

County of Saratoga

Board of Supervisors

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SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

June 10, 2013 – 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD, Richard Castle, Sheriff's Office; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation Dept.; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Extension of Saratoga; Heather Kisselback, Prevention Council

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Mr. Murphy distributed copies of a sheet showing what was given to the agencies and what was spent for the 2012/2013 STOP-DWI Crackdowns through Memorial Day. He mentioned his second grant has been approved. He stated we have to make sure all of the grant money is spent. If we stay within our budget constraints, there will be \$3,000 for the 4th of July crackdown. He said after the 4th of July, we will know exactly where we stand. He said he has an additional line item for our own checkpoints, and if we go over, he will supplement it with that money.

Mr. Murphy stated agencies can have an additional 12 hours for graduations. He mentioned the proms seem to have gone well.

Mr. Murphy said he has been on the telephone with NYRA, and they always ask the Saratoga Springs PD to get involved. Mr. Prestigiacomio said he has hired 19 non-sworn personnel.

Mr. Murphy said he talked with five high school principals, and they are concerned about the last couple of days of classes. Mrs. Kisselback said there are always

concerns because there are parties every year. Mr. Murphy said their concern is with all of the cars the last day of school exams and the last day of regular classes.

Mr. Murphy said after the 4th of July, he will send out a chart of what was spent for all of the crackdowns. He advised the agencies that they can have an additional 12 hours for racing season. He said by next Monday, he will give the agencies their allocation for the 4th of July.

Chairman Waldron stated the Buckle Up New York (BUNY) – Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization ended June 4th. The numbers are a good success as far as people being compliant. He said they issued a total of 15 seat belt tickets.

Chairman Waldron said now is the time for motorcycle awareness. As the summer comes upon us, I ask everyone to please be careful and make sure it's safe to change lanes before doing so. He said they had a motorcycle crash where an elderly male changed lanes causing the motorcyclist to lose control of the bike and slide into a telephone pole.

Chairman Waldron said several of us from the County went to training in Albany for Alive at 25. We thought it would be a good program to bring to Saratoga County. We want to launch this out to certain areas, and a couple of courts have been chosen to participate. Mrs. Dort said we hope to launch this the last week of June and the last Tuesday of every month at Cornell. She said Mr. Campion has a letter to give to the ADAs. There are five people who may actually take the first class this month, and the maximum is 20. They have to call our office, and they will be put into a class from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Hopefully, they will be taught to make better choices. She said they have been working closely with the D.A.'s office. They are on board, and they will start with a few courts. We have 100 student manuals coming and a DVD from the National Safety Council. Those who take the course will be eligible for a 10% discount on their insurance. She said she, along with four to five police officers, will be teaching the course. She mentioned this course is also offered in Albany and Washington. We really need this in Saratoga County. Chairman Waldron stated the key is for more involvement and reaching out to other departments. It is geared to those young drivers who drive recklessly and who speed. The program itself is very powerful. He said the more instructors we have the more we can branch out to other areas.

Mrs. Dort said if anyone wants to come and watch a class, feel free to do so. We will be putting out a six month calendar. Mr. Murphy requested Mrs. Dort to send a copy to all of the police agencies. Mr. Campion said they are excited to utilize this program on a case by case basis. Mrs. Dort distributed copies of the form that will

be filled out and submitted by attendees. Mr. Champion said all ADAs will bring the form to their assigned courts. He said we have added this to our plea sheets. We will be explaining the program to the judges.

Mr. Champion said as of June 1st, 1225 C & D of the Vehicle & Traffic Law were amended to increase points for using cell phones and portable electronic devices while driving from 3 points to 5 points.

Mr. Prestigiacommo stated they participated in the BUNY. He conducted one night time and one day time checkpoint, and they wrote 68 tickets. There were 2 AUOs, 1 DWI, and a four year old was riding in the front seat, and his child passenger seat was in the back seat. Out of the 68, 28 were occupant restraint tickets. He stated their DWI numbers remain higher than last year. On Friday night, they had a fatal due to a DWI. This morning at the track, a driver of a tractor trailer hit a guard with the tractor trailer. He said they will be starting to use their Step grant money. He mentioned they had high BACs on prom night, but they were not related to the prom.

Mr. Castle said they did not participate in BUNY. He said he will be attending these meetings replacing Mr. Rooney. He stated they had three arrests Memorial Day weekend. They had a car/pedestrian fatality due to falling asleep at the wheel, and a personal injury motorcycle accident on Routes 9 & 146. They have a lot of cases still pending. Chairman Waldron said we looking forward to seeing Mr. Castle at our meetings.

Mrs. Dort said there will be a CPS tech class tomorrow. There are 25 enrolled. The Sears check is Friday, and we usually do 150 cars. We are doing good in Saratoga County with Wilton EMS and Clifton Park EMS. Wilton requires their EMS workers to take the class.

Mrs. Dort said the Teen Driver Safety Program went well in Schuylerville, Ballston Spa and Mechanicville. We participated a little bit with Shen. Saratoga Springs didn't want anything with what we wanted to offer. In Ballston Spa, we had an added piece with the Ballston Spa Police Department being there doing sobriety tests. The State Police did this in Schuylerville. The classes went very well. We did a seat belt check in Ballston Spa and found more adults, rather than the teens, not wearing their seat belts.

Mrs. Dort stated they continue to see back seat passengers not being buckled. She saw a retired State trooper dropping off his son at school, and he was not buckled in the back seat.

Mrs. Dort said the GTSC is requiring her to do something on pedestrian safety in Saratoga County. She said she does not know what the education program would be. She said the woman who was killed Friday in Saratoga Springs did nothing wrong while she crossed the street. She said if anyone has any ideas, please let her know. She said she thought about contacting the Track to put a blurb on their programs to be mindful of pedestrians. Chairman Waldron said this would be for densely populated areas. The big issue we see is that pedestrians are not in a crosswalk or they walk between two parked cars, nor should there be horse playing near roadways. Mrs. Dort asked how she should show GTSC that she is doing pedestrian safety in Saratoga County. This is for no age limit. She said she needs ideas on how to educate. Chairman Waldron suggested when she goes to the schools, throw in a blurb about pedestrian safety.

Mrs. Dort stated the Fair is coming next month. We will be there with bike helmets and the DWI goggles.

Mrs. Dort said Channel 6 has the No Text Zone campaign, and there were many concerns about Finklestein and Partner's presentation. There are no statistics that state texting is causing more deaths than drunk driving. She brought her concerns to GTSC. She stated Linda Campion was in touch with them, and now Channel 6 has pulled those statistics. GTSC spoke to Finklestein & Partners and asked them to remove those slides. If students hear that texting is worse than drinking, they will think it is OK to drink and drive. We want them to understand that one is not worse than the other.

Mrs. Dort said Senate Bill 389 is in the Transportation Committee, and two upstate Senators (Gallivan and Ranzenhofer) voted no to require seat belts for all passengers. We have a big push to try and get this bill passed. If it does not pass the Senate, it will not happen. She said it looks like it is dying in committee.

Mr. Prestigiaco stated they had a mock crash at the Saratoga Springs High School.

Mrs. Kisselback said what is concerning her is the increase in marijuana in every grade, and the kids see nothing wrong with it. The wrong message is out there about marijuana. That will be a big focus for us in this next year. We need to think of a creative campaign. She said a lot of kids come to school high after smoking in their cars before school. Mr. Castle stated juries do not want to hear about smoking marijuana. Mrs. Dort said they find many more kids say they drink rather than smoke. Mrs. Kisselback said marijuana is rising faster in places where drinking is staying the same. There is a big spike this year in Saratoga Springs. We did a

focus group, and kids stated it is easier to get, and you can buy it in smaller quantities. She said they thought they would see an increase in prescription drugs, but that didn't come up on their survey. Mr. Castle stated they never get called to the schools regarding prescription drugs. Chairman Waldron stated schools handle things internally without calling law enforcement, but they have to notify State Ed.

Mrs. Kisselback said their SADD groups have been more active this year, and Safe Spring went well.

Mr. Williams said they didn't participate in BUNY, and their DOT checkpoints have netted quite a few infractions. They have seen an increase in cell phone tickets, and the DWIs have been quiet. On June 22nd, the Waterford Police Department and the Library are doing a bicycle safety class.

**** NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann