

County of



Saratoga

## Board of Supervisors

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### SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

January 13, 2014 – 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Andrew Prestigiacombo, Saratoga Springs PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Cindy Dort, Cornell Univ. Ext. of Saratoga; Sheriff Michael Zurlo; Rick Washburn, Rick Castle, Sheriff's Office; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Michael Sharadin, Stillwater PD; Richard Schoonmaker, Galway Police; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Craig Hayner, County Clerk; Charles Foehser, II, Deputy County Clerk-DMV; Stephen Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron introduced Craig Hayner, the newly elected County Clerk.

Chairman Waldron said he wishes Sheriff Bowen a good retirement. He is an outstanding and honorable man. He said he was never once put to voice mail when he called Sheriff Bowen. He was a leader of this County for a long time. He then introduced Michael Zurlo, the newly elected Sheriff. He said he has worked with Sheriff Zurlo on several cases, and he is a nice man to be with. Sheriff Zurlo stated that he is looking for a great working relationship with all of the agencies. He said he is taking baby steps. He said they now have e-mail [Sheriff@SaratogaCountyNY.gov](mailto:Sheriff@SaratogaCountyNY.gov). He said they will have links for all of the police and County agencies. He introduced Rick Washburn, Sr. Sgt., who has been with the Department for 31 years. He said Rick will be attending these meetings along with Rick Castle. He said his door is always open, and these meetings will have full participation from the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Waldron requested the status of everyone's 2013/14 DWI crackdowns. Mr. Prestigiacommo stated they had 21 arrests from December 13, 2013 through January 1, 2014. Half of their crackdowns were grant funded and the other half were routine patrols. He stated their DWI arrests are up by 108 from last year. He mentioned Officer Leffler received the MADD award for 75 DWI arrests.

Mr. Castle stated they had 15 DWI arrests during the crackdown period, and six of them were Aggravated DWI.

Chairman Waldron said they had a couple of DWI's. All of the BAC's were above the .08.

Mr. Murphy stated the next crackdown will be for the Super Bowl January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. He said after the meeting, he will go through all of the 2014 allocations.

Chairman Waldron reminded the agencies to get their vouchers in. He said everyone should have received notification about their STEP money awards.

Chairman Waldron announced the next Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Conference will be held at the Albany Marriot on Wolf Road on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Waldron said there are not a lot of people doing DRE training because they have to travel as far as Arizona for two weeks. Mr. Prestigiacommo said he submitted an application for one of his men, but he was not accepted. He said he talked to someone who said most applicants came from down state.

Mr. Campion said on behalf of the DA's office, they would like to continue to increase their good working relationship that they have had with the Sheriff's Office. He said DRE training is a numbers issue. There has been an increase of DWAI arrests, and once an arrest is made, a DRE is not available. He said defense attorneys know about DRE evaluations. He said they are seeing an increase in 1198-9's (interlock ignition device). Mr. Castle asked if there was a requirement to give anything back to the court saying they had the device installed. Mr. Campion stated most people tell the court they do not own a vehicle. The court, therefore, says the person is still subject to the condition.

Mr. Castle stated they were approved for a Homeland Security grant to purchase a robotic total station.

Mrs. Dort stated the Child Passenger Seat Technicians recertification training will be held June 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> at State College. It is imperative to have technicians recertified. She said there are nine fitting stations now in Saratoga County which is taking a load off of Cornell.

Mrs. Dort stated the Alive at 25 and Distracted Driving classes are booming. The Alive at 25 classes are filled each month for people 16 – 25 years of age convicted of a traffic violation – fleeing police, speeding tickets, DUI's and some drug issues. We had capped the classes to 20 people, but we are inching up to 25. She said they have not seen repeat offenders. These classes are held at Cornell (County Building #5). She said the Distracted Driving class is for any age point violation which is a two-hour class held once a month. We were doing 25 – 30 people, and they will probably have to increase this 40 - 80 monthly. She said they will need additional resources to teach this, and she is hoping the Sheriff's Office can help with this. She said the ADAs and Judges are finding this beneficial.

Mrs. Dort said she was able to do a couple of spots with the D.A. last week on TV talking about texting while driving for 21 year olds and under and making it a year loss of license. She said she is pushing this for everyone. Chairman Waldron said at least Saratoga County is proactive alerting people of the dangers of texting and driving. Mrs. Dort said Albany County does the Alive at 25. Most counties are sending their texting violators to the DWI impact panels.

Mrs. Dort stated Warren and Washington Counties' Prevention Council reached out to her asking if we could do something on texting with our simulator in February. She said maybe other police agencies could take some of their resources to them.

Mrs. Dort said she has received over 500 bike helmets, and she would like to hand them out in low income communities with the help of other police agencies, i.e., Jefferson Terrace, Creek & Pines MHP, etc. She said they are good bike helmets that are fitted to the child.

Ms. Stuchin introduced herself to the new people in attendance. She said they continue to have Victim Impact Panels monthly working with a number of police officers. There will be a program tomorrow night in Saratoga Springs. These panels alternate between Saratoga Springs and Clifton Park. They have finished up the 2013 prevention and education with young people in Saratoga County. She stated Safe Spring is a gathering of high school students at Skidmore College, and this will be held Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. She said at the February meeting, she will bring more details on this program and extend an invitation to everyone. She mentioned their education component continues throughout the year in the schools.

Sheriff Zurlo said he hopes to have a deputy in place soon to work with the schools. He said he would have this person reach out to Ms. Stuchin.

Mr. Mahoney stated they have had a number of people on probation charged with 1198-9, but with no DWI's. He asked if that was a finger printable offense. Mr. Campion said he did not believe so; only if it was a DWI.

Mr. Hayner said he appreciates meeting everyone today. He said just let him know if the County Clerk's office can do anything for the agencies. He introduced Charles Foehser, his Deputy Clerk on the Motor Vehicle side.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

Chairman Waldron stated at the next meeting, Mr. Prestigiacomio will be taking over as Chairman. He said it has been a pleasure being Chairman for the last few years.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann