

County of  Saratoga

*Board of Supervisors*

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**SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**March 18, 2013 – 1:00 P.M.**

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

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Mr. Mahoney introduced Steve Bayle, the new Saratoga County Probation Director.

Chairman Waldron stated he would like everyone to comment on their St. Patrick's DWI checkpoints. He stated they had one drug arrest. Mr. Prestigiacommo said he was able to dedicate three revolving patrols plus himself. They had three DWI arrests and one felony, and one ended up in a small pursuit. There were high BAC's. They also had one marijuana arrest. He said they are always battling staff issues. Mr. Ives stated they had one DWI arrest. He said it has been very busy. Mr. Rooney said they had one arrest in Clifton Park. He said it almost seems like our big holiday weekends are quieter than our normal times. They did not see any increase in DWI activity. Publicity and designated drivers have an impact. Mr. Williams said they have had an increase in DWIs. Mr. Parks stated they have noticed a lot of speeders on Route 67 in Charlton.

Mr. Murphy stated he has notified enforcement about the 30 days with the State. He said last week he talked to the State and submitted a grant for next year. He said for the bookkeeping aspect, he has to get the information back to the State so everyone can get paid. He has heard about a few places where grants were not accepted because they were not timely.

Mr. Murphy said the next DWI enforcement will be 12 hours for the month of April.

Mr. Campion stated their DWI numbers are through the roof, but their Leandra's Law numbers do not seem that high.

Mr. Campion distributed copies of their flyer on their free Annual DWI Arrest Training Seminar that will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 5 pm at the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room. He said if attendees cannot stay for the whole training, they can leave if they have to.

Chairman Waldron stated the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference will be held April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Waldron requested that all grants be in and signed by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Waldron said Operation Safe Stop is April 18<sup>th</sup>, and we want to stay on top of that. This is a good initiative.

Mrs. Dort said the NYS Department of Health conducted a poster contest for Child Passenger Safety, and there were 54 submissions. She said for her region, the winner came from Cambridge; second place from Amsterdam; and third place from Lake George. They asked us to recognize those winners at a meeting and present them with a certificate. A letter should be sent to every child who participated. Chairman Waldron suggested that Mr. Murphy invite these children to a Board of Supervisors' meeting. Mrs. Dort said the winners from each region will go into a calendar, and 15,000 calendars will be printed.

Mrs. Dort said she attended "Alive at 25" in Albany County. This is for 16 – 25 year olds who get traffic infractions. She said there were 21 of them when she went. She said they are there for four hours. She stated she will be getting trained to bring this to Saratoga County. She met with Jim Murphy and Patrick Campion, and they are in favor of having this. Hopefully, this program will be here this year so that we can send teens who get tickets to this program. It gives them defensive driving and important decision making behind the wheel.

Mrs. Dort stated Teen Driving Programs will be held at the Ballston Spa High and Middle Schools, Mechanicville High and Middle Schools and the Schuylerville High School before prom. We are working on bringing this program into the Saratoga Springs High School also.

Mrs. Dort said she attended "Choices 301." Over 30 students shared their ideas and left moved and inspired. She said Ballston Spa and Mechanicville attended from Saratoga County. She said they want messages to be personal with crashes that happen here. She said the Saratoga County students were glued to Kathleen's and Eddie Loomis' display. We also learned they want honesty. They want to know what a crash looks like and not watered down pictures. She said some schools are not proactive like that. They also want this to not be just before proms and graduations. We are working on doing these messages with schools all year long. The students admitted to drinking a lot for something to do, and they are very cognizant of drinking and driving. They think it is alright to be a passenger with a drunk driver. They are not able to comprehend the consequences that go with that. She said they will try to do this in some more

rural communities. Chairman Waldron said it is good to hear from the kids themselves. We put the displays out at prom time because we want them to be alive, but we should look at expanding it.

Mrs. Dort said she spoke with Dan Larkin who said the State Police is setting up a Twitter account, for kids to repost, telling of crashes and stating seat belts save lives. If you have a few kids in each school sending out tweets, other kids will hear it.

Mr. Murphy asked Mrs. Dort if there was any discussion on fake I.D.'s. Mrs. Dort said no. We talked to the kids about what they wanted to hear. We focused on drinking and driving and speeding. She stated a lot of kids said they drink at home or at other kids' homes, and the parents know about it. She said they were very honest about it. Chairman Waldron said as a parent, he makes his child watch what is happening on TV. Mrs. Dort said kids have told them they are afraid to call their parents because they would get into trouble, so they would rather ride with a drunk driver.

Mr. Mahoney said he sat through a webinar which discussed new DMV rules and regulations on licenses and the ignition interlock. The new rule stated if a person has five or more alcohol/drugged driving related convictions or incidents, they are designated as a "Persistently Dangerous Driver" with a lifetime restriction for a license. In the last 25 years, with three or four alcohol/drugged driving related convictions or incidents, plus one serious driving offense, that person is designated as a "Persistently Dangerous Driver" with a lifetime permanent denial of a license. With revocation for alcohol-related offense, three or four alcohol/drugged driving related convictions or incidents without any serious driving offense in the last 25 years, they are denied a license for five years, and after that, five years with the interlock device without supervision. He stated these rules came out of left field from the Governor's Office. He said over time, some of these people will still drive. He said law enforcement may see an increase over time with AUO's. Mr. Campion said the ripple effect from that is that a lot of DWI's will be contested.

Mr. Rooney announced this will be his last meeting, as he will be retiring at the end of this month with 36 ½ years of service. He wished the Traffic Safety Board members all the best and requested they continue on with their good work and continue to keep trying to push the message. It has been a pleasure working with all of you, he said. It has been a great career, he added.

Chairman Waldron congratulated Mr. Rooney, and said it has been a honor to have him here. He said it will be hard to replace him.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann