedman, Jr. - Apache County Sheriff – Telephonic (10:06 am)  
Director Eric Jorgensen – Jackie Gentner representing  
Director Frank Milstead – Arizona Department of Public Safety, Major Jack Johnson Jr. representing  
Bill Montgomery – Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Auto Theft Bureau Chief, Kristin Sherman representing  
Sheriff Paul Penzone - Maricopa County Sheriff's Office – Deputy Chief Rick Morris representing  
Chief Michael Soelberg – Gilbert Police Department  
Mary Snider- Public Member

#### AATA Legal Council:

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

#### AATA Staff:

Ann Armstrong, AATA Grants Administrator- *Acting Director*  
Art Myer, AATA Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Ceballos, AATA Administrative Service Officer  
Amanda O'Halloran, AATA Administrative Assistant III- **Not Present**

#### Public/Guest:

Captain Paul Etnire- Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, Department of Public Safety  
Misty Fauth – Maricopa County Attorney's Office  
Marcus Beecher – Maricopa County Attorney's Office  
Valerie Stranieri- Maricopa County Attorney's Office

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- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
    - Chairman Sharp called the meeting to order at 10:00am, roll call conducted via sign-in sheet.
  
  - II. AATA BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- REVIEW, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
    - Chairman Sharp presented board meeting minutes from January 25th, 2019 for approval.
      - Mr. Butler motioned to approve minutes as presented
      - Ms. Snider seconded the motion
      - Vote passed unanimously (9-0)
    - Sheriff Dedman signed in via phone at 10:05am.

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

- Chairman Sharp read a letter from Executive Director Zumbo. The letter outlined:
  - Director Zumbo's effective retirement date as of June 1, 2019.
  - Director Zumbo will be out on FMLA effective March 23, 2019 through May 31, 2019.
  - Ann Armstrong is acting Executive Director until a new Executive Director is appointed.
- FY'20 Budget Update
  - Acting Director Ann Armstrong advised the board the Arizona legislature would begin their appropriation bills in April.
- SB1012, SB1303, SB1469
  - Acting Director Ann Armstrong- recapped the 3 bills currently passing through the Arizona Legislature:
    - SB1012 is the appropriation bill, granting the AATA access to the AATA fund balance. This bill has passed the Senate, passed the House Transportation Sub-Committee and is heading to House appropriations and rules.
    - SB1303 is the Watch Your Car bill. Mr. Ceballos represented the AATA on Wednesday. This bill has been sent to appropriations and rules committee.
    - SB1469 is the agency consolidation into the Department of Insurance bill. This bill has passed the Senate, had its first read in the House, and is now awaiting committee hearings in the next week or two.
    - Acting Director Ann Armstrong advised that Legislative Chair- Mr. Reed had been kept up to date in regards to these bills.
- Agency Re-Brand Update
  - Acting Director Ann Armstrong turned the floor over to Mr. Ceballos for an update.
    - Mr. Ceballos advised on the agency rebrand:
      - (1) Mr. Ceballos advised during the January's board meeting it was suggested by the board the AATA reach out to the automobile dealerships associations.
        - (a) Currently Arizona has two such association and contact was made with both. From this contact, there was an exchange of knowledge and education in regards to what constitutes a dealer, the term "curbing," and how developing a partnership would benefit all parties.
      - (2) Mr. Ceballos advised during the last board meeting another recommendation was for the AATA to make contact with Arizona Law Enforcement training academies in regards to providing training for the Watch Your Car program to new officers.
        - (a) Contact was made to 15 different academies throughout the state and the overall response was extremely positive and supportive.
      - (3) Executive Director Zumbo and Mr. Ceballos met with Director Jorgenson of the Arizona Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division and staff in regards to renewing and expanding the partnership regarding the Watch Your Car Program. Future meetings are scheduled to discuss optimization of the Watch Your Car Database and an interface between the two organizations.
      - (4) Mr. Ceballos advised of the agency's development of the AATA VIN Etching lesson plan with an anticipated roll out date of June 2019.
        - (a) This goal of this lesson plan is to provide agencies with guidance and knowledge of how to effectively run and manage a VIN Etching event

with AATA grant funded VIN Etching equipment. The intention is to hold a VIN Etching training class every 6 months upon roll out.

- (b) For 2019, the AATA has participated in 5 VIN Etching events throughout the state where 109 vehicles with 872 windows were VIN etched. This brings the AATA constituent participation to an average of 22 vehicles and 58 windows per event.

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

- AATA Financial Report for fiscal year ending February 28, 2019
  - Please see attached documents
- FY'19 spending Plan Update
  - Please see attached documents
  - Mr. Brosius- motioned to approve spending plan as updated.
  - Ms. Sherman seconded the motion.
  - Vote passed unanimously (10-0)
- FY'19 Industry Awareness Grant Request- Ratifications – monies are from SIMS metal management fund.
  - Department of Public Safety – Flagstaff, Grant #830 - \$80.00.
    - Major Jack Johnson Jr. abstained from vote on Grant #830.
    - Chief Soelberg motioned to ratify Grant #830.
    - Ms. Snider seconded the motion.
    - Vote passed unanimously (9-0).
  - Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Grant #1830 – \$1052.02.
    - Ms. Sherman abstained from vote on Grant #1830
    - Chief Soelberg motioned to ratify Grant #1830.
    - Major Jack Johnson Jr. seconded the motion.
    - Vote passed unanimously (9-0).
  - Flagstaff Police Department, Grant #1831 - \$160.00.
    - Chief Soelberg motioned to ratify Grant #1831.
    - Ms. Gentner seconded the motion.
    - Vote passed unanimously (10-0).
  - Pima County Sheriff's Department, Grant #1838- \$1082.10.
    - Chief Soelberg motioned to ratify Grant #1838.
    - Ms. Snider seconded the motion.
    - Vote passed unanimously (10-0).
  - Santa Cruz County Attorney's Office, Grant #1841 - \$476.09.
    - Chief Soelberg motioned to ratify Grant #1841.
    - Major Jack Johnson Jr. seconded the motion.
    - Vote passed unanimously (10-0).
- FY'19 Public Awareness Grant – monies are from general grant funding.
  - Saint John's Police Department, Grant #1839 - \$1243.00.
    - Ms. Snider motioned to approve Grant #1389.
    - Mr. Brosius seconded the motion.
    - Vote passed unanimously (10-0).
- FY'19 Professional Training (PISA Conference).
  - AZ Department of Public Safety, Grant #1840 - \$5,000.00

- Major Jack Johnson Jr. abstained from vote on Grant #1840.
- Mr. Butler motioned to approve Grant #1840.
- Ms. Gentner seconded the motion.
- Vote passed unanimously (9-0).

V. AATA PUBLIC AWARENESS & GRANT PROGRAMS REPORT GENERAL UPDATE, DISUCSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- 2019 Auto Theft Prevention Campaigns, Event & Trainings.
  - Acting Director Ms. Armstrong summarized a list of several upcoming events including a VIN Etching event in Somerton, AZ, Maricopa County Attorney's Office Citizen Safety Forum as well as past events already completed.
  - Acting Director Ms. Armstrong advised the April Flagstaff Metal Summit will have a few more grant requests coming in for ratification for the May board meeting.
  - Acting Director Ms. Armstrong reported on the Cargo Theft training class with Travelers Insurance on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Holbrook.
- FY'19 FY'20 Grant Program
  - Acting Director Ms. Armstrong advised that April 15th is the deadline for the Task Force and the Vertical prosecution grants for staff and subcommittee review tentatively scheduled for the first part of May.

VI. LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Chief Soelberg advised meeting will tentatively be scheduled for the first part of May.

VII. PUBLIC AWARENESS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Mr. Brosius thanked Ms. Armstrong for all the work she does for all the events.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- No report

IX. ADMINSTRATIVE & FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- FY'20 AZ Vehicle Theft Task Force Grant Request
  - Chief Sharp advised the subcommittee met to review the Task Force Grant request for FY 2020.

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

- Maricopa County – Ms. Fauth summarized several recent closed cases. Ms. Beecher will be leaving for another unit within Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Ms. Stranieri will be taking his place.

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

- General Update, Report on Task Force Activities
  - Captain Etnire recapped Task Force Activities
    - The Task Force has recovered 245 vehicles with an estimated value of \$3.295 million dollars from January to March.
    - The Task Force has recovered 364 vehicles since January, which is a 5% increase over last year.
    - 63 arrests have been made since January including 22 arrests that were drug related.
    - Captain Etnire gave a synopsis of several cases that occurred since the previous board meeting.
      - (1) Stolen Ford 150 pursued into Laveen and attempted to run down Task Force detective.
      - (2) Assist Phoenix Police Department with a stolen Uber taken by gunpoint. A Metro West Trooper spotted the vehicle that resulted in a pursuit.

- (3) Proactive MVD Agent who identified an issue with fraudulent Colorado titles that were "Title Washed" on high-end rental vehicles. The Task Force has identified at least 9 different vehicles. Crimes include fraud, title washing and tax invasion. Suspects are being held on Homeland Security Interests and other outstanding warrants. The estimated value on these vehicles is well over half a million dollars. It has become known that most rental cars do not know the vehicle is stolen until after 30 days it has not been returned.

- **FY'20 Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Budget Request**

- Captain Etnire summarized the fiscal year 2020 budget for the Vehicle Theft Task Force. The FY 2020 budget includes:
  - 10% Increase DPS employees' salaries.
  - \$500,000.00 for 8 new vehicles included building for emergency equipment.
  - Expanded budget by \$150,000.00 for additional support regarding overtime expenses for SWAT, aviation and K9.
  - Increased budget by \$10,000.00 for additional travel and training.
  - Increased operating expenses by \$75,000.00 specifically for the Vigilant Systems Investigated data platform.
  - 77% of the Task Force budget is allocated for payroll, ERE and overtime.
    - (1) ERE is 113% for the sworn employee.
    - (2) 25% of this goes to DPS personal services.
    - (3) 28% of this DPS ERE.
    - (4) 23% of this goes to overtime which is aid to other organizations.
  - Capt. Etnire recapped expenses such as fuel, damage repairs and tow expenses.
  - Capt. Etnire expressed the need for replacement vehicles for the Task Force and advised that 2 vehicles are over 120,000 miles and 10 vehicles are over 100,000.
  - Mr. Myer advised that AATA is aware the Task Force needs new vehicles and advised this would be funded as a separate Law Enforcement grant outside of the Vehicle Theft Task Force annual grant as their current allocation is not sufficient to cover this expense.
  - Several vehicles have already been turned in for excessive miles and repairs deemed too costly to maintain.
  - The need for "tougher" SUV and Truck vehicles verses sedans was established.
  - The Task Force provided vehicles for NON- AZDPS Task Force members.
  - Chairman Sharp would like to see a fund set up with our increased appropriations that would assist in covering the expenses for these "larger investigations" that would be submitted as grants.
  - Major Jack Johnson advised that if the appropriations are not increased and the Senate bill does not pass, combined with the Governor's approval for a 10% raise for DPS Troopers and the Task Force is granted only \$3.2 million dollars, the Task Force will be forced to lay off people and continue to drive vehicles that are out of DPS policy for "safety."

XII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- No comment

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

- Chief Sharp advised that he will be calling for the formation of a subcommittee meeting for selection of a new executive director and will be working with the Department of Public Safety in this matter.

XIV. DATE-TIME-LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING – Friday, May 17, 2019 10am- AATA Building- 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Rm #105-1110 W. Washington St. Phoenix AZ 85007.

XV. ADJORNMENT –

- Ms. Snider motioned to adjourn the meeting.
- Chief Soelberg seconded the motion.
- Vote passed unanimously (10-0).
- Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority

By: 

Chief Daniel Sharp, AATA Board Chairman