County of Saratoga

Board of Supervisors

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SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiacomo, Saratoga Springs PD; Lenny Fornabia, NYSP; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Ext. of Saratoga; Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Rich Schoonmaker, Dave Goodwin, Galway PD; Anthony Pirrone, Ballston Spa PD; Craig Hayner, Co. Clerk; Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette

Andrew Prestigiacomo was unanimously appointed by the Traffic Safety Board as Chairman of the Traffic Safety Board for 2015.

Chairman Prestigiacomo called the meeting to order.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated that Bob Murphy could not attend today's meeting, as he has an appointment, and he would be covering the matters that Mr. Murphy had for today's meeting. He said he will be meeting with Mr. Murphy today at 2:00.

Chairman Prestigiacomo said the Super Bowl Crackdown will be January 31 – February 2, and he distributed copies of the allotment for the various agencies.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated since the last meeting, the SSPD had 16 DWI arrests, and 14 arrests were during the Holiday Season Crackdown (Dec. 12 – Jan. 1).

Chairman Prestigiacomo said the SSPD plans on partnering with the NYSP and Mrs. Dort for a car seat detail at Wilton EMS on January 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Prestigiacomo said the First Night Saratoga was a success.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated on December 10th, they deployed the VMS that read "Lights on for Life, Drive Sober" on Lake Avenue next to the school. He said the sign stayed lit for as long as it could as it was solar powered.

Mr. Campion said that they have been steady. He has been noticing more and more attorneys are filing motions for hearings due to the Governor's persistent dangerous drivers' law. Defendants realize they cannot drive for five years or a life time.

Mr. Schoonmaker introduced their department's new officer, Dave Goodwin. He said for the last crackdown, they had 56 UTT's, three drug arrests, one weapon, and there were 14 designated drivers.

Mr. Parks mentioned they recently had one DWI.

Mr. Pirrone stated since the last meeting, they had eight DWI's and two DWI/Drugs.

Mr. Fornabia stated they had 32 DWI's; four drugs, and four alcohol involved accidents.

Ms. Stuchin said they are working on Safe Spring which will be held on March 19th at Skidmore College for about 270 students. She said they are also working on a prom brochure to be put out by April that highlights driver safety and preventing underage drinking. She said she will be bringing to the meeting a list of dates for proms, after prom activities and graduations.

Ms. Stuchin stated they are promoting the drop boxes for prescription drugs. She said they have ads in Saratoga Today and on the radio on 101.3. They also have billboards around the County talking about underage drinking.

Ms. Stuchin mentioned tomorrow night, there will be a Victim Impact Panel in Saratoga Springs.

Mr. Dupras said on December 27th, they did a checkpoint on Route 67 in Malta, and press releases were done for awareness. No arrests were made. He said they had extra patrols for New Year's Eve. They had eight DWI's and two were aggravated. He mentioned they ran the "Lights on for Life" one night on Route 9 in Clifton Park.

Mr. Dupras stated they have 10 requests for car seats. Mrs. Dort mentioned there will be a big one in Clifton Park on January 22nd.

Mr. Waldron said during the last crackdown, they had five DWI's and 137 tickets were issued. One of these was a reckless driving complaint. The person was pulled from the car and searched, and a loaded 40 caliber with more than seven rounds was found. He said this person was from Connecticut, and he pled guilty on Christmas Eve. He cautioned that in doing DWI checks, be very careful. He did have a permit from Florida for it. He stated this

is a tough time right now for law enforcement. He said you do not think about this at field sobriety checks.

Mr. Hayner stated the T.V. monitors in the DMVs will be installed by February 1st. There are three locations in the County. The messages will be changed on these every month. Mr. Fornabia stated they have monthly car seat checks which could be put on there. Mr. Hayner stated there are 500 people who go through the DMV offices.

Mrs. Dort stated the car seat checks have been very busy now. The Clifton Park/Halfmoon EMS called her today to advise they are doing a check on Thursday, January 22nd from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and they are looking for help.

Mrs. Dort said there was a news article from Intel that they are making a harness retainer clip that will notify a person on their phone if they walk away from their vehicle if their child is still in it. These are not approved as of yet.

Mrs. Dort mentioned car seat techs need to have their certifications taken care of. She requested they do this so they do not expire. She said there is no more one-day recertification class. Mr. Fornabia said every two years, they need to have six hours, and this can be done on line. Mrs. Dort said to let her know if anyone has questions. We are partnering with Clifton Park and Wilton to get as many car seats done as we can, she said. Mr. Fornabia said once a month, there is a car seat check event in Saratoga County.

Mrs. Dort said the Alive at 25 program is doing very well. There has been a lot of support from the D.A.'s office and the magistrates. She said Distracted Driving is a hard class to teach, but Mr. Fornabia said he would attend. Mr. Fornabia said he would attend to talk about the law, because people do not know the law, i.e., they cannot be at a rolling stop with a cell phone in hand.

Mrs. Dort said there is a plan in the works for them to possibly conduct additional training for the adults. There are 38 to 40 year olds in each Alive at 25 class, but it is not the right fit for them. She said we need to think about something different. She said she will be meeting with the magistrates tomorrow.

Mrs. Dort said the Teen Driver program is picking up. We will be doing a program in Mechanicville, Stillwater and Waterford in April at the same time. She said they will have a conference call with them, and the equipment will be rotated between the three schools. The program at Ballston Spa will be held the first week in June. She said the new panels should be ready for the vigil in April. These will also be put in the different schools. She said they are very busy, and it does not stop. She stated high speed is the number one problem.

Mr. Waldron stated they do have dynamic speakers at Alive at 25. Mrs. Dort said Bailey Wind spoke last month and did a good job. She said if anyone knows of any dynamic speakers, please let her know.

Chairman Prestigiacomo stated each agency can have an additional eight hours for DWI checkpoints for the month of January. He said if agencies do not use their crackdown money, they cannot roll it over unless they let Bob Murphy or his secretary know.

Mr. Schoonmaker stated that he stopped a village resident for not having a car seat for their child, and they said they could not afford one. He asked if each agency could have a car seat in their station to give out in cases like this. Mr. Fornabia stated no, as there would be a liability involved if it was not installed correctly. He said they keep a list of everybody in each county that installs car seats. He said in an emergency situation, give him a call. Mr. Dupras said they have at least five or six in the office. Mrs. Dort said she can give Galway a list of numbers to call.

Mr. Pirrone said they are trying to update the Distracted Driving program. They have a hard time finding local material. If any agency has something that would help, please let him know.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann