

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Jim Davis, Assistant D.A.; Robin Lyle, Prevention Council; Charles Fuller, Ballston Spa PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation Dept.; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Cooperative Ext.; Christina Hall, NYS Park Police; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Andrew Prestigiaco, Saratoga Springs PD; Rory Fluman, Capital Region Older Driver Assistance Network; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron stated this is prom season, the first weekend in May until the last weekend, and hopefully, there will be strong DWI enforcement. We ask everybody to do extra vigilance out there, he said. He stated Bob Murphy is giving everyone 16 hours or more, if needed. He mentioned there are three proms on May 15th and two proms on the 16th. He said Shenendehowa is having a Junior and Senior prom. He stated Chief Latham, of Stillwater, said on the 14th, they are doing a prom reenactment at the school at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Waldron discussed a new tool that agencies can access that is a compilation of data from breath testing instruments from law enforcement across the State. This data is sensitive information and can only be shared by law enforcement. He said he downloaded the entire County to see where extra staff should be deployed. He said he was made aware of this by Gerald Miller of the Office of Public Safety. Mr. Davis said you need a good basis why you set up road checks in certain places, so if you link up to that, it is very helpful. Ms. Lyle asked if the Prevention Council could get this type of information. Chairman Waldron said he

would have to refer her to the Office of Public Safety. He said he will only share this with the police agencies.

Chairman Waldron stated the GTSC will be sponsoring a seminar on “Unique Challenge Of Treating The Drinking Driver” at the Schenectady County Community College on May 20th.

Mrs. Dort asked if they could apply for a grant for a display board past the May 15th date. Chairman Waldron said they could, but there would be no guarantee. He said he asked Jen Hogan to get him a copy of what Albany County had done for their boards.

Chairman Waldron said grants are on line, and hopefully, everyone will get them done by May 15th.

Chairman Waldron stated Buckle Up New York begins on May 18 and runs until June 1st Statewide in an effort to get people to make sure they use their seatbelts. He mentioned New York State has an 89% compliance rate. We are happy with that number, but we would like it better than that, he said. He mentioned he will be attending a press conference on May 14th at 11:30 a.m. on the west lawn of the Capitol where this will be announced.

Mr. Fluman stated he is an occupational therapist and driving rehab. specialist. He stated they pulled together a coalition in the Capital District area. He distributed copies of their brochure on “Helping older drivers navigate today’s traffic.” He said they try to get regional partners in the area who are involved with senior drivers. He said last fall, they did a training for the Colonie Police Department and reviewed ways and means of dealing with the older driver. He said their main focus is why are they having problems with their driving. He said they did presentations to 700 seniors in the past year. He said if anyone is interested in having a presentation, there is an 800 number on the back of the brochure. We are funded by GTSC, he stated. Chairman Waldron asked Mr. Fluman if they have spoken to Saratoga County’s Office for the Aging. Mr. Fluman said Saratoga County’s Aging deals with another aging network, but they would like to.

Mr. Murphy stated the Saratoga Springs’ prom is May 21, and Ballston Spa and Shenendehowa will be on May 30. He mentioned that Chief Waldron said everything went fine in Mechanicville.

Mr. Rooney mentioned their seat belt survey compliance was 69%. Chairman Waldron stated Mechanicville’s was about 65%, and Mr. Prestigiacomo said Saratoga Springs’ was in the low 70’s. Chairman Waldron stated the 89% Statewide is a valid number. After this wave, we are going to do another one, he said.

Ms. Lyle stated Judy Ekman was in Paris. She said they still have funding available for enforcing the underage drinking which is a grant for police departments to do compliance checks. This grant runs until May 31st, she said. We encourage you to do these compliance checks and to report to us, she said. The bulk of the money is assigned to police time, she added. Chairman Waldron said they did one last week, and it went well. Bars were supposed to be done this weekend, he stated. Ms. Lyle said for alcohol enforcement team training, they want to bring law enforcement together for party patrols across jurisdictional lines. She said she will be talking to Chairman Waldron more about that later.

Mr. Davis said they have been going to different schools to do a 45-minute presentation. We are going to Shenendehowa on the 15th and Ballston Spa on the 18th prior to prom, and we are available to other schools if they would like us to do a presentation, he said. Mr. Williams stated Waterford had a DWI fatality simulation the morning of their prom. It went well, and Mr. Davis attended and did a good job. Mr. Davis stated a funeral home was there with a hearse. Chairman Waldron said he very much supports those types of programs.

Mrs. Dort said teen driver safety week at Ballston Spa High School starts on the 18th. Students will be asked to wear black t-shirts and red t-shirts, and all week, staff will be wearing Teen Driving Safety t-shirts, and she displayed the logo that will be on those t-shirts. She said there will be seat belt wars, fatal vision goggles, the golf cart, etc. She said on the evening of the budget vote, they will be there so that parents can participate. On the evening of the 21st, Mr. Davis will be speaking to parents. She mentioned each class will be doing a PSA that will be voted on, and the winner will get a cash prize from State Farm. Kudos to BSHS for letting us do this, she said.

Mrs. Dort stated she went to Shenendehowa and did bike helmet fittings for low income families, and their Superintendent said they are coming up with a new initiative on pedestrian safety. Chairman Waldron stated Saratoga County is fortunate to have every one of us. We are ahead of the game when it comes to prevention. All of these efforts are phenomenal, he stated.

Ms. Hall said the SPAC concerts start May 27th with Cold Play, and the Dave Matthews Band will be June 12 & 13. She said the schedule they have seen has about 20 concerts. It will be busy in our area, she said.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, JUNE 8TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann