

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

January 12, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Craig Masterson, Clifton Park Highway Safety Committee; Daniel Larkin, NYSP; Will Crandall, Resource Person; Geoff Bullock, Galway PD; Dennis Latham, Stillwater PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; James Davis, Ass't. D.A.; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Christina Hall, NYS Park Police; Thomas Mitchell, Saratoga Springs PD; Judy Ekman, The Prevention Council; Jen Hogan, GTSC; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette, Ann Marie French, The Saratogian

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron said that Karen Pettigrew is retiring, and he said he would like to thank her for all of her work. She will be missed by this Board, he said. He said he sent her an e-mail last night thanking her.

Mr. Masterson introduced himself, and said he wanted to attend as an advisor. He stated Clifton Park has serious highway safety issues. We will work on safer streets with the school and some local businesses. He said it will be a useful committee, and he appreciates the opportunity to be here.

Chairman Waldron said the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration put out an alert regarding the Presidential inauguration traffic that will be descending on Washington, D.C. They believe the roads will be so traveled on January 19, 20 and 21, and they are asking local law

enforcement agencies to be out there and be alert. He said we want to make sure that the bus trips going there arrive as safely as they can.

Chairman Waldron said GTSC is wondering if Saratoga County wanted to hold a CPS Technician training in the County. He said Saratoga Springs and Mechanicville have been active. Is there a need for this training, he asked. Mr. Larkin said it is possible they could commit one or two people for this training. Mr. Mitchell said they could use another technician. Chairman Waldron said he will contact Cindy Dort to see if she could conduct a training. He said the County will not have to finance this.

Chairman Waldron announced there will be a Breath Analysis Instructor Update Course on April 7th at 80 Wolf Road, Albany. He said he has the sign-up sheets.

Ms. Hogan announced some upcoming promotional events for GTSC's Traffic Safety and STOP-DWI: Saturday, January 24th at 12:00 p.m. for the Siena vs. Niagara basketball game at the Times Union Center in Albany and Monday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. for the Manhattan vs. Marists basketball game at the McCann Center in Poughkeepsie.

Ms. Hogan stated GTSC will be going electronically for all State grant submissions.

Mr. Murphy reported that 2008 was completed successfully. We were fortunate to have additional finances that we needed, and we should have the same scenario for 2009, he said. We will have an average of 16 hours per month per agency for DWI patrols, he stated. He said if agencies need extra hours for January 19, 20, and 21, they may do that. Chairman Waldron suggested February 1st for Super Bowl would also be a good day for extra hours, and Mr. Murphy agreed. Mr. Larkin stated Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties will be promoting a blanket patrol for Super Bowl weekend. He said a press conference will be coordinated through the Albany County STOP-DWI. The theme of the press conference is that emergency personnel along the side of the road are being killed too often by drunk drivers.

Mr. Crandall said last year, he talked about a seminar for Investigating DWI Homicides. It said it costs \$75 for the average officer to attend a one-day seminar. A few years ago, it was held at Schenectady County Community College, and it was \$2,000 for the instructor who has a lot of experience testifying and is on the police side. He said this is a very worthwhile seminar, he added.

Mr. Mitchell said he has been putting his year-end statistics together. They have two guys going to cargo tank school at the Massachusetts State Police Academy.

Mr. Latham stated they had a daytime DWI last weekend.

Mrs. Ekman announced the Safe Spring Student Leadership Conference is March 12th, and Brad Barton, from California, will be the keynote speaker.

Mrs. Ekman said the Prevention Council just received a \$14,000 grant for enforcing underage drinking laws that involves law enforcement. She said they have a number of memorandum of understanding from several local departments. She said the majority of that money is for officer overtime to provide compliance checks and Countywide training on controlled party dispersal. They want to form a Countywide alcohol enforcement team to be able to work in a coordinated way among all law enforcement jurisdictions on how parties can be interrupted without sending the intoxicated kids to their cars. She said for more information on this, give her a call.

Mrs. Ekman stated there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night in Saratoga Springs. She said an issue is that their victim and advocate speakers are getting fewer and fewer. We have lost some of our victim speakers, and we have not been gaining new people to come on board to speak, she said. If you know of people and emergency personnel who have responded to a couple of DWI crashes who wouldn't mind speaking at a couple of panels, please talk to them or us so that we can contact them, she said. She mentioned the law enforcement departments do a wonderful job.

Ms. Hogan stated GTSC has obtained a driving simulator. If you are planning events, contact me at 473-7786, as we are looking to share it throughout the State, she said.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann