

Subject: [Fwd: Internet reporting by pawnshops]

Date: Tue, 30 Oct 2001 13:53:31 -0800

From: Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Internet reporting by pawnshops

Date: Mon, 29 Oct 2001 23:45:23 -0800

From: "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>

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CC: "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mayor & Council:

According to the Vancouver Sun, the City of Vancouver is considering internet reporting for goods received by pawnshops. Hopefully this initiative would result in more stolen goods being recovered by their rightful owners. It would make sense for the entire GVRD to adopt such a sensible & efficient solution. I believe it would be prudent for all North Shore Municipalities to consider getting on board with this proposal.

Yours truly, Dave Sadler

Internet reporting by pawnshops could triple return of stolen property

Monday, October 29, 2001

Vancouver residents and stores could see more stolen property returned to them if the city adopts a new system of Internet reporting from pawnshops, says a report going to city council next week.

City staff are recommending that pawnshop and second-hand-store operators, who are legally obligated to send daily reports to police about the goods they've received, be required to file by Internet, using a new system called "X-Tract," instead of by fax or mail, as they do now.

"The anti-fencing unit returns some \$1-million in property per year. It is estimated that this amount will triple as a result of the new Internet reporting program," says the report, written by licence inspector Guy Gusdal.

About \$100 million in property is stolen in the city of Vancouver every year, which represents two-thirds of all property stolen in the Greater Vancouver regional district.

The report also recommends the city change its bylaw to extend the number of days pawnshop owners must wait after filing the report before they can put goods up for sale.

Currently, the bylaw says they have to wait 30 days to allow police to check crime reports and see if the goods are stolen.

Gusdal's report recommends changing that to 35 days for reports filed by Internet and 49 days for reports that are mailed in, a system still used by some of the city's 164 pawnshops, secondhand stores, and retail stores with secondhand sections.

The way the system works now, police face several hurdles in trying to track stolen property that might have been turned in at pawnshops, according to the report.

The daily reports that are faxed in are often illegible, forcing police staff to spend considerable time trying to decipher them or to verify them with the store owner.

Then police staff have to type in all the entries to the police database, a tedious process that is sometimes forced on constables and detectives in the anti-fencing unit when no clerical staff are available.

That means data sometimes isn't entered until three weeks after it's received. Added to that, it costs \$8,000 to \$12,000 a week to enter that information.

Only then can those entries be checked against the Canadian Police Information Computer database.

The new system will put the cost of data entry on to the shop owners.

Staff are looking at whether pawnshop business licence fees should also be increased to account for the \$117,000 a year it will cost the city to support the X-Tract software program.

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