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Board of Supervisors

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SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 7, 2016 - 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiacomo, Saratoga Springs PD; Wes Carr, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Ray Cordani, Stillwater PD; Frank McGarity, David Szekeres, NYS Park Police; Leonard Fornabia, NYSP; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Cynthia Dort, Cornell; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Craig Hayner, County Clerk

Chairman Prestigiacomo called the meeting to order.

Mr. Carr stated the Labor Day Crackdown vouchers are at the County Auditor's for payment. He has all of the Super Bowl Crackdown claims in, and he has vouchers for signatures. For the people who participated and are not here today, he will have to have them mailed for signatures. He said the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown is March 17 - 20, and the dollar amounts have been e-mailed to all departments. The Memorial Day Crackdown is May 27 - 31. He mentioned the Safe Spring Student Leadership Conference will be held March 17th, and that program is funded through STOP-DWI. He stated he sent the after prom funding requests to all of the school districts last week.

Mr. Carr said his year-end report is due at the end of March. The 2016 plan, which was submitted to the State in October, will be going to the Public Safety Committee

tomorrow for approval and resolution. He had to make a couple of changes on that to match up with the County budget. There will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night at County Building No. 5 in Ballston Spa. We skipped February to give the participants a break. He stated there should be about 130 people in attendance.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated the SSPD made 26 DWI arrests since the last meeting on February 8th. He said he went to Utica for a week to the Oriskany training facility and completed IPTM Commercial Motor Vehicle Crash Investigation training. He said Ballston Spa PD called him about a week after he was back for a truck that was involved in a crash. He said if anyone needs help, just call him. He said the truck inspection aspect of the training was good, but the math part was difficult.

Chairman Prestigiacomo said he received a call letter from GTSC stating that 2014 was the safest year on record in New York State in terms of the number of fatalities and injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. We are making a difference. He distributed copies of this letter.

Chairman Prestigiacomo said the DWI MADD awards are due April 4th. You can find the application on the SAFENY website under Forms. He said he nominated their Sgt. Tyler McIntosh for that award, and the Chief wanted to nominate their agency as well because they had 258 DWI arrests last year.

Mr. Campion stated the D.A.'s office is hosting the annual Crime Victims' Candlelight Vigil that will be held Sunday, April 10th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church on Route 9 in Malta, and he distributed copies of a flier on this.

Mr. Campion stated they are not seeing any decline in the numbers of DWI's, and they are seeing crashes, high BAC's, felonies and Leandrea's Law offenses. They are keeping busy.

Mr. Dupras stated they had 11 DWI's since the last meeting. He stated two of their deputies have been selected for DRE training. He said he met with the Special Olympics of NY people, and they are running several events. He said he would like to reach out to the other agencies to be involved. On March 10th at Applebees in Wilton, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., there will be a law enforcement night there where they will serve and collect for Special Olympics. Any agency can contact him about

this for serving the patrons there and making donations for the Special Olympics of NY.

Mr. Dupras said the Saratoga Run will be held on June 6th, and they will be participating in that. As the months go on, he will be giving more information on that. He said June 8th is the Torch Run for Law Enforcement. If any agency would like to run a car in the procession or assist with traffic, let him know. It runs from the Washington County Sheriff's to the City of Mechanicville for an awards ceremony.

Mr. Dupras said he has four new Car Tech deputies who are certified that just took Mrs. Dort's program. They also did a car seat event at New Country in Halfmoon which Mrs. Dort will elaborate on. He said they are still committed to the Alive at 25, Distracted Driving, and Victim Impact. Sgt. Morley will be attending the VIP tomorrow night. He stated his School Resource Deputies will be meeting with Mrs. Dort soon to discuss the school programs on safety issues with the students.

Mr. Dupras said the Sheriff is running extra patrols for St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Cordani stated they had two DWI's since the last meeting; one alcohol related (hit and run) and the second one involved heroin. The woman had just used and was not able to start her vehicle. He said one of his officers will be doing a presentation at Safe Spring on Distracted Driving next Thursday. They also plan on participating in the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown.

Mr. Fornabia said they are also participating in the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown. They will also have a checkpoint in Saratoga County, but they are not disclosing the location. They will be doing an in-house DWI refresher course, and this has not been done in five years. They just want to fine tune some Troopers who have some sloppy habits and some new Troopers who could benefit from it.

Mr. Fornabia stated they will be co-sponsoring a motorcycle training this Spring in Niskayuna. Some Troopers from Troop G were sent to this training last year, and they saw a 33% increase in motorcycle enforcement, so they had some good results from that. He will let everyone know when this will happen.

Ms. Stuchin stated Safe Spring is coming up which is their annual tradition with high school students. It will be held next Thursday at 9 a.m. at Skidmore's Palamountain

Building. There will be representation from every high school in the County, as well as the BOCES program, and we will be using local speakers, and we are hoping the kids become inspired to bring these speakers and programs back to their home school districts.

Ms. Stuchin said they have re-created a brochure called *What Every Parent Should Know About Prom Night.* She said this may be early, but a letter goes out every April and May to the parents and we want this included. She said they have ordered 4500 of these brochures, and they will go out to parents, police departments and the Youth Bureau. She distributed copies of this brochure. She said they will be happy to get extra copies for the agencies that want them. Some of the schools want their own logo on it, so they have done that. She said they used material that another council had produced in the Westchester area, and it is a good thorough checklist for parents and kids with regard to new drivers, drinking and driving, etc.

Ms. Stuchin said they are trying to get opioids out of people's medicine cabinets, as people have a habit of taking a few pills and leaving them around. They are doing a press conference on Wednesday with Catholic Charities to launch the free one hour trainings on Heroin/Opioid Overdose Prevention, and she distributed copies of a flier listing the dates, time and location of these training classes.

Ms. Stuchin distributed copies of a flier on Prescription Disposal Boxes, and she thought agencies could share this with the public. She said they found that pharmacists and people in the community do not know about the drop boxes located at the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office and the Saratoga Springs Police Station. People have dropped off hundreds of pounds of unwanted prescription drugs at these drop boxes. She said they are doing an outreach, as there are 40 pharmacies in the County. They will be advising these pharmacists to give people the information to get rid of their drugs when they are done with them. If you don't complete the use of it, you can't leave it in your home. She said all sorts of crazy things go on when people leave their medications in their houses.

Chairman Prestigiacomo asked Ms. Stuchin if she can send these fliers electronically, and she said yes. She requested agencies to let her know if they would like them sent electronically.

Mr. Mahoney said they received from the State Division the 2015 results on the Interlock Ignition figures. Over 17,000 offenders were ordered to put the Ignition Interlock on their vehicles last year. Of that, 4,600 actually put it on their vehicles. The rest either got rid of their vehicles or did something so they didn't have to. In Saratoga County, we are at 33% of ordered/installed. The Ignition Interlock is an effective tool. He said last year in Saratoga County, 219 offenders attempted to start their vehicles but were denied because of the presence of alcohol. If it was due to something they ate or drank, often times Listerine is an excuse, but they are instructed to wait ten minutes and then try to start it again. He said 219 people did not try it again which suggests alcohol was in their system. You can look at this as a win that they didn't drive that day. He stated it is a lot of work to monitor these Ignition Interlock devices, but they do work. Mr. Cordani asked if they have cameras, and Mr. Mahoney said yes, they all require cameras.

Mr. McGarity introduced Lt. David Szekeres who is their Zone Commander. He said they had four DWI's of which two were drugs. He said concert season is coming. There are a lot more concerts that were not announced, so he should have a better list at the next meeting. He added that they participated in a car seat check that was very busy.

Mr. Hayner thanked Mrs. Dort and the agencies that participated in the great event at New Country.

Mrs. Dort congratulated Mr. Fornabia as his son is doing great with hockey in Toga. Mr. Fornabia said they are going to the States. Mrs. Dort also congratulated the D.A.'s office. Michelle Moyer was sentenced 2 1/3 to 7 years. She had six DWI's, but she never injured or killed anyone.

Mrs. Dort thanked Ms. Stuchin for referring her to the Hawley Foundation. She said the application was due March 1st, but unfortunately, she was too busy to apply for the car seats due to a cut in her grant. Ms. Stuchin asked if it was just once a year, and Mrs. Dort said yes, it looks that way, but she does have their information.

Mrs. Dort said the car seat check that they had on February 27th at New Country Toyota was a tremendous success. They had 72 seats that were checked. None were correct, but they left corrected, and six seats were given away. There were 18 Techs from the State Police, Sheriff's, State Park Police, Mechanicville PD and

others. We did a great event, and we did have press coverage. Mr. Hayner also came with Senator Marchione. That was helpful for her to see what was going on. She said tee shirts were given to all of the Techs by New Country. New York Central Mutual provided all the food. The accommodations were a little tough, as we were in the body shop. New Country provided their own staff to do all of the driving. The Sheriffs did 40+ child ID's. All in all, it was successful.

Mrs. Dort stated they finished a car seat tech class last Thursday. She said they graduated 22 technicians. We now have a Technician candidate from the State Police and the Sheriffs who have a few more steps to go. She stated the State, Sheriffs, Clifton Park EMS, two from Niskayuna FD, Watervliet PD, Wilton EMS were all part of the class. We will have even more Saratoga County Technicians available which is tremendous.

Mrs. Dort stated the Car Seat Conference will be held May 10 - 12. If your agency is sending someone from Saratoga County, please give her the registration form, as she has to mail them out no later than Wednesday of this week. She said she is sending in about 20+ registrations to go to this conference.

Mrs. Dort said the grant this year is due May 1st for Highway Safety and Car Seats. Please let her know if any agency wants to be a part of that. She said if any agency is on her grant, she will need the agency report from October 1 through now by April 1sst so that she can get it prepared and sent to the State by April 15th.

Mrs. Dort said the high school programs are filling up. She was with Becky Carmen today at Shen trying to figure how to do this at Shen. Saratoga Springs has reached out a few times, and they are struggling to put it together. Shen is meeting with their administrators tomorrow. She stated Mechanicville, Waterford and Ballston Spa are all set.

Mr. Fornabia said in 2010, the car seat program in Saratoga County was essentially dead. He gave kudos to Mrs. Dort for spearheading this thriving car seat program. Albany County had the premier program in the Capital District, and Saratoga County's is rivaling them right now. He said the Sheriff's Department did a fantastic job diving into it. He said it is a super program for the residents in the County. He said we have to give Mrs. Dort a lot of credit. Mrs. Dort thanked him.

Mrs. Dort said with the Distracted Driving and Alive at 25 programs, we usually do not hear too much at all. She said one of the class participants found her on Facebook and thanked her for the class. She said the woman's thoughts on anything phone in the car has changed, and she believes the class should be mandatory for any age.

Mr. Campion stated Matt Coseo helped coordinate a STOP-DWI night at the Adirondack Thunder hockey game on March 26th at 2 p.m. at the Glens Falls Civic Center. It is Team STOP-DWI vs. Saratoga County Law Enforcement. It believes the cost is $15/person.

** NEXT MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 11TH AT 1:00 P.M. **

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann