

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 638

Approved November 24, 1982

WHEREAS, Baltimore, Maryland, has instituted a radio call-in-program to gather information on drug dealing which resulted in two hundred and fifty telephone calls and ninety-one arrests, and

WHEREAS, A four hour program, on November 4, 1982, known as "Report a Pusher", will result in additional arrests following review of information provided by various people who called in submitting information such as license numbers of cars, descriptions, times and locations of narcotic transactions and names of buyers and sellers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That His Honor the Mayor, the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Chief of the Police Department are hereby requested to study the feasibility of conducting a call-in-program on radio, such as the plan in Baltimore, to gather information on drug dealing in our City.

IN CITY COUNCIL

NOV 18 1982
READ AND PASSED

Robert H. Lynn
PRES.

Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

APPROVED

NOV 24 1982

Uriarte-Casimiro
MAYOR

Councilman Pearlman

Baltimore Radio Call-In Nets 91 Drug Arrests

BALTIMORE, Nov. 6 (AP) — A radio call-in program planned to gather information on drug dealing drew 250 calls that brought 91 arrests, and the police say that there will probably be more charges.

The effort, "Report a Pusher," a four-hour program Thursday night in which Mayor William D. Schaefer, the police and radio station WBAL participated, was all "perfectly legal," according to a spokesman for a civil rights group.

Asked if there had been any objections to the program, Sgt. Mike Bass, a spokesman for the Baltimore police, said Friday, "Only the people who were arrested."

The program was part of an effort

against narcotics dealing that has resulted in the arrests of more than 11,000 suspects here since September 1981, the police said. Sergeant Bass said there were no plans at the moment to repeat the program, largely because detectives were going over information, provided by those who called in, that could lead to more arrests.

What the Tipsters Gave

License numbers of cars, descriptions, times and locations of narcotics transactions, names of buyers and sellers and other "quality information" were given detectives who took calls off the air lines as Mayor Schaefer and his police commissioner appealed on the air for information.

"In theory, if the police go on the air and solicit information from people about a crime, that's a perfectly legal and acceptable activity," John Roemer, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, said Friday, adding that a civil liberties union official had monitored the broadcast.

Focus on Street-Level User

Mr. Roemer said legal objections could be raised if the police had broadcast pleas for information on activities that were not against the law, or if the information was used to justify indiscriminate searches of residences, "but the police didn't do that."

"There were no kingpins that were

taken down," Sergeant Bass said. "But the person who's the street-level user, he's the one who's going to go out and commit robberies and burglaries to support his habit." He conceded that some arrests were based on information that detectives had obtained before the call-in program.

More tips were being phoned in Friday, said Sergeant Bass, who also reported receiving about 20 calls from people "expressing their delight" with the effort. "I think we demonstrated that it could work in any city," he said.

WBAL's news director, Jeff Beauchamp, said, "The city Police Department came to us. They said, 'We need your help. We think we've got a novel idea that's never been tried anywhere in the country.'"

Good reading: The Times Book Review



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