

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2011 – 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Vice-Chairman E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Tom Paton, NYSP; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Todd Ives, Ballston Spa PD; Bob Murphy, DWI Coordinator; Heather Kisselback, Robin Lyle, Prevention Council; Andrew Prestigiacommo, Thomas Sartin, Saratoga Springs PD; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Cooperative Ext. ; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Vice-Chairman Rooney called the meeting to order. He stated Chairman Waldron is unable to be here today.

Vice-Chairman Rooney reminded everyone that March 30th is Operation Safe Stop for school bus safety. Everybody's participation would be very much appreciated, he said.

Mrs. Kisselback stated Safe Spring was held last Thursday which had a great turnout as always. There were 300 students with a great speaker, Mike Donohue. We covered a multitude of topics, and we had workshops on domestic violence, bullying, prescription drug abuse; Reality Check did a seminar, and there was a seminar on on-line safety. The kids had a great time, she said. She said Safe Spring is held about the same time each year, and since it is getting warmer, this is the perfect time to do this. It happened to fall on St. Patrick's Day this year, she added.

Ms. Lyle distributed copies of the Prom and Graduation Schedule for Saratoga County. She stated they have funding to pay for law enforcement overtime to continue any activity associated with underage drinking. There has been some party patrol activity, but we would like to see more of that, she said. Kids are getting their alcohol from their own home or somebody they know who is 21, and they are drinking in people's homes. She said she is doing a presentation at Shenendehowa

at the end of the week. She said about 3% of kids are trying to drink in bars and restaurants. Vice-Chairman Rooney said this past week in the Town of Milton, there were 16 arrests for underage drinking, and there will be a press release going out on that. Ms. Lyle said even on a Friday or Saturday night, if you send extra cars around looking, we would be happy to see that kind of activity. The funding we have now extends until June 30th, she stated. She said she can be contacted to get the funding in place. We will be doing advertising, but the bulk of the money goes to law enforcement, she added. Mrs. Kisselback said they are doing sticker shock again this Spring as well. Kids are putting stickers on packages that state not to purchase for kids under 21.

Mr. Campion stated May 18th will be their annual D.A.'s DWI training seminar from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors' chambers. He said he will pass out fliers next month.

Mrs. Dort said today is national Don't Text and Drive Day. We are hoping to see something in the media about that, she said. She mentioned March 30th is Operation Safe Stop. We have money in our grant to promote that, she said. If you want the media to come out and ride in a school bus, just let me know, as we did this in Mechanicville a few years ago, she said. She stated on Saturday, she gave away 107 bicycle helmets at Milton Terrace South. Many parents wanted to know why the police do not stop the children who ride without helmets, and I do not know why, she said. She said it may be helpful if parents had help from law enforcement.

Mrs. Dort said the CPS Conference is coming up, and she is paying for the Saratoga guys to go to get them recertified. She said she is also paying for the girls from Head Start to go.

Mrs. Dort stated the Crime Victims' Vigil will be held on Sunday, April 10th at 4:00 p.m. at the New England Presbyterian Church in Saratoga Springs. The teen driving display panels will be unveiled and displayed at that time. All of the panels are pretty much done for all five families, she said.

Sgt. Paton said a few years ago when he was at the Capitol detail, they were handed coupons for ice cream for the kids they saw who were wearing bicycle helmets. Those riding without helmets were given coupons for Dick's Sporting Goods for 20% off a bike helmet. Mrs. Dort stated wearing a bicycle helmet is a law for kids 14 and under. Vice-Chairman Rooney mentioned those coupons were given to them to hand out also. He said this involves time and management, and mom and dad have to do their part also.

Mr. Ives stated they had one DWI arrest on St. Patrick's Day. He said he has seen a lot of designated drivers, and it would be better seeing them without it being a holiday.

Mr. Prestigiacombo said he called Mr. Murphy to request extra hours. They received 16, and they used 12 of them. We made a bunch of stops and wrote a bunch of tickets, he stated. He said they came across a man on the Route 50 arterial standing on the highway texting. A foot chase ensued, and he was captured and given a ride home.

Mr. Murphy advised the agencies to plan for their future overtime by looking at the prom and graduation dates. For the After Proms, we have budgeted a lump sum amount for each school. If there are updates where they are going to be, we will let you know, he said. You cannot prevent people from making reservations at hotels/motels, he said. He thanked the agencies for a great St. Patrick's Day weekend.

Vice-Chairman Rooney said they had a high volume of traffic, but nothing out of the ordinary. Our visibility is a step in the right direction, he stated.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann