

County of



Saratoga

Board of Supervisors

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SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

February 25, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Univ. of Saratoga; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Tom Goodwin, Stillwater PD; Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron said for the 2013 Super Bowl STOP-DWI Enforcement Crackdown, he requested the agencies to submit their paperwork to Mr. Murphy as soon as possible. There is a 30-day rule to submit this paperwork from the date of the crackdown.

Mr. Murphy said in dealing with the State, they are very strict about the vouchers being submitted. He said he received a letter today from the State that stated they just finished paying for the 2012 Halloween crackdown, so they are behind. He said we will do the St. Patrick's Day STOP-DWI Enforcement Crackdown on March 15, 16 & 17. Chairman Waldron stated the Statewide Crackdown is March 15 – 18. Agencies will receive the following for this crackdown: Sheriff's Office - \$1,250; Saratoga Springs PD - \$1,250; Mechanicville PD - \$750; Ballston Spa PD - \$750; Waterford PD - \$650; and Stillwater PD - \$650 for a total of \$5,300.

Chairman Waldron said the Empire State Law Enforcement Safety Conference will take place on April 18 & 19 at the Radisson Hotel in Rochester, and he passed around a flyer on this conference. He said there will be great training there.

Chairman Waldron said this is the time of year to start applying for eGrants. Due to the enactment of federal legislation, which has resulted in the reduction of federal funding, there are changes to the 2014 grant program. The Buckle Up New York (BUNY) seat belt enforcement program and the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) of previous years have now been integrated into a new Police Traffic Services (PTS) grant program. By consolidating these two police enforcement grants, we feel we can maximize our safety efforts, effectively leverage federal highway safety grant funding and reduce the administrative burden of the program. Agencies will still have to participate in the BUNY three week crackdown wave.

Chairman Waldron announced that the National Sleep Awareness Week is March 3 – 10. He said there is a lot of drowsy driving taking place. He mentioned there will be a press conference about this on March 7th at 10:30 a.m. hosted by the NYS Thruway Authority at the New Baltimore Travel Plaza located just south of Albany on the Thruway.

Chairman Waldron stated the Operation Safe Stop Education and Enforcement Day will take place on Thursday, April 18. We have always participated as well as going out and following the school buses. The OSS reporting form to document activity is located on the Law Enforcement Partners' Page of the GTSC website at www.safenyny.gov.

Chairman Waldron stated the TRACS upgrade training was held this morning for Saratoga County. By the first week in March, it will be rolled out to all of New York State. This takes care of bugs in the old system, he said. It gives administration the capability of doing research and finding out about crashes in certain areas.

Mr. Prestigiacomo stated they did two DWI checkpoints this month – one for the Super Bowl and this past week for Beer Week. We did not yield any DWI arrests, and we detained dozens of people. We did have four marijuana arrests, and we wrote a dozen tickets. He said the social media is not being of great assistance to them, so he said maybe they need dual checkpoints. Mr. Rooney said it is the publicity we want to let people know we are out there.

Chairman Waldron stated they pulled over 23 cars for the Super Bowl, and everybody was intoxicated except the drivers. He said he has been noticing marijuana and prescription drug usage quite a bit.

Mr. Rooney stated they put out extra patrols for the Super Bowl, as they try to cover Galway, Providence and Edinburg also. The Sheriff's Office tries to cover the outlying areas and address all 19 towns.

Mrs. Dort stated the 2014 CPS or 402 grants are out. The 2013 mid-year reports are due March 15th. She said there is a new CPS Coordinator who came from DMV, and she has no CPS experience, but she knows dates, etc. She said for 2014, she will be dropping Galway PD from her grant because their two techs went elsewhere. Ballston Spa PD is considering asking us to take them on, and we may do that.

Mrs. Dort said CPS has come out with a new latch regulation. You have to weigh the car seat and child for a maximum of 65 lbs. in order to use the latch system. It is really getting difficult, she said. The only manufacturer you do not have to do that for is Honda. We will try to have a couple of local trainings on this.

Mrs. Dort stated the brochure is at the printers for the Teen Driving Program.

Mrs. Dort said on Channel 6, it states texting is four times more dangerous than drinking and driving. We are not sure where that fact is coming from, and she is concerned about that being out there. She said she has seen quite a few DWI crashes and deaths but none from texting. We are working with Channel 6 to have that removed.

Mrs. Dort said they have been approached by the families of Noelle Johnson and Keri Liedel for a panel display on their own stories to go to the various schools, but that would be a \$13,000 investment.

Mrs. Dort said they will be going to Choices 301 with the schools on March 5th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Ballston Spa and Mechanicville will be representing Saratoga County. The goal is to find out from the kids what will work and how can we get messages out to them better. We will be surveying them two weeks out to see if their attitudes are still the same. We need to know what will work for kids in the future. Obviously, some of the things we are doing are not working. What works here may not work in Albany County, etc.

Mrs. Dort stated they will be bringing the Teen Driver and Safe Passenger Program to the Mechanicville High School on May 7, 8 and 9, to Ballston Spa High School on May 22, 23 and 24, and to the Ballston Spa Middle School May 28, 29 and 30. The theme is "License to Live."

Mr. Murphy mentioned Safe Spring will be held at Skidmore on March 12th. There will be a guest speaker at 9:00 am with lunch and music at noon time. He said this is a great program.

Mr. Campion distributed copies of a flyer on the D.A.'s Office's Annual DWI Training Seminar to be held April 11th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers. Chairman Waldron stated he is concerned with the duration of this seminar being nine hours, because he would like to send some of his officers to this, but he does not want to pay overtime. Mr. Campion stated people can at least attend for half of the training if they would like. There are different topics and speakers for each hour. Even devoting four hours would be better than no hours. He said in the past, people have left, and that is not an issue. He stated next month, he will have a flyer breaking down the actual times. Chairman Waldron asked Mr. Murphy if there is any DWI money to contribute to this training, and Mr. Murphy said he would see what was available.

Mr. Goodwin mentioned they had a couple of DWI arrests during the Super Bowl crackdown.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann