

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Cindy Dort, Cornell-Ext. of Saratoga; Robin Lyle, The Prevention Council; Andrew Prestigiacomo, Saratoga Springs PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Jim Davis, Assistant D.A.

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron stated the Thanksgiving patrols will be coming up. Mr. Murphy said the agencies can have 6 hours, and then it will be increased in December. We don't want to be in the red at the end of the year, he said.

Chairman Waldron said the School Resource Officer Traffic Safety Tool is on the GTSC website. This provides the best practices for law enforcement to use inside schools, he said. He stated the magnetic display strips for display enforcement for Buckle Up NY is available through GTSC. These go on the back of the patrol cars, and they are free, he said.

Chairman Waldron mentioned the seat belt mandatory wave is November 15 – 28.

Mr. Prestigiacomo stated they received significant more for STEP and BUNY this year. He said they are close to purchasing the Total Station. We are getting quotes and are receiving funding through federal drug money along with the training, he said.

Mr. Rooney asked if anyone has had experiences with cabbage night, which is the night before Halloween. It used to be a big deal years ago, and we still beef up for it, he said. Chairman Waldron stated their federally funded housing projects pay them \$50/hr. to patrol them separately as well as McDonald's and

the school. He said he has to turn down a lot of requests. Mr. Rooney said Halloween has been better than years ago. He stated the Regatta is that weekend also. Mr. Prestigiacomio said they have been pulled out of that. Mr. Rooney said that will consume a lot of their manpower.

Mr. Williams stated they made a DWI arrest at 10:00 a.m. the other morning, and the person blew a 2.0. This is a reminder that they are out there even in the mornings, he said. Mr. Rooney said they had someone who blew a 2.1 during the morning also. The heavy duty ones are in the morning, he stated.

Mr. Davis said they are still trying to work through the kinks on the ignition locks. I am shocked at the number of Leandra Law arrests we are getting, he said. It is frustrating because the numbers are not going down, he said.

Mr. Davis said he has been hearing from officers who are upset because in our training, we have been asking for a lot of paperwork and follow through. We have been contesting a lot more DWI's than ever, he said. The defense attorneys are very prepared and are having success doing cross examination of paperwork being done, he stated. Our intent is not to frustrate the officers, and we are always available for additional training, he said. Officers can always call with a question over paperwork issues, and there is never a stupid question, he said. I do not want any officer to feel we are holding the bar too high, he stated. Our training is specific to countering the defense tactics, and I do not want to be off on the wrong foot with police officers, he said. He said the officers can reach out to Pat Chauvin, Matt Campion or himself. No officer should ever have to say they were not prepared, he said.

Mrs. Dort said the Saratoga Springs PD has car seats for anybody that has a CPS program. She said she took some of the seats, as it will be better to use them rather than throw them away. She mentioned Even Flow has issued a recall, and those seats needs a kit to be fixed.

Mrs. Dort said this is Teen Driver Safety Week. The data that came out from New York State shows October is the highest crash month for teen drivers in New York State. The other high month is January, she said. She stated 70% of new drivers in New York State are nervous about being in a crash, but 50% of them text while driving. The campaign this year is "Not Now, I'm Driving."

Mrs. Dort stated we have a new GTSC rep, Paul, who has replaced Jen Hogan, and he is a car seat tech. Something happened where you can no longer be a representative in the County you live in, she stated.

Mrs. Dort stated Cornell received a \$15,000 Allstate grant, and we are proceeding with the memorial wall, but we are still looking for additional funding. It will look similar to Ed Frank's, she said. We have the bid and the display information, and it will focus on Saratoga County teens. It will include all of the

distractions for teens. It will be available to any County agency and school. We are supposed to roll this out in January, but it may be delayed because we just received this funding two weeks ago, she said.

Ms. Lyle said they had a public effort around homecoming on teenage drinking, and we honored businesses that passed the compliance checks at a breakfast. Over 80 businesses passed since the beginning of the year, she said. We ran ads on the radio promoting what hotline to report underage drinking parties, she said. She said they have \$3,000 earmarked for law enforcement for party patrols. If you anticipate doing something, please give us a call, she said.

Ms. Lyle stated they will be able to buy alco sensors for Skidmore Security and the NYS Park Police. Let us know if there is a need you will have for next year, she said. She said the Park Police wanted the ones you can talk into instead of blowing into the tubes. Mr. Prestigiaco said every person going to the Victim Impact Panel is blowing in a tube now. Ms. Lyle said Mechanicville used the ones you talk into for their prom. Mr. Davis said they are good if you do not need it for evidence collection. Initial breath screening is a good indicator, he added.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann