

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Univ. Ext. of Saratoga; James Davis, D.A.'s Office; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Andrew Prestigiacomo, Saratoga Springs PD; Judy Ekman, Prevention Council

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Mr. Davis stated he has seen the completed project that shows two of our recent DWI fatalities due to driving under the influence of marijuana and alcohol. He said Dennis Foley, from SUNY, who also used to be the STOP-DWI Coordinator from Albany, created this panel, and there are videos that go along with it. He stated this would be great for us to have during prom week. He said when he asked him his cost to have this, he ignores the question completely.

Chairman Waldron stated the seat belt grants should have already been awarded, and the mobilization is October 16 – 29. He mentioned the Step grant and Child Safety Seat grant are still in the pipelines.

Chairman Waldron stated the Victim Impact Panel schedule has been released. He requested that the law enforcement departments be aware of the dates that they are speaking.

Chairman Waldron said the Child Passenger Safety Seat Program Director is inquiring whether Saratoga County would like a training technician class in 2010. In order to do this, we have to open the boundaries and expand this to more than law enforcement (fire departments, EMS agencies, community groups) to see if they would be interested. Mrs. Dort said she would put it out there to see if there is any interest. She said 10 people are needed for a class.

Chairman Waldron stated the Traffic Safety Conference held in Saratoga Springs was a big success. For all of the events, it was standing room only, he said. An excess of 300 people registered, he added. He said Judy Ekman and he represented Saratoga County on one of the issues of underaged drinking, and our class was one of the best attended. He thanked Judy for doing a fantastic job with her Power Point presentation.

Chairman Waldron stated the texting law takes affect on November 1st.

Mr. Murphy requested everyone to get their vouchers in as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Ekman mentioned they are trying to increase the activity of area SADD chapters.

Mrs. Ekman stated Youth Court is in real jeopardy as far as funding. She said their agency has been funding it, and they also get municipality funding, but she will not be surprised if they get cut down in 2010 because everybody is seeing a lot of cuts. She said their agency will see cuts in various outside contracts. We are trying to write grants and get evaluations from judges, police, parents and kids to get to the Board of Supervisors for support, she said. She stated this is a major criminal justice program used broadly, and we will need some assurance of additional funding beginning in January. About 50% of our kids are Probation clients, she added.

Mrs. Dort said they are doing a lot with the partnership on underage drinking. Our focus is trying to meet with athletic directors from all Saratoga County schools and to meet with every law enforcement agency in Saratoga County to get the same thing going across the board.

Mr. Davis said they were called into the Ballston Spa Middle School due to internal problems with 6th, 7th and 8th graders with sale of prescription drugs and marijuana. He stated he presented a video they have about bad choices. It is great to see the schools are reaching out, he said. He said the State Police had also sent an investigator.

Mr. Prestigiaco said he attended the Traffic Safety Conference and several of its workshops on motorcycle enforcement. He said they also had the Head of the Fish Regatta this past weekend. He stated their CPS program is in jeopardy. He said \$8,000 does them for the year for such a high demand program. He said they get numerous calls every day that they refer to Cindy. He said that \$8,000 is looking to get cut from the City for the manpower. A lot of the events fall on a weekend where salaries have to be paid, he said.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine M. Sodemann