

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**September 8, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Robert Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Thomas Mitchell, Saratoga Springs PD; Timothy Williams, Waterford PD; James R. Davis, District Attorney's Office; Will Crandall, Wilton; Tom Parks, Charlton Police; Dennis Latham, Stillwater PD; Christina Hall, NYS Park Police; Patti Southworth, Town of Ballston Supervisor; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette; Ann Marie French, Saratogian

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron said the Over The Limit, Under Arrest 18-day campaign ended September 2, and hopefully, everyone participated. He said it was a very positive time.

Mr. Murphy stated everyone can still do 16 hours month by month for DWI patrols, and he is trying to save a few dollars for the holidays. He said at the November meeting, he will give a financial update, and maybe we can double up.

Chairman Waldron stated Operation Safe Stop will be September 8 – 12. Obviously, we will be diligent in looking for vehicles passing school buses, he said. If you have the Aggressive Driving Grant, you must participate, he said.

Chairman Waldron said pedestrians have the right of way in crosswalks under V&T Law 1151. If there is no traffic control device, and there is a crosswalk, all traffic must come to a stop at both sides when a person enters a crosswalk, he said. He stated if there is a traffic control device, that will dictate when the pedestrian can cross. He said Mechanicville just installed 4 to 5 new signs for pedestrian crossing. He said their senior citizens feel they can cross any time. You must follow the rules of the traffic control device, he added. Mr. Crandall stated in one town in New Hampshire, they have a stencil built into the crosswalk that says "Stop, Look and Wave." This really does help pedestrians and motorists. He said he believes they made it up themselves because he hasn't seen it in every town.

Mr. Mitchell reported most of their time for Traffic Division was spent at the track. He said there was one fatality the first week of the track. He said for July and August, there were 38 personal injury accidents; 250 property damage accidents; 720 UTT's issued; and 37 DWI's. He said the track attendance was down for the first three weeks due to weather, and then it came back. He said Travers was interesting. It seems to be becoming more of a rowdy fest.

Ms. Hall said traffic for them is just controlling traffic. We had a couple property damage accidents with people come in, and we are glad the crowds are gone, she said.

Chairman Waldron said the New York State Highway Conference will be October 19 – 22 at the Sheridan in Syracuse. He said this should be good, as it is fun to see the new things coming out.

Chairman Waldron said there is an ARIDE school September 15 & 16 at the Niskayuna Police Department. Mr. Crandall said the problem we had in trying to get a school was with the Feds. They finally approved the lesson plan which took forever. He said he thinks the 2-day ARIDE is a good idea. He said DRE training is lengthy and hard. ARIDE gives you everything you need for court. Mr. Davis said officers should be encouraged to ask for an additional blood test. With a low BAC, at least get us a blood test so we can figure out what is in their system, he said. He stated it's important to lean on other agencies who have made DRE's available.

Chairman Waldron said the new Data Master Terminals (DMTs) are going out, and older ones will be replaced first. Mr. Rooney said it is smaller and

easier, and they have no complaints so far. He mentioned there is training scheduled at Zone 5.

Mr. Crandall mentioned he knows of a nationally recognized accident investigator, John Kwasnoski, who is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts. He works for prosecution for free. He is willing to do a Crash Investigation Seminar for \$2,000 with at least 20 students. He will help train you to testify on your cross-examination. The more experience you have testifying, the more comfortable you get and present yourself to a jury, he said. He said John did a vehicle homicide case in Salt Lake City by breaking down to common sense terminology, and the defense lawyers couldn't touch him. This guy is good, he said. He said possibly a seminar could be held at the Fire Training Center, and STOP-DWI could come up with part of this along with a \$25 per student charge. He will draw people from all over the Capital District, he stated. Chairman Waldron said maybe we can work on this for 2009, as it sounds like a great course. He asked if John puts this course on anywhere else. Mr. Crandall said yes, he just did one in Latham for \$75.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, OCTER 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann