

County of



Saratoga

Board of Supervisors

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SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

November 9, 2015 – 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Carl Zeilman, Emergency Services Director; Frank McGarity, NYS Park Police, Donald Fougere, NYSP; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Ray Cordani, Stillwater PD; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Cynthia Dort, Colleen Schemerhorn, Cornell Ext. of Saratoga, Rich Schoonmaker, Galway PD, Stephen Williams, The Daily Gazette

Chairman Prestigiacomio called the meeting to order.

Chairman Prestigiacomio said he wanted to dedicate this meeting to the memory of Bob Murphy who passed away a couple of weeks ago. He stated Carl Zeilman is the Director of the Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services, and he will temporarily be taking over the STOP-DWI program until things are figured out. Mr. Zeilman stated the County Administrator asked him to sit in on these meetings until a permanent solution is found. He said they are working on a press piece about STOP-DWI over the holidays. Chairman Prestigiacomio said Kelly Cook should have sent out the allotments for the Thanksgiving holiday crackdown.

Chairman Prestigiacomio discussed the following:

There is a webinar series available called Traffic Tuesdays, Checking out Checkpoints on November 10th at 3:00 p.m.

Description: Am I being detained or am I free to go? If you are a law enforcement officer who has recently worked a checkpoint or conducted a traffic stop, you have probably heard this question. More often than not, this question is asked in an attempt to challenge the legality of the checkpoint and the officer's authority to conduct a stop. People who believe that checkpoints are unconstitutional may purposefully come through a checkpoint to

disrupt the operation and distract the officer. They may refuse to cooperate by refusing to answer questions, produce requested documents, or even roll down their window. Due to some recent well-publicized videos purporting to show people how to avoid a checkpoint, these effective high visibility deterrence models now face practical challenges rather than legal ones. The question is often asked, "When can I break the window?" This webinar will look at the legal basis and then the practical application of the checkpoints. When a motorist tries to put up a placard and refuses to open his window or cooperate, officers will know what to do and prosecutors will know how to handle it too. The speaker is Joe McCormack, Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Unit with the Bronx District Attorney's Office and one of the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors for the State of New York. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6568556500984222466>.

The SSPD made 23 DWI arrests since the last meeting on October 5th. SSPD had 5 DWI arrests Halloween weekend. SSPD conducted a DWI checkpoint on Wednesday, November 4th.

Turkey Trot 5K will be on November 26th (Thanksgiving) and Victorian Street Walk December 3rd. Broadway will be closed for a period of time for these events.

Mr. Campion stated they are busy with DWI cases coming in. Their annual DWI training held on October 29th was successful with almost 40 people in attendance.

Mr. Campion distributed a flier on the Saratoga County District Attorney's Office STOP DWI Breakfast to be held on November 12th at 8:00 a.m. at The Factory. This is to recognize and honor those individuals who worked toward combating the destructive consequences of driving while intoxicated and driving while impaired by drugs. This breakfast will recognize the efforts of law enforcement, speakers at the Victim Impact Panels and other professionals who support the STOP DWI efforts. They will also remember Bob Murphy who recently passed away. He said the date for the RSVP has passed, but if agencies have people who would like to attend, just let them know.

Mr. Waldron stated he had an opportunity to work with Bob Murphy for a long time as Traffic Safety Chair, and he will truly miss him. He was an outstanding individual. He said he lived up to everything we valued in law enforcement.

Mr. Waldron stated he teaches Alive at 25 and they had a kid come in the course. After finishing the course, they arrested him on the weekend for strangling his girlfriend, and then the next week he was arrested for DWI and then this weekend, he received another DWI. He said how fast in succession these arrests happened. He said he read an article on the heroin problem in Ballston Spa. He said they have had a lot of heroin issues. It is an epidemic when it comes to heroin overdoses. They just reached out to Christian Charities, and they brought in 10 more packets of Naloxone for them. He said a kid from

Mechanicville went to Schenectady to pick up some stuff, he overdosed, and now he is on life support. He said they have a big problem with heroin.

Mr. Dupras stated it was a pleasure to work with Bob Murphy. During his short time here, Bob took him under his wing, and he was very helpful, and he will be sorely missed. He thanked the agencies who came to Bob's services. His family was very pleased with the police presence there and the professionalism of all of the agencies. He also thanked the agencies that showed up for the services.

Mr. Dupras stated they had 15 DWI's since last month's meeting. He mentioned on Halloween weekend, we lost a Skidmore student due to an intoxicated driver. This is why we have these meetings and continue to step up enforcement.

Mr. Dupras stated the Sheriff's office did the Toys for Tots with over 400 motorcycles going through Halfmoon and Clifton Park. Several deputies were in the procession. Their event is taking place on November 29th starting at Shenendehowa and departing at 10:00 a.m. and going up to Malta where the toys will be unloaded into a tractor trailer. Lineup will be 9:00 a.m. at the Shenendehowa Campus. They are expecting 200 vehicles this year which is double from last year. The Sheriff is really promoting this program. Anyone who is interested can contact them to get into the convoy. It is a great program. The Sheriff is seeking 19,000 toys.

Mr. Dupras said a few weeks ago SSPD, Mrs. Dort and they did a car seat check. News Channel 6 showed up, and they said it was the busiest checkpoint they have seen. He said he is glad the program is well received and they will continue to do it once or twice a month until no one shows up. Sometime during the first week in December, they are planning to be at the firehouse in Edinburg to offer their services.

Mr. Dupras stated they continue to support the Alive at 25 and the Victim Impact Panels. They have assigned new deputies who are interested. They also did the Regatta on Saratoga Lake. There were 10,000+ people there, and there were no issues. There was a lot of traffic, and it was a great event.

Mr. Cordani stated they had one DWI. They were involved with a press conference for domestic violence, and it was pretty successful. They collected about 4,400 phones since they started this.

Mr. Cordani said DeCresente Distributors wants to start collecting Toys for Tots. They will have a motor rig and will be participating in the convoy. Mr. Dupras said this is great and to give him a call.

Mr. Mahoney said the police presence at Bob Murphy's services was very impressive. Everyone had good things to say. May he rest in peace. He mentioned the boy from

Skidmore who was killed was from his hometown in Massachusetts. He did not know him, but his mother did. He said she went to the services, and this was devastating. Skidmore brought two buses over there. It was a tough loss for everybody.

Mr. Mahoney said his Director asked him to talk about an initiative called the Roadside Stop. This began in 2003, where a police officer pulls someone over, the name is run through DMV and it is channeled through DCJS. If it's a probation case, the officer could call the probation officer to tell him he had contact with a person who is on probation. It didn't mean an arrest was made but that it was just a contact. It could have been due to a curfew, a person was in the neighborhood where the victim lived, etc. In 2015, that started to happen electronically. The officer will check the probation inquiry box, and Probation will get an e-mail right away. The Executive Deputy Commissioner of DCJS, Michael Green, sent a letter to police chiefs across the State. What he is trying to get across is that only about 20% of these stops are getting to Probation because of the absence of technology with the police department or the vendor. Vendors and Probation are all working together with the police agencies so that they get 100% of these stops. Mr. Waldron said one of the objectives was to get Probation more involved, and when he was President of the Chiefs, he did that. He had a meeting with Bob Macarone, and they put in that all domestic violence forms be mailed directly to Probation. Every agency mails to Probation, DCJS and the D.A.'s office, because they found they were missing a lot on probationers who had domestic violence instances not getting to their probation officer. This same thing is now working on the vehicle and traffic stops. Mr. Mahoney said it is requested that the police agencies work with their IT vendors to add the notify probation checkbox to the functionality of their mobile data terminal systems. This gives them a lot of information on their probationers' roadside stops. There is a condition where if probationers have any contact with law enforcement, they are to contact Probation within 24 hours. Chairman Prestigiacomo asked if this was through TRACS, and Mr. Mahoney said it is through the e-justice portal.

Ms. Stuchin stated last week they held a Narcan training for law enforcement at the Pine Knolls Church in South Glens Falls with 20 people attending. If people are interested in getting law enforcement trained on Narcan, it is a two-hour training. The program for the public is about a half hour to an hour. They run on-going trainings once a month, and there is one this afternoon. She distributed fliers on the dates for this free training for Heroin/Opioid Overdoses Prevention which is held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library. If there is an interest for training for law enforcement, please contact her agency at 581-1230, ext. 3632.

Ms. Stuchin stated there is a VIP program tomorrow night in Ballston Spa at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Stuchin advised Mr. Zeilman that they do drug and alcohol prevention, and they are funded through the program that Bob Murphy had managed.

Mrs. Dort said there are no words to describe the relationship she had with Bob Murphy. It was full of bantering, but they loved each other, and she will truly miss him.

Mrs. Dort stated that the 2015 GTSC grant report was just done. Saratoga County checked 1,611 car seats; gave away 446 car seats to families that met the low income guidelines; gave away 212 car seats to families that didn't meet the guidelines, but the seat was wrong at the time of the check; distributed over 600 bicycle helmets to families in need with the help of the Sheriff's Dept.

Mrs. Dort said the Sheriff's and she were at the Navy plant, and they did a DWI program with all of their employees. They had the fatal vision goggles and all types of activities. She said they have a three day teen driver program set for the Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs High Schools this year. They are working on other dates for other schools.

Mrs. Dort introduced Colleen Schemerhorn who is her new assistant and the Administrative Assistant at Cornell. She is a car seat technician, and she will be able to give 30% of her time to some of their programs that she runs. She said if she is not in the office, you can talk to Colleen.

Mrs. Dort stated the Saratoga County Crisis team is working with Skidmore to offer some crisis intervention services to the students going forward. They have the traveling grief library, etc.

Mrs. Dort said the Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night at Cornell is all set. They have a new speaker from the Sheriff's Dept. There are more and more deputies being trained which is good. They will be doing the alco sensors as well. Ryan, the new speaker, is bringing the Explorer Program with him. He also works with her at Alive at 25 and Distracted Driving, and he is bringing the Explorers to them which is exciting. She said last month, they had a girl come to the class who was the cousin of Noelle Johnston. When we did the presentation with Noelle's mom speaking, she ran out of the room crying, and we did not know why until after. She said this girl found her on Facebook and thanked her for that class, and she stated she would sit through that class again just to make sure what happened to her cousin never happens to anyone. She said hopefully they made a difference.

Mrs. Dort stated she will be going to the Bronx in December for a three day training in Defensive Driving so that she can teach that course that is recognized by New York State so that people can have their points reduced. She said hopefully after she is trained, she can have a few other people trained. Mr. Waldron and she have been talking about doing some things with that class to make it so that it can be used instead of doing it on line.

**** NEXT MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 7TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann