


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF A SURVEILLANCE VEHICLE TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: Consideration of Acceptance of the Donation of a Surveillance Vehicle to the Police Department.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council accept the donation of a “bait car” from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, and thank them and Allstate Insurance Company for their donation.

DISCUSSION: The National Insurance Crime Bureau is a not-for-profit organization that receives support from insurance companies. The NICB partners with insurers and law enforcement agencies to facilitate the identification, detection and prosecution of criminals.

Allstate Insurance Company, through NICB, makes this donation to the Alexandria Police Department as part of Allstate’s Anti-Theft Program. Allstate is donating “bait cars” to police departments in 14 communities around the country. These “bait cars” are specially outfitted with advanced technology designed to catch car thieves.

FISCAL IMPACT: The vehicle and installed equipment has an estimated value of \$20,000.

ATTACHMENT: National Insurance Crime Bureau Document

STAFF:
 Earl Cook, Chief of Police
 Sergeant Shahram Fard, Police Department, Criminal Investigations
 Amy Flenniken, Division Chief, Police Finance and Fleet Management



AREA SPECIAL OPERATIONS PLAN

NICB Case Number: NICB

Case Name: NICB

Case Agent: NICB

Date of Request: September 4, 2009

Background Information:

The Alexandria Police Department of Alexandria, Virginia has the responsibility of providing law enforcement services for one of the hot spots of vehicle theft. The theft of vehicles and property from vehicles continues to be one of the major crime problems in this area.

In 2007, there were 374 vehicles stolen in Alexandria. Alexandria is included in the Washington, D.C. area, which was ranked 56 in the nation in vehicle theft. Because of the huge financial and emotional impact vehicle theft has on our citizens, the Alexandria Police Department is dedicated to proactively combating vehicle theft and bringing perpetrators to justice. To combat the problem Alexandria Police Department, National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) and Allstate Insurance Company will provide resources for a Bait Vehicle Program. This pro-active approach to attack this growing vehicle theft problem is the use of Bait Operations in which high theft vehicles are set out by law enforcement as an easy target (bait) to attract the thieves under controlled conditions.

Targets:

Subjects involved in motor vehicle theft, theft from motor vehicles and insurance fraud.

Legal Coordination:

Will be provided by NICB's Area Personnel

Anticipated Results:

As a result of the Allstate Bait Car donation program, Allstate expects the following:

- 1) Enhanced coordination and open lines of communication between local law enforcement agencies and Allstate representatives regarding the bait car program;
- 2) Law enforcement participation at press conference announcing bait car donation;
- 3) Law enforcement participation at Allstate-sponsored VIN-etching event, including possible manpower to perform VIN etching for the public; at no cost to the Alexandria Police Department.
- 4) Possible event hosting for bait car press conference;
- 5) Access to any video that captures thieves in action and being apprehended, as appropriate once prosecution and law enforcement deem it appropriate to share;
- 6) Possible participation at follow-up media events if car is successful in apprehending thieves; and,

- 7) Statistics and data over the course of the donation that will help underscore the success of the program.
- 8) The donated vehicle will be used exclusively for anti-auto theft operations.

The Alexandria Police Department may expect the following:

The bait vehicle provided by Claims to the NICB will be permanently donated to the Alexandria Police Department and will be a full transfer of ownership, not a loan for a limited period of time.

The utilization of bait vehicles will identify suspects, businesses, and criminal enterprises involved in vehicle theft and insurance fraud related crimes. Stolen vehicles and or property will be recovered, informants will be developed, and the cases will be prosecuted. The aggressive pro-active investigation and prosecution of those involved should result in the reduction of vehicle theft and insurance fraud.

*Resources:

Allstate will pay all costs associated with procurement of a bait car, equipping the bait car as necessary and transportation of the bait car to its deployment location.

NICB will provide assistance in coordinating the transfer of ownership as well as assistance in the identification and recovery of property and investigative support as needed. A tracking system will be purchased by Allstate Insurance Company and installed by a technical vendor. The Alexandria Police Department and NICB will coordinate with the technical vendor installing the tracking system into the bait vehicle.

The Alexandria Police Department will be the lead and arresting agency providing manpower and other resources required to operate and maintain the bait vehicle. Alexandria Police Department will ensure proper utilization and deployment of the bait vehicle.

*Responsibilities:

Allstate will provide bait vehicle and equipment.

The NICB will coordinate the necessary paperwork to provide the vehicle to the Alexandria Police Department, assist the Alexandria Police Department in identify stolen vehicles, support investigation as needed, gather recovery and arrest information on a monthly basis from the Alexandria Police Department, and provide quarterly reports regarding the bait vehicle to Allstate Insurance Company.

The vehicle being donated will be transferred to the control of the Alexandria Police Department who will provide insurance coverage/self-insured coverage for the vehicle. The Alexandria Police Department will ensure adequate measures are taken to protect the vehicle from loss; maintain and deploy the vehicle as bait vehicles. The Alexandria Police Department will provided an electronic report to NICB on a monthly basis providing details regarding the bait operation conducted, arrests, prosecutions, vehicle recovered, including the location of the vehicle and any other judicial actions resulting from the use of the bait vehicle.

_____, City Manager
(Case Agent)

(Date)

(Area Director)

(Date)

(COO or Vice President – Field Operations)

(Date)

(Law Enforcement Operation Coordinator)

(Date)

*If funds are required upfront, please indicate the name of the person the check should be made out to and the location/address where it should be sent.