

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

April 18, 2011 - 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Todd Ives, Ballston Spa PD; Tom Paton, NYSP; Bob Murphy, DWI Coordinator; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Robin Lyle, Prevention Council; Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Cindy Dort, Cornell Coop. Ext.; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron thanked all of the agencies that participated in Operation Safe Stop; especially to Saratoga Springs for allowing the press to ride along with them. He said he has not heard of any violations. He said it is a way to make bus drivers feel safer.

Chairman Waldron stated the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference (ESLETS) is booked solid. They have no more rooms available, and they will not be allowing anybody else to sign in to enter the building. He said Syracuse is a good centrally located area for this event.

Chairman Waldron reminded everyone that if you would like grants from GTSC, you need to submit the grants electronically, and they need to be in by May 14th. Nothing will be accepted after May 15th, he added.

Chairman Waldron stated the Practical Guidelines for Motorcycle Enforcement training class will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Wolf Road in Colonie on May 26th at 11:00 a.m. He said this training is free, and he encouraged everyone to attend.

Chairman Waldron said the New York State Police Academy will be hosting an Advanced Criminal Interdiction through Traffic Enforcement training seminar on June 20 – 24. This training is free of charge to law enforcement agencies in New York State. It will provide law enforcement officers with the fundamentals and advance tactics necessary to uncover indicators and evidence of criminal activity by those who travel our roadways, he said.

Chairman Waldron said on behalf of the County Traffic Safety Board, he attended a meeting on Building Bridges for Traffic Safety at the Italian American Club in Albany on April 12th. The focus was on minority communities frequently experiencing higher incidence of traffic related injuries and fatalities than the general population. We addressed initiatives and programs currently in place across New York State in such places as Ramapo; Westchester County; Lewis County Sheriff's Office; City of New York and City of Utica, he said. These communities have addressed traffic safety challenges, and by doing so, have made their roadways safer, he stated. He mentioned that the City of Utica has a population of 60,000, and of that, 17,000 are refugees. He stated a large amount of crashes that occur are due to people not familiar with our system. He said the City of Saratoga Springs PD Chief is pushing for that agency to learn Spanish because of the track.

Chairman Waldron requested the agencies to make sure they submit their necessary paperwork to Bob Murphy for their DWI money. Mr. Murphy stated they can saturate Memorial Day weekend. He mentioned a few schools will not have post proms and some will be out of our jurisdiction. He said as soon as he gets the update, he will fax it out. He mentioned Corinth's prom is in Lake George, Hadley/Luzerne will be in Glens Falls, and Waterford will be going to the Italian Community Center in Albany. He said through the years, he has called these other agencies. Chairman Waldron pointed out the key is where they are driving to and from. Mr. Murphy said agencies can do 8 – 12 hours or what they will need for the proms. Visibility really helps, he stated.

Mr. Campion distributed copies of a flier on the D.A.'s Annual DWI Training Seminar to be held May 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room free of charge. Some light breakfast and lunch will be served, he said. He stated they have had a few ignition lock violations trickle in. Usually, it will be associated with AUO 2nd – class A misdemeanor.

Mr. Prestigiacomio said Tom and he did a large scale nighttime Buckle Up New York last Thursday on West Ave. at the entrance of the train station,

and a lot of tickets were written. He said the State Police helped them as well.

Mrs. Dort stated they unveiled the panels at the Crime Victims' Vigil and then took them to the Mechanicville High School. The parent program and assembly went well. She said it was a good week. She said they did a seat belt check there that morning, and almost every teen driver had their seat belt on unlike the adult drivers. She said they will be taking the panel display to Saratoga Catholic and to the Saratoga Springs, Galway and Ballston Spa High Schools.

Mrs. Dort stated the mid-year grant was due last Friday. You will get points off your next year's grant request if you don't get them in, she said.

Mrs. Dort said it looks like she will be writing the curriculum for Child Passenger Safety for law enforcement to be taught at Zone 5 and Zone 14, and they will be using some of Tom Mitchell's power point. She said it is a two-hour class to give awareness to incoming officers. She said she welcomes anyone's input, and this will be ready to go next year.

Mrs. Dort said they were given a donation from the Campion Foundation and the D.A.'s Office to do more with their panels. Chairman Waldron said Mrs. Dort did a good job at the Mechanicville High School. He said he was there and viewed the panels, and there was a line around the panels all day long. It opened the eyes of a lot of people, he stated. He thanked Mrs. Dort on behalf of the entire school and community. Mrs. Dort stated Mechanicville was very receptive. They had discussions on bullying, tobacco and gambling. Many families of the victims are planning to be at the school where the panels will be located, she said.

Mr. Murphy said he will be attending the May 10th Public Safety Committee meeting to give them our program budget. He said at the end of May, we will send out half of your money and the second part in early September.

Ms. Lyle said there is money remaining to pay law enforcement to do compliance checks, party patrol activity and shoulder taps. She said she is trying to nail down where their funding is going because their funding ends June 30th. She said she will pass around a sheet she has made up so that agencies can check off what they are interested in and a contact name. Our funders get upset when we end up with money at the end of the year, she said. She distributed a sheet she developed on Conducting Party Patrols and Shoulder Tap Operations, and a list of the Saratoga County Schools' Proms/After Proms/Graduations schedule is on the back side of this. She stated the big time is really coming now with

proms and graduations. Hopefully, we will have a strong presence in Saratoga County, she stated. Chairman Waldron said they did an undercover with their investigator at some of their establishments. He said the shoulder tap system does happen.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 16TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann