

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**March 22, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Judy Ekman, Prevention Council; Jim Murphy, District Attorney; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron asked for results from the St. Patrick's Day DWI patrol. He mentioned Saratoga Springs had a big incident, but he didn't know whether alcohol was involved. Mr. Rooney said they had four arrests. Chairman Waldron stated they had one arrest, and the driver fled the car while it was moving with two passengers in the back seat. He was charged with a felony, he stated. Mr. Williams said they had an arrest of one female.

In discussing the incident in Saratoga Springs, Mr. J. Murphy said the cooperation between the Sheriff's Department, Saratoga Springs PD and the State Police was extraordinary. Everybody worked so well together in the sharing of information. It is like they worked for one team which is the goal, he said. Had it not been for the Sheriff's Department, we would have never located the vehicle so quickly, he said. Mr. Rooney said the cooperation has been the norm for quite a while; it has been a good machine.

Chairman Waldron stated Operation Safe Stop will be held April 15<sup>th</sup> throughout the State. He said hundreds of people pass school buses per year,

and over 1,000 tickets were issued last year throughout the State. He said the County has always helped us out with this. Mr. B. Murphy said we try to enforce both morning and after school runs.

Chairman Waldron said the GTSC will again be offering grant funding opportunities for next year for BUNY, STEP and Child Passenger Safety, and all grants must be submitted on line.

Chairman Waldron stated the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse.

Mr. B. Murphy said proms and graduations will be coming up. Mrs. Ekman said she will bring in the list of those dates.

Mr. B. Murphy said the agencies can have 16 hours next month for DWI patrols.

Mr. J. Murphy said this is Teen Driver Safety Week. On Friday night, three Girl Scout Troops came in the D.A.'s office with their troop leaders to stuff driver safety packets that are given out to teen drivers. He said these girls were 12 – 16 years of age and stuffed 1,000 packets. He said we give away 3,200 of these every year through Kathy Marchione's DMV's offices.

Mrs. Ekman stated they had a terrific Safe Spring Conference last week. She said there was a full auditorium of students from everywhere. She said one student spoke who is a Sophomore in high school who has been through in-patient rehabilitation. This is the first time we had a student like that speak, she said. The other speaker was a young woman from Clifton Park who got into a bad situation by responding to an on-line dating offer. She said those pieces were meaningful to the kids. She said all of the SADD chapters will follow up with post prom events.

Mrs. Ekman said they were able to get the grant again for enforcing underage drinking laws which brings them \$20,000. She said there is a renewal next year for an additional \$20,000. She said most of the local departments in the County did sign a Memorandum of Agreement to be part of the grant to do additional compliance checks. She said the funds are chiefly used to pay law enforcement overtime. She said a couple of agencies were not able to do this (Sheriff's Dept. and Waterford PD) because they did not have the resources. She said she has brought with her the Party Dispersal

Activity Report form, and she will be happy to accept them from any department whether or not they have a Memorandum. She said they will have follow-up training hopefully in the State Park with law enforcement agencies that work there in the summer and training for new people for the party patrol. We do all we can to curb underage drinking, she stated.

Mr. J. Murphy said he has spoken to the Sheriff, Waterford Commissioner Tanchak, Chairman Waldron and Chris Cole about an issue they are getting from the State Legislature. They are coming to the conclusion that New York State should be videotaping statements of defendants who are in custody, and we are worried that the Legislature will dictate to us how it should be done, he said. He stated in order to get ahead of this, the State D.A.'s Association is looking into who has started this process. In Broome County, the D.A. and we law enforcement agencies have been doing this since the late 1980's; Monroe Co. started taking statements from certain kinds of defendants; Schenectady Co. outfitted their police department from a grant with five interrogation rooms where suspects will be questioned and videotaped for the jury later on, he stated. He said he has taken the position of not going too quickly on this. We want to see what the State Police is doing and the Sheriff's Department, he said. He said he has received eight or nine protocols from other counties, and he has sent them to the Sheriff and other law enforcement officials for their review. The Sheriff and I will come up with something, and afterwards, law enforcement agencies can say it is great or they do not like it at all, he said. He stated we are going slow, because we only have one time to do this correctly. He mentioned that it would probably be useful for everyone to purchase the same equipment.

Mr. J. Murphy said this is a really big problem for us right now, and I ask you all to bring this back to your rank and file. He stated there will be training on this issue on April 15<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the State Police Academy at no cost. It is an opportunity to look, listen and learn, he said. He stated in a year or two, we can tell the Legislature we have a plan in place. Mr. B. Murphy said it seems like there could be additional personnel needed to operate the equipment. Mr. J. Murphy said it is hard in a smaller municipality. He said he thinks the Legislature thinks in terms of New York City. Mr. Rooney said it is never easy to say, OK it is done. You have a chain of custody for the tape, and then there are a lot of administrative tasks for a department, he said. Mr. J. Murphy pointed out that some agencies have videotaping for their entranceway for security purposes, but sometimes problems occur with that. Mr. Rooney said the technology is there, but who

will package it and take over ownership? How much do we tie the hands of law enforcement? Mr. J. Murphy said he is worried about the things he will have to deal with, and it is daunting. If we are educated, it may give us a window of what is coming our way, he said. All law enforcement has to be on board with this, and all funding would have to come through his office from grants. Chairman Waldron said we have to come up with something that fits up north.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemannh