

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

February 9, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Dennis Latham, Stillwater PD; Todd Engwer, NYSP/GTSC; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Tom Mitchell, Saratoga Springs PD; Jen Hogan, GTSC; Nick Macherone, GTSC; Christina Hall, NYS Park Police; Jim Murphy, D.A.; Jessica Staskowski, Galway High School; Press

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron stated we send our condolences to the Campion family. He said Dan was a true champion and fought for our rights. We will miss him, he said.

Chairman Waldron said we held a DWI patrol for Super Bowl weekend, and he said Mechanicville PD got one off the street. We want to keep that enforcement going, he said.

Chairman Waldron said his agency has been very busy installing car seats. They installed 168, and gave away 35, he said. He stated they have to turn people away. He said Saratoga Springs has a team. Mr. Mitchell said one of those techs was promoted last week, so he doesn't know if he will be available.

Ms. Hogan said their e-grants will be for everything from applying through grant management. We are recommending and encouraging that you send those persons overseeing the grants to one of the

upcoming trainings on March 10th in Albany; March 11th in Fishkill, or March 12th in Rochester. She said registration is due by February 27th, and it can be accessed on our website at www.safeny.com and then click on "forms." Please make sure whoever has oversight of the grants to attend one of these trainings, she said.

Ms. Hogan introduced Todd Engwer who is their new BUNY liaison at GTSC. She also introduced Nick Macherone.

Ms. Hogan announced that their annual Highway Safety Conference will be at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, October 18 -20. She said this year, the program will be a little different – dinner will be on your own in Saratoga Springs, she stated. She said registration will be on Sunday, October 18th, and the program will conclude at 5:00 pm on Tuesday evening. For conference information, go to www.itsmer.org, she said.

Mr. Engwer said he is a 20-year veteran with the NYSP, and he recently made Sergeant. Prior to that, he was a School Resource Officer in South Glens Falls. Most of my career has been with NYSP/Queensbury, he said. Chairman Waldron welcomed him aboard.

Mr. Macherone said he was with law enforcement for 32 years. He said he is the 3rd liaison to GTSC. He said he does a monthly Law Enforcement Liaison Report, and he distributed copies of his February report. He said they will be putting together the agenda for the May Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference. He said he coordinates the New York Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Program that is a competition among law enforcement competing against traffic safety programs. He said the application for this competition is on line, and it is a great opportunity to showcase your agency. He mentioned a lot of applications come in from the central region. We had the first Sheriff's agency from Rockland County last year, he said. He said he will be more than happy to help anyone with that application. Call me with any questions, he said.

Ms. Hogan mentioned for the October conference, the Holiday Inn can only accommodate so many, and it is being capped at 300.

Mr. Latham stated they have new equipment coming in.

Mr. Engwer said his contact information in on the safeny website.

Mr. B. Murphy introduced Jessica Staskowski who is here as part of a Participation in Government class.

Mr. B. Murphy said agencies can do 16 hours in February for DWI patrols. He stated school vacation will be February 13 – 22. He urged agencies to also think about 16 hours for St. Patrick's Day in March.

Mrs. Dort stated child passenger safety is huge in Saratoga County, and we are not keeping up with the need. She said she cannot keep up with the low income program with the financial situation the way it is. If any agency has anyone interested in taking a class, we are in desperate need, she said. She said there is a one-day renewal class coming up for those Technicians who lost their certification. She stated there will be a Tech class April 28 – May 1 at the Queensbury Fire Depart, and in the Albany area June 9 – 12. She stated this year's conference will be in Lancaster, PA on September 9th. We told NITSA we may not send a lot of people because of the opening of schools. She mentioned there will be a car seat check on Saturday, September 19th, and they told NITSA that was Rosh Hashanah. We hope they change that date, she said. She stated she is still chair of the CPS Advisory Board. Chairman Waldron said Head Start is looking to train people. Mrs. Dort said they would not be able to do the child seat safety checks for their clients. Mr. Mitchell said they are doing the child car seat safety checks the 3rd Saturdays of the month at the Lake Avenue Firehouse.

Mrs. Dort stated Cornell received \$15,000 from the Allstate Foundation for teen driving education.

Mr. Mitchell said two of his traffic officers successfully completed the difficult cargo tank school in Massachusetts.

Mr. Mitchell said they are slowly moving from their Impact Systems to TRACS.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned Lt. King is retiring on February 20th. There will be a party for him on that day at the VFW in Saratoga Springs beginning at 4:00 p.m. at a cost of \$15.

Ms. Hall stated they had one DWI Super Bowl weekend.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann