

County of



Saratoga

## Board of Supervisors

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### SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

April 15, 2013 – 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Univ. Ext. of Saratoga; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Thomas Goodwin, Stillwater PD; Andrew Prestigiaco, Saratoga Springs PD; Michael Williams, NYSP; Todd Ives, Ballston Spa PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation Dept.; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron stated a letter of resignation has been received from Chief Deputy E. M. Rooney of the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Prestigiaco moved to accept this letter of resignation. Mr. T. Williams seconded the motion with all in favor.

Mr. Goodwin moved to nominate Andrew Prestigiaco as co-Chair of the Traffic Safety Board. Mr. T. Williams seconded the motion with all in favor.

Chairman Waldron said for the upcoming DWI patrols, we should focus our attention on proms and graduations. Mr. Murphy said at the last meeting, he gave 12 hours for the patrols. Agencies can use 12 hours, 16 if needed, for May proms and graduations. He said between now and next week, he will send out the dates of the proms and graduations. He stated sometimes, proms do not end up in their own back yard. Mr. Prestigiaco said Saratoga Springs ends up with at least five proms.

Mr. Murphy said this past Tuesday, he met with the Public Safety Committee, and they passed our resolution and accepted our budget for this year.

Mr. Murphy said we have finished three crackdowns, and we have three to go. Our next one is Memorial Day, and he is allocating \$5,000 for that.

Mr. Murphy stated he made application for a grant for \$22,000, and he received approval for that. He also received approval for another grant for \$26,000 through 2014. This is all for the DWI crackdowns, and he will provide those dates at the next meeting. He said if agencies cannot participate in them, there is no sense in allocating the money. A lot of counties will not be getting the grant because many of their agencies never participated. He said the new form will be the crackdown form beginning in May.

Mr. Murphy said at the Public Safety Committee, he advised them that when the State sent back their approval, they made it clear the funds are not to be used in any other area other than DWI. He said there have been counties that used the money for other things, and you cannot do that.

Mr. Campion stated the DWI training was held on April 11<sup>th</sup> which was a success. He thanked the agencies who participated. Next year, we will change the time in order to get more attendance. Chairman Waldron said the training is very useful, but he suggested the training be condensed. He mentioned money is always the concern. He said he has to micromanage who he sends to training. He also suggested the County pay for officers to attend because it is crucial for the officers to get the DWI offender off the street. Mr. Campion said it is the nature of DMV regulations that more and more of these will go to trial. Mr. Murphy said maybe the training could be done in two to three 1/2 days. Chairman Waldron said it is still dollars and cents at the end of the day. Mr. Campion said they were pleased with the 20 officers that attended for the whole day.

Chairman Waldron said the ESLETS Conference is April 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. That always has a lot of things to see. He requested officers make their way to Rochester for this conference.

Chairman Waldron said for the e-grants, everyone has met Paul who has reached every department to speak about the grants. If you go too high, you will be shot out. Be realistic with your grant.

Chairman Waldron said Operation Safe Stop is an issue we have adopted each year. It will be held April 18<sup>th</sup>, and it is a Statewide education and enforcement initiative that targets people passing school buses. He said this year, they will be putting people on the buses. He mentioned that Safeny.gov has a form to be filled out that shows you are participating. He said there will probably be over 1,000 tickets issued Statewide for passing school buses.

Mr. Campion displayed a pamphlet on “Broken Hearts” which contains information on the Saratoga County Education/Grief Response Team. He said this is for families who can call us when they have a hard time dealing with the grief process. Mrs. Dort distributed copies of this pamphlet. She said it is a team that was put together of educators in traffic safety as well as grief counselors. She said guidance counselors are not qualified to deal with hurting students who have suffered a loss due to tragedies. Hopefully, this pamphlet will let schools know we have a ton of educational resources. Chairman Waldron asked if a family member could also call for grief counseling? Mrs. Dort said yes. We could even help someone if it did not involve a tragedy. We are finding a number of people struggle with the grief process. We have learned

that from Regina Stewart, Chris' mother, from Shen. She said if anyone knows of a family struggling, we can certainly be there for that. Mr. Champion said they have seen that with vehicular manslaughter cases that they deal with. Mrs. Dort stated Shen is planning a mock crash, and they have asked our team to be there. You do not know what emotions will come up in these students. She stated they have 2,500 of these pamphlets thanks to STOP-DWI funding helping to pay for them. She stated they will be at the Crime Victims' Vigil on Sunday.

Mr. Prestigiacomio said their DWI numbers are through the roof. They are sending an officer (Tom Sartin) to DRE training in Rensselaerville, and Phase 2 is in July in Arizona. He said Tom will be great for this.

Mr. Prestigiacomio stated Todd Ives and he are carpooling to the ESLETS Conference. He said they will have a detail for Operation Safe Stop on Thursday.

Mr. Prestigiacomio said they do mock crashes every other year, and this would be the year, but he has not heard anything from Lloyd Davis, their school resource officer. Mrs. Dort said there has been a lot going on with the school this year.

Mr. Ives stated that in the last 30 days, their DWI arrests are off the charts. The public is calling the County to make us aware of erratic operations.

Mr. M. Williams said Troop G had 30 DWI arrests during the weekend. He said there should be an early detail and a late detail. Chairman Waldron said we are missing our hard core DWI's after 4:00 a.m. Mr. Parks said the real drinkers know that.

Mr. Goodwin said they had a couple of DWI arrests, and a couple of officers have been assigned to Operation Safe Stop on Thursday.

Mrs. Dort said for anyone doing grants, make sure you make it look new. They want stats. She said she can give the State the stat that Saratoga County has seen an increase in teen deaths. She stated that Chuck DeWeiss said the money is tight.

Mrs. Dort said for their CPS grant this year, they are adding on Ballston Spa Police Department and Moreau EMS, and she is not sure what is being done with Galway. She said Head Start jobs have been lost, and both technicians lost their jobs. Chairman Waldron said he has a technician who has resigned to take a job with Momentive, and his last day is Monday. He said he has two openings.

Mrs. Dort said they may not have the kind of CPS funds that they had in the past. They are trying to set up one traffic stop/car seat check in Ballston Spa. We will also be going out into neighborhoods and reward the children who are on bikes wearing bike helmets.

Mrs. Dort stated the Alive at 25 training is May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Albany County STOP-DWI, and this costs \$125. We need more trainers than just myself. This is a four hour class. Mr. Champion said they will be utilizing Alive at 25 as another additional requirement on a case by case basis. Mrs. Dort said the D.A.'s office is helping them to promote this. Albany County has done well with it.

Mrs. Dort said if anyone wants to partner for media attention for Operation Safe Stop, just let her know.

Mrs. Dort stated the Crime Victims' Vigil will be held on Sunday, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., at the New England Presbyterian Church in Saratoga Springs. It is beneficial for the families to see that people have not been forgotten. Chairman Waldron said they provide a daily call to the families of crime victims that happen in Mechanicville. The families are relieved when they find out the criminal is in custody. Mrs. Dort said victims need to know that we do not forget.

Mrs. Dort said she will be holding a class for CPS for five new people from Clifton Park and Halfmoon on April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a closed class just for them. A tech class will be held June 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> which is not filled. She said Wilton EMS is requiring all of their paramedics to take the class.

Mr. T. Williams said it has been steady. They also have officers dedicated to Operation Safe Stop.

Mr. Murphy said the grant he sent in is seven typed written pages. Mrs. Dort said you have to provide a lot of terminology or the grant will be thrown out. Chairman Waldron said it is a wrong way to make us do this. We keep getting penalized because the data is not there because we have been doing a good job. He said all of the little grants will disappear. Mrs. Dort said they are getting rolled into the STEP grant.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann