

County of



Saratoga

Board of Supervisors

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SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

October 5, 2015 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiacom, Saratoga Springs PD; Frank McGarity, NYS Park Police; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Todd Moulthrop, South Glens Falls PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Mickey Mahoney Ed Brych, Probation; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Ext. of Saratoga

Chairman Prestigiacom called the meeting to order.

Mr. Mahoney introduced Ed Brych who is a newly hired Probation Officer.

Chairman Prestigiacom stated said he believes Thanksgiving would be the next DWI crackdown, but he is not sure of the allotment. He said he is sure Kelly Cook, Mr. Murphy's administrative assistant, will put something out to everybody. Mr. Moulthrop asked if we had a crackdown on Halloween in the past. Chairman Prestigiacom said we have, but he believes it was with County money, but he will check with Ms. Cook.

Chairman Prestigiacom reported the following:

The SSPD made 14 DWI arrests since the last meeting on September 14th.

Reminder: The GTSC Grant Final Progress Reports are due October 15th.
Payment Request Vouchers are due October 31st.

The Palio ½ Marathon and 5K on September 20th, in memory of Melonie O'Donnell, was a successful event. The Park Police was a lot of help with this.

Mr. Campion stated their Annual DWI Training will take place October 29th from 9am to 5pm at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers at no cost. Breakfast and lunch are included. He said he would like to have 50 people sign up, and there is still time left. He said if agencies can send officers, it would be very much appreciated. This training tries to erase disconnect between what happens in the field and translating that properly into the courtroom. He said if officers have attended this in the past, they might get something new out of it. Chairman Prestigiaco said they posted this training today, and they plan on sending six officers. He said he talked to Bob Murphy about utilizing DWI money, due to overtime and travel time, and he was agreeable to that. He said each agency would have to approach him on that.

Mr. Moulthrop reported they had three DWI's and 36 UTT's. They will be sending an officer to the training.

Mr. Dupras stated they will be sending at least four to six people to the training. Since the last meeting, they had 15 DWI arrests; four of which were aggravated DWI. They are continuing the school zone enforcement effort. On Thursday, October 8th, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., at the Schuylerville Fire Department, they along with Mrs. Dort will be conducting a car seat installation and inspection.

Mr. Dupras stated the Sheriff is putting on extra patrols for Halloween. Traffic enforcement is very important on Halloween for kids crossing the road, so they will be stressing safety at all of their public events from now to Halloween.

Mr. Dupras said they did the Ride for Missing Children a few Fridays ago which was very successful. They will continue to provide people to speak at the Alive at 25 and Victim Impact Panels.

Mr. Dupras mentioned the Sheriff started the Toys for Tots campaign which will take place the end of November. We will travel from Clifton Park to the Sheriff's Dept. in Milton.

Ms. Stuchin stated at last month's meeting, Robin Lyle spoke about homecoming season. They are doing a lot of outreach to the local high schools about the importance of not drinking and driving and also messaging the parents about the issue of underage drinking. There will be a Victim Impact Panel on Tuesday, October 13th in Clifton Park at the Clifton Park Town Court at 7pm. She said Mrs.

Dort, Ms. Donovan, Ms. Kilgore and she have been talking about doing some evaluation on the data that is collected through the programs. It seems like people are coming in with higher BAC's and repeatedly coming through. She said they have obtained two bids to have the data analyzed. They collect data from 800 people who go through the program. She said it would be worthwhile looking at some of the trends and seeing if some of the things anecdotedly are true and what can be changed with the program or just raise awareness about. She said she will keep the committee posted on that. Within a year, they should have more information to report on.

Mr. Williams said they had two DWI's since the last meeting, a lot of UTT's and a lot of suspended operators.

Mr. Fornabia stated they had three DWI's. Chairman Prestigiaco said he appreciated their help with the Palio.

Chairman Prestigiaco stated he just pulled up the extra funding we receive for the GTSC crackdowns, and Halloween was covered last year. He said this sheet ends September 30th, and he will stop down and see Ms. Cook after the meeting. He said he will have her e-mail everyone.

Ms. Stuchin mentioned out of Gloucester, MA, the police chief started a new way of handling Opiod addiction and people coming into the station. The officers are no longer arresting them. They are almost acting like social workers. They say they can no longer keep locking these people up. The police chief in on line with this and he has spoken all over New York and New England. He is setting up a whole network teaching other police departments how to go from arresting to working with the social services/human services and different people in your community. These people are not committing a crime, but they do need treatment and help. He said he can get them into a facility within 48 hours for treatment and help. He has helped 160 people in Gloucester. The City of Binghamton PD has brought him in to train, and the City of Rochester is bringing him in. He will do one-day training. She said that the chief said they cannot keep arresting these people. She said agencies may be hearing about this in their journals and at conferences. She said she will get more information for the next meeting. Chairman Prestigiaco said his chief is taking a similar approach with the

homeless people problem that they have. He said that can also be transitioned into other issues.

Mrs. Dort stated she is going to New Country to pick up 100 clipboards for the Victim Impact Panels for Ballston Spa. She said they are looking for another donation for Clifton Park.

Mrs. Dort said she will be traveling with the Clifton Park EMS to a teen driver training on Long Island. Stony Brook Children's Hospital is bringing in a new program being offered to all EMS agencies from an injury point of view that is about teen drivers. She will share what this is all about when she returns.

Mrs. Dort said the last Alive at 25 had a smaller crowd, but it's getting them more concerned, as they are starting to have people attend who have 10+ tickets for speeding. One person had four UPM's, 4 speeds and 20+ tickets. She said it is very hard to get their mind set changed. Ms. Stuchin asked how they still have their licenses? Mrs. Dort said their parents pay for their tickets. She said they believe they are making a difference, and her goal is just one person. She said she is not sure why they have 10+ tickets before they come to the program. She suggested maybe ADA's working with police officers not let them plea down. Chairman Prestigiaco said the D.A.'s office has a strict policy for kids under 21. Mrs. Dort said they have people attend who are older than that. She stated Saratoga County beats Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer Counties combined for this type of thing. She pointed out Saratoga County is not immune to losing young people's lives. She said when a kid comes to her with 30 tickets, something is not working somewhere. There is a disconnect somewhere. Ms. Stuchin said why do they still have a license? Mrs. Dort said we need these people in class and change their mind set. The education piece is what will help. She mentioned that UPM's, DWI's and UO's are on the increase. BAC's are very high. Chairman Prestigiaco asked if she is seeing repeat people? Mrs. Dort said over the two years of running this class, she has seen seven repeaters usually for the exact same thing. Speeds are outrageous also.

Mrs. Dort stated the Sheriff's Office has given her a Sheriff for the Distracted Driving class as well, so she now has two police officers for that. She said those numbers are going up as far as people coming in. She said that Joe Waldron will be doing an Alive at 25 class at the Ballston Spa High School for the seniors. We

will try to do that proactively as opposed to reactively. She said she is sure Mr. Waldron will do a great job.

Mr. Parks mentioned in Charlton, speed in up tremendously. Females as well as males.

Mrs. Dort stated the kids believe that the speed limits are too low. They also believe the police are sitting there just gunning for the young driver, especially if they have a nice car. That mind set comes from the adult in their lives too. Mr. Parks said the speeding tickets in his last two patrols were for teachers and athletic instructors late for a game – adults. Mrs. Dort said this young age group has a lot of disrespect for authority. We are trying to think of programs to bring to schools to work with that issue. She said she is concerned about their dangerous behaviors out there. One of the tickets was for doing 104 mph. Mr. Moulthrop asked why do cars have the ability to go that fast.

Mrs. Dort said they will be doing an Alive at 25 class for the UAlbany football team. They are excited about that.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann