

Traffic Safety Board

January 25, 2010 – 1:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Waldron; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs, PD; Tim Williams, Waterford, PD; Chief Deputy Rooney, Sheriff; Thomas Parks, Charlton, PD; James Davis, Kim Bryden, District Attorney's Office; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Judy Ekman, Prevention Council; Bob Murphy, STOP DWI.

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Waldron asked if there was anyone interested in becoming the committee Chairman. Mr. Rooney said he was interested in keeping Mr. Waldron as Chairman and Mr. Rooney will remain as Co-Chairman. The committee agreed unanimously.

Mr. Murphy said he has approval for 16 hours of additional time for February. Mr. Murphy said he would have a presentation for the February 22nd meeting with regard to funds that are available for equipment.

Mr. Waldron said the grants for 2010 have been awarded to all the agencies that have applied. He stated that if an agency has received a STEP Grant that they pay attention to instructive driving.

GTSC will be sponsoring a STOP DWI awareness event on February 8th at the Times Union Center.

The Empire State Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Conference will be held on May 4th and 5th, at the Level Street Hotel and Conference Center in Syracuse.

Mr. Waldron said on February 22, 2010, new laws for young drivers would take effect. The new law will include the following:

1. Reduce the number of non-family passengers from two people to one person in the car.
2. Eliminate the limited use junior license and require the permit be held for at least six months before you can apply to become a senior licensed operator.
3. Increases the number of supervised driving hours before the road test can be scheduled from 20 hours to 50 hours. Fifteen of those hours must be driven at nighttime.

Mr. Davis said the District Attorney's office would be putting on another police training, specific to DWI. Notices will be sent to all police agencies. A packet was sent out to all police agencies with regard to the new blood test kits along with a power point presentation.

Ms. Dort said there is a shortage of instructors for installing child safety restraints in Saratoga County. She said last year alone she installed over 400 seats.

Ms. Dort said she is chairman of the Community Awareness Taskforce, and one of the proposals that they would like to pursue is a prescription drug drop off site. They would like the law enforcement in Saratoga County to actually be the ones where the drop off sites would be. The target date for the first prescription drug drop off campaign is May 1, 2010. This will require participation from all Police Agencies in Saratoga County, she said.

Mrs. Ekman said in order to schedule a drug drop off through a pharmacy, you have to go to DEC and there has to be a police presence at the pharmacy.

Ms. Dort said she would check with accredited agencies to see what policies and procedures they have in place with regard to drop off sites for prescription drugs.

Ms. Dort said School Bus Safety week is coming up.

Mr. Waldron said the number of tickets written for passing school buses has risen from 1,200 to 1,697 in 2009. The largest volume was in Nassau County.

Ms. Dort said with the new laws, teen driver safety has taken a big turn. Teen driver safety courses will be in Mechanicville, March 30th through April 1st and in Saratoga Springs June 2nd through June 4th.

Mr. Prestigiaco said with regard to the bus safety, he keeps in monthly contact with Mr. Wainwright and has him fax the hotspots, specifically on the four lane highways.

Mr. Prestigiaco said the Saratoga Springs Police Department took a huge hit, and despite the appearance that there were two people that were laid off, the department is down a total of seven positions. This has caused the department to terminate their car seat program, cut the Dare program as of April, and terminate the canine program.

Mrs. Ekman said Victim Impact Panels have been going very well.

Mr. Davis said a memo is currently in the process of being established with the new changes to Leandra's Law. There are now laws on ignition interlock for first time DWI misdemeanor offenders. Starting on August 15th, there will be a lot more people with ignition interlocks. It will be a misdemeanor if you are supposed to have one and you don't. Licenses with the offence will have "ignition interlock" on the back and on the front it will say "restriction".

Mrs. Ekman asked if the misdemeanor charge is optional? Mr. Davis said arresting agencies all have discretion in what they charge.

Mr. Waldron said the next Traffic Safety Board meeting will be held on February 22, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom