



Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services

Dedicated to Serving Ohio Security and Investigative Professionals

Major Theodore Owens, USA, Ret.
President of OASIS - Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services
Oral Testimony - before Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce
Committee
Senate Bill 179 – Require Two License Plates
December 11, 2019

Good Morning Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. I am a proudly retired officer of the US Army and combat veteran, a former Columbus Police Officer | Detective, an International Security Contractor with service in the Middle East, and a Combat Skills Instructor at the Nigerian Command and General Staff College. I'm currently the agency owner of Ohio Special Services Group – a private investigations and security services agency here in the Columbus, Ohio area. I was also appointed by Governor Kasich to the Ohio Private Investigations and Security Services Commission from June 2014 to February 2018. I am here to testify as a “Proponent” for Senate Bill 179.

Senate Bill 179 if passed into law would restore a very valuable investigative tool to not only Ohio's Law Enforcement agencies but to Ohio's Licensed Private Investigation companies as well. Ohio's Licensed Private Investigators participate in a wide range of complex investigations such as Human Trafficking | Child Sex-Trafficking Investigations, Missing Person Investigations, Missing Elder Investigations, and in accordance with [Ohio Revised Code 2927.27](#) we conduct the often times deadly Fugitive Apprehension Operations. Requiring vehicles registered here in Ohio to display two license plates on their vehicles is a step in the right direction. With the implementation of License Plate Reader (LPR) technology by most LE agencies which has the ability to scan and document hundreds of license plates at speeds that we can't comprehend having two license plates on a vehicle ensures that the data can be captured from both directions (front or rear of a moving or parked vehicle). We Licensed Private Investigators once connected to the right resources we have the ability to access to that LPR database that will greatly assist us in conducting all of the aforementioned Investigative Operations. I actually would like to see more grant funding resources so that more LE agencies can implement an LPR program in their agency. Technology is a wonderful thing and it can be expensive. With that being said, there is no replacement for the human element in the hands of a trained observer. It is very easy to read a license plate as it is approaching you. It is incredibly more difficult to read that plate in your driver's side view mirror as it is passing by you.



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A prime example of this was recently my team and I were given the apprehension assignment to arrest and bring back into custody a person who was wanted for Domestic Violence and Assault. He was a known “Sovereign Citizen” that also had a direct indictment waiting on him for Aggravated Trafficking of Drugs. [You can go to my company’s Facebook page and watch a good video on the growing “Sovereign Citizen” movement in America.](#) Local PD SWAT Officers and the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) were on his trail as well. This gentleman had been threatening both local and Federal Judge’s. He was identified by me personally as I was in a surveillance position outside of his residence (Off-script details of what led to the arrest) by viewing his front license plate as it was coming towards me.

As you can see, Ohio’s Licensed Private Investigators and Licensed Security Officers contribute to a “Safer Ohio” on a daily basis in many different ways. On behalf of OASIS and Ohio’s 700 Licensed Provider Companies and over 25,000 registered Private Investigators and/or Security Officers, we urge you to please support our profession by voting for this Bill. We are united with Ohio’s Law Enforcement community on this issue. We urge you to ask other members of the Ohio Senate to vote for this Bill on the Floor. Thank you for your time in listening to me today. I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have regarding my testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theodore S. Owens

Major Theodore Owens USA, Ret.

Founder | CEO

Ohio Special Services Group

2019 - OASIS President