

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

January 24, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Todd Ives, Ballston Spa PD; Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Jim Murphy, D.A.; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

On a motion by B. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Prestigiacomio, Joe Waldron was elected Chairman of the Traffic Safety Board for 2011 by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Waldron stated he received correspondence from Barbara Formica of the GTSC regarding a Child Passenger Safety Seat Certification Course. If anyone would like to host a course in their municipality, just contact her, Cindy Dort of myself, he said.

Chairman Waldron stated for the DWI patrols, Super Bowl weekend is a big weekend where a lot of DWI's take place. He said February 6th is Super Bowl Sunday. Mr. B. Murphy said the agencies can have 8 hours for the patrols. Chairman Waldron said hopefully, people are getting the word to be more responsible. Mr. B. Murphy said the patrols can be for the whole weekend; just use your discretion. He then announced that the agencies can have 12 hours for patrols for that weekend.

Chairman Waldron stated GTSC is sponsoring a STOP-DWI Awareness Night tonight at the Times Union Center for the Siena game.

Chairman Waldron said the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference will be held April 26-27 in Syracuse. It is a conference of all traffic safety initiatives, and they also tie in some education, he added.

Mr. B. Murphy said if any agencies have any vouchers left over for 2010, he needs them as soon as possible.

Chairman Waldron stated he sets his budget and anticipates how much revenue he will receive. It is shown as an expense in his budget and revenue on the revenue side. He said he treats this like a grant. Mr. B. Murphy said next month, he will bring in a chart of the revenue. He said the Public Safety Committee wants to see this as well as expenditures. Chairman Waldron said unfortunately, municipalities are being strangled. You cannot let your guard down and must continue to be proactive. You are being reimbursed by the County, and it is free money to use wisely, he said.

Mr. J. Murphy told Chairman Waldron that he makes it easy to select a Chair because he does a good job running this Board. He then thanked Chairman Waldron for that. He stated Patrick Campion has been representing him and the D.A.'s office. Starting in two weeks, we will have three prosecutors designated for DWI prosecutions in the County because of the volume of cases, and we are not plea bargaining cases after the first offense, he stated.

Mr. J. Murphy said starting May 1, the Board of Supervisors authorized \$25/person to attend the Victim Impact Panels in Saratoga County. We insist on every DWI or AI be required to participate in a panel, he said. We were one of the last counties that did not charge, he stated. Out of county people were coming to our panels, he said. We will suddenly generate some revenue from this fee that will go to the STOP-DWI fund. Right now, the money will be used specifically to help with the VIP, i.e., speakers, transportation costs, new sound system and a laptop. Long term, it will be a nice revenue stream for programs this Board might want to start thinking about, he stated. My anticipation is a year from now, we will be able to use this money for education and intervention, he said.

Mr. Williams stated he reached out to the Waterford/Halfmoon School to request they include on their website a link to the SafeNY.com site. He said he had sent the contact for the school an e-mail today, and they got right on that. He said he hasn't seen this on any of the other local schools' websites.

Mr. Campion said they have been working on getting a handle on the ignition lock system. Mr. Mahoney stated they have to prove ownership by the offender, and transferring title ties things up. There is a method where they can sign an affidavit stating they are not an owner of a motor vehicle, so Leandra's Law would not apply, he said. When a form comes over signed by a judge that states the offender does not own a vehicle, we do not

have to worry about getting this ignition locking device installed, he stated. He said their new Director appreciates everybody's interest in this. He is by the book as far as the 10-day limit, he said. We had some growing pains since August, but we had a productive meeting last week, he added. Mr. Campion said the offender cannot drive if they do not own a vehicle.

Mr. Ives stated if somebody is required to have this system, and they do not have their license on them, we have to rely on Saratoga County Dispatch, and it will just show up as a restriction, but we do not know what that restriction is. Mr. Campion stated the restriction is specific for Interlock, and there is a specific DMV code, he said. Mr. Mahoney stated there is an additional charge if they are caught driving someone else's car.

Mrs. Dort stated there are five families that will be on our display board that will be ready in April for the Mechanicville School. That has been the focus of my time, she said. She said we are still short car seat technicians in Saratoga County, she stated. She said their conference is in Lake Placid in May. The Teen Driver Program has exploded, and we have taken on a few additional schools. She mentioned those five families have taken her on a journey that has impacted her for life. She mentioned it isn't just drinking and driving, but texting, etc., and it's the behavior of teens we have to work on changing. Hopefully, this display, when it is in the malls, libraries, DMV or schools, will make a difference, she stated.

Chairman Waldron stated Cindy and Jim Davis came up with this display board last year because we felt this was needed. We wanted to send a message that we are serious, he said. This panel is about the victims, so they can speak in a different way, he stated. Hopefully, this will be rolled out in April, he said. Mrs. Dort said that is our target. We have the grant from the Allstate Foundation and Mr. B. Murphy has a few extra dollars. I hope the display board will do justice, she stated.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann

