

## TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

**November 13, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Will Crandall, Saratoga Springs PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Mike Williams, NYSP-Wilton; James Davis, ADA; Jack Murray, Co. Auditor; Bob Kane, Corinth PD; Karen Pettigrew, MADD; Judy Ekman, Prevention Council; Kevin Judd, South Glens Falls PD; Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Larry Whalen, Stillwater PD; Lisa Millis Human Ecology Program Issue Leader-Cornell Cooperative Extension; Cynthia Dort, NYS Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician/Instructor-Occupant Protection Program Community Educator-Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chairman Crandall called the meeting to order.

Chairman Crandall said they are having issues with their Child Safety Seat Program. In my job, we are running out of people to do it, he said. He said he has referred people to Joe Waldron in Mechanicville. Our station has been torn down where we did the seats, he stated. He mentioned there are a lot of fire departments that have retired people that can devote the time to do this. If anybody knows of a fire station that can get involved, please jump in there, he said.

Mrs. Dort stated she runs a fitting station through Albany Medical, and she does about 150 per year. She said she anticipates doubling that in Saratoga County. Chairman Crandall said having Cindy on full-time will help the County. Mrs. Dort said in the last class, they had a few more guys from Mechanicville, and there are nine technicians in Saratoga County. Mr. Waldron stated there are four technicians in Mechanicville and an EMS guy assists them also. Chairman Crandall said an EMS quarters would be a good location for a Child Safety Seat Program. Mrs. Dort said as a State Fire Inspector, she spends a lot of time trying to get fire departments involved. Chairman Crandall said if any department wants to do a Child Safety Seat program, there is still money available for that.

In discussing bicycle safety, Chairman Crandall mentioned the New York Bicycling Coalition has a pretty good program. They request us, as police, to stop those that are doing something stupid, he said.

Mrs. Ekman asked if there would be any publicity on pedestrians. I do not think people realize how invisible they are at night, she said. Chairman Crandall said some of their pedestrians do not read or write English, so signs do not mean anything to them. We have had terrible pedestrian fatalities in Saratoga Springs due to alcohol, he added. He said this is more of a public informational campaign type of thing. He said it is easier to find reflective material for your pet than it is for people. Mrs. Pettigrew mentioned years ago, there were reflective key chains. Chairman Crandall stated Glow Dog makes reflective clothing. That should be a part of public information programs in schools, he said. He said he believes Channel 13 will help with some public information.

Mr. Murphy said there are funds available for DWI patrols at holiday time between Thanksgiving through the end of the year, and he urged everyone to get their vouchers in by the end of the year.

Chairman Crandall mentioned the Buckle Up New York campaign starts this week. Mr. Waldron said they have 13 guys on today doing checkpoints. Chairman Crandall said they notice pick-up trucks are serious violators.

Chairman Crandall stated Operation Safe Stop was in October. We only wrote two tickets and they were next to the elementary school, he said. Mr. Waldron stated buses are doing a better job getting in the middle of the roadway when they stop.

Chairman Crandall said there may be STEP money available for anybody who is interested in STEP enforcement. He said DOT enforcement is a pretty lengthy program. If you have a commercial vehicle issue in your community, it is worth looking into, he said. You need a dedicated police car, laptop and phone card. He said they see some interesting violations.

Mr. Davis stated tomorrow night, the magistrates are meeting to get the new DWI legislation, and that will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Pettigrew said if the Legislators come back in December for a special session, they will do some enactments.

Mrs. Millis stated Cindy Dort is on board with them full-time as their Occupant Protection Community Educator. We are doing two separate programs - a Car Seat Distribution program where they distribute free car seats to limited income families or to families who meet certain criteria, free child passenger safety instruction and free installation education. The second component is their Occupant Protection program where an agency or school can request a Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Instructor to offer free child passenger, school bus, pedestrian and bicycle safety programs to your agency

and/or the individuals and families you work with, she said. She distributed handouts on these programs. She said Cindy can be reached at 885-8995 at Ext. 228.

Mrs. Dort stated Monday, she will be at the Ballston Spa High School at 6:45 a.m. as the Senior drivers pull in. If they are wearing a seat belt, they will get items such as coupons for \$1 off items at McDonald's, free ice cream cones at Stewart's, etc. Passengers wearing seat belts will also receive the same gifts, she said. She stated Channel 13 will be there with them as well as The Saratogian. Channel 13 will air that all day. Mrs. Millis said they hope to use this as a catalyst catching Senior drivers doing something good. We will have safety tips to hand out to those not buckled up, she said. She stated they will be looking to team up with folks in this room to do things on a larger scale for towns and cities. In the spring, they want to do bicycle and pedestrian safety as well, she added. She said it is important for them to attend these meetings, and they will take suggestions and recommendations.

Mr. Whalen stated with the Stillwater school system, they have to attend a 16-hour course to drive into the parking lot. Chairman Crandall said Saratoga Springs has a permit system with no class involved.

Mrs. Ekman announced there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night in Saratoga Springs. South Glens Falls will be the law enforcement agency. She said she would hope that Jesse from the D.A.'s office could be there. Mr. Davis said he will see if someone is available.

Mrs. Ekman stated Youth Court Officer training is going on this weekend. Right now, we are doing Tips training of trainers to train bar owners and convenience store clerks. She said.

Mrs. Pettigrew mentioned MADD has a new address on the Watervliet-Shaker Road in Latham. The phone number is 785-MADD, she said.

Mrs. Pettigrew said the Death Notification training last month went well. We will be doing our red ribbon kick off shortly, she said. She said at next month's meeting, she will bring in the red ribbons for tying on vehicles.

Chairman Crandall said if anyone has any issue with their TRACS, he is sure Mr. Waldron will be happy to help with anyone's problems. He said in Saratoga Springs, he would like to do DWI patrols for the whole Thanksgiving weekend.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING - MONDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann