

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

September 20, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; James Davis, Assistant D.A.; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Scott McCart, NYSP-Clifton Park; Cindy Dort, Cornell Univ.; Andrew Prestigiacomo, Saratoga Springs PD; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order and welcomed everybody back.

Chairman Waldron stated the grant awards have been sent out by GTSC. I believe everybody who applied got them, he said. He stated the Step grant was the final one for them, and they received it last Friday.

Chairman Waldron said the State Police will be working on a cell phone crack down this entire week. Cell phones usage while driving is the most common thing people do all of the time, he said. He stated they issue about 100 tickets per year. It all correlates with distracted driving issues, he added. We should do our part and encourage all police agencies to step up enforcement, he said. We are doing our best to nail people who do not use a hands free set, he said. Mr. Davis suggested that police officers should ask them what their call phone number is that they are getting a ticket for and to please get more descriptions of the phone. At least ask, he stated.

With regard to DWI's, Chairman Waldron said over the summer, all departments have been at high capacity. Mechanicville wrote four Leandrea Law tickets which is pretty big, he said.

Mr. Murphy said departments can do 8 hours for the Columbus Day weekend, and then 16 hours for November and December. We have had a good year, he said.

Mr. Prestigiaco stated they had a busy track season with no fatalities, but there was one fatality the night of the Dave Matthews concert. They did a lot of overtime, and they were shorthanded. He said he was running Step details, motor coach inspections, track related overtime, and today, it is the missing elderly woman. There are ATV's, horses, mountain bikes, forest rangers and helicopters looking, he added. He said they ran a large scale detail with the State Police on Union Ave. near Exit 14. Even though the handle was down, we were still busy, he said.

Mr. Rooney reported they had a quick but busy summer.

Mr. Davis said August 15 was the beginning of the ignition locks with Leandrea's Law which is in its infancy. At the County level, they could have a lock up to five years, he said. It is frustrating to do all new things with the court clerks and there are tons of paperwork, but it is a positive thing to stop repeat DWI's, he said. He recommended agencies should look for those driving other people's cars. You should see the DMV's coming in as an ignition lock requirement. Mr. Murphy asked about the financing of these ignition locks. Mr. Davis said anybody who wants to apply for one for free has to fill out a very detailed three-page report. Most people who see it do not want to turn that information over. Judges can deny the request if the form is not filled out correctly, he said. Judges feel if you can afford cable or a cell phone, you can give up one of them to afford the locks.

Mrs. Dort stated this is Child Passenger Safety Week. There will be a seat check on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Crossgates.

She said at the Saratoga County Fair, she gave away a little over 500 bike helmets. We will be running another CPS Technician class in June. Saratoga County is hurting for Technicians, she said. We are down to John Pugliese from Mechanicville and myself, and we are over the top trying to meet the need in Saratoga County, she said. Mr. McCart said they have two Technicians. Mrs. Dort said she installed 474 car seats so far and gave away another 323. She said the demand is great, and the free give-a-way is getting even bigger because of the economy.

Mrs. Dort said the Teen Driver Safety program is at a lull, but it is starting to pick up.

Mr. Williams said they had a good summer, but they did have a personal injury accident at the beginning of August. The gentleman had a heart attack, and they successfully resuscitated him. He stated they got their accreditation through DCJS.

Mrs. Dort said the back seat seat belt law did not pass. It is back in Albany and has been assigned a new number. We really need a push for that to pass, she said. Mr. Davis said the recent rollover on the Thruway might spark something. Mrs. Dort said she does not see how asking people to wear a seat belt is a bad thing.

** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH AT 1:00 PM **

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann