

**SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING****April 11, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiaco, Saratoga Springs PD; Wes Carr, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Frank McGarity, NYS Park Police; Leonard Fornabia, NYSP; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Cynthia Dort, Cornell; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Tim Williams, Waterford PD

Chairman Prestigiaco called the meeting to order.

Mr. Carr said for the crackdown grants, he is waiting for signed vouchers from Ballston Spa, and then he will be able to process that. For the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown, he has everything from Stillwater, Saratoga Springs, Waterford, and the Sheriff's Office, and he received Mechanicville's today. He said if anyone else is going to claim, get the claims in as soon as possible.

Mr. Carr stated he received an e-mail from his State Association dated March 28<sup>th</sup>, that the GTSC funding that has been awarded to administer the crackdown grant in the past is no longer available. We will be finishing this grant up with the Labor Day Crackdown and that will be it. He said the short explanation was that there was a surplus of impaired driving prevention funding that needed to be spent down, and that has been accomplished. He said he has a State Association mid-year meeting at the beginning of June, and he should have more information at that point. The STOP-DWI Foundation is going to submit a request for \$500,000 in the event funding does become available. If that is the case, we may be able to resurrect something like the crackdown funding.

Mr. Carr said the Safe Spring Conference was held at Skidmore on March 17<sup>th</sup>. He has received quite a bit of feedback, and he will be following up with Ms.

Stuchin and her staff to review how this can be made bigger and better for next year.

Mr. Carr stated 10 school districts have applied for After Prom funding for funding of their activities. Due to changes in the policies and procedures for Saratoga County, we no longer need a contract with these groups, and they do not have to provide a certificate of insurance which will cut down on the red tape.

Mr. Carr said on Friday, he attended the Albany County Law Enforcement Evaluation Committee which is similar to this committee. He stated that he plans on attending these as often as he can.

Mr. Carr stated for the STOP-DWI Night hockey game at the Glens Falls Civic Center, due to Matt Coseo's efforts and the crew he is involved with, Saratoga Eagle Distributors (beer distributors) have donated \$200 to this STOP-DWI program. He will be discussing with Mr. Coseo how he wants to see this money allocated.

Mr. Carr said there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night at the Clifton Park town court. He mentioned 57 people have signed up which means there may be 85 people there.

Chairman Prestigiacommo stated the SSPD made 22 DWI arrests since the last meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Prestigiacommo reminded the agencies that receive PTS grant funding from the GTSC, there are four enforcement waves coming up. Two are optional and two are mandatory:

*"U Drive, U Text, U Pay" National Distracted Driving Enforcement Initiative, April 8 – 13.*

*"No Empty Chair" Teen Driving Safety Initiative, April 18 – 22*

*Operation Safe Stop, April 21 (mandatory)*

*Buckle Up New York, May 23 – June 5 (mandatory)*

Chairman Prestigiacommo reminded agencies that receive any type of GTSC grant funding, the semi-annual mid-year report is due Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Prestigiacommo stated the Empire State Law Enforcement Traffic Safety (ESLETS) Conference will be April 21 and 22 at the Radisson Riverside

Hotel in Rochester. (Registration and deadline was April 8). He said he will be attending this year. This is a free conference, and most meals are paid for and there are discounted hotel rooms.

Chairman Prestigiaco said there has been an issue with local agencies with people coming in stating their license plates have been lost or stolen. For our jurisdiction, we give them the MV-178b; the lost/stolen/confiscated plate receipt. If they don't know where they have lost it, they can contact NYS DMV Insurance Services at 474-0700. They can work it out with them. He said this is becoming all too common at their front window. Some people claim the plates were lost out of state.

Mr. Campion stated they continue to be very busy in the DWI Unit with cases flying in every day. He said DMV's Tickets Encompass program used to be restricted only to prosecutors, but now DMV has opened the program to the court system. This program is a 10 year look back for an individual's driving history. If someone received three Parking on the Highway with no point violations, that would not have shown up on the original abstract. Now that shows the original charge and what it was reduced to. Now we can see the driving history and that is reflected in the plea bargains. It also shows the pending charges as well. Some computer systems may not have access to that as yet.

Mr. Waldron said they have been participating in Distracted Driving. Since the last meeting, they issued 183 tickets, and they had three DWI's. This morning, they had a DWAI trial, and the person came in with alcohol on her breath. She decided to plea down since she was slurring her words.

Mr. Dupras said last month, there was a DWI who showed up at the VIP. Three showed up who were drinking, but only one was arrested. Since last month they had 11 DWI's; one DWI/drug arrest; three DWI's for the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown period.

Mr. Dupras announced that Sgt. Morley, of the Sheriff's Office, received the D.A.'s Office Public Service Award which encompasses his participation in the Victim Impact lectures.

Mr. Dupras stated they will be participating in the No Empty Chair.

Mr. Dupras said they have two deputies who are completing Phase I of the DRE this week. Hopefully, they will get through the whole program and they will be available to everybody.

Mr. Dupras stated they, along with Mrs. Dort, will be having a car seat check on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Milton Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Dupras said with the lost plates, if they are not lost and are really stolen, his concern is that if someone is driving around with it, that is why they do a report because if they run the plate, it will show stolen or missing through the Sheriff's Office. He asked if DMV actually puts it through the system. Mr. Fornabia said he will be looking into it. Mr. Dupras said they do a report all of the time.

Mr. Fornabia said they participated in the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown and they are currently participating in the Distracted Driving enforcement. They will be participating in Operation Safe Stop.

Mr. Williams said they had eight DWI's last month. They will be participating in the upcoming traffic safety initiatives. He mentioned as he was doing the PTS grant for 2017, he noticed the deadline was May 1<sup>st</sup> rather than May 15<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Prestigiacomio said he believes he mentioned that at the last meeting.

Mr. Dupras stated the Sheriff's Association has done away with all block grants. With Mrs. Dort's grant, they have done away with all of the equipment. He said he is writing their own grant this week because they are disallowing the block grants. Chairman Prestigiacomio said he noticed they didn't want the Traffic Safety Board signature. Mrs. Dort said they are going to e-mail it to him. Every Traffic Safety Chair will receive an e-mail on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. You will approve or not approve.

Ms. Stuchin stated they are doing outreach for education with young people and parents around underage drinking and drinking and driving. She said they are bringing that message to a number of health fairs. She said they will be putting up some billboards throughout the County reminding parents not to provide alcohol. She stated that research discloses that kids are getting alcohol at home. She mentioned they have school events, after prom, and graduations.

Ms. Stuchin distributed copies of an article from The Saratogian on "Designated driver service transports riders, their cars home safely." She said this is an operation in Saratoga Springs that will transport riders home in their car and someone follows them with a car to bring them back. It states that mostly every customer has been a double user and some call on a daily basis. Mrs. Dort stated there are some concerns that if a person returns home and

their vehicle is there, they may get in and drive. She said Saratoga Springs is so big, and this is only one or two guys driving. She said we should give them kudos for trying.

Mr. Mahoney stated they have had four or five aggravated unlicensed arrests. He said they have a roving home visit operation, as people are driving who shouldn't be. Some of these people will never get their license back.

Mr. Fornabia distributed copies of the updated SPAC calendar. He said since the last meeting, they had 3 DWI's; 3 DWI/drugs and 97 speed issues.

Chairman Prestigiacommo stated Ray Cordani from Stillwater PD could not be here today, but he reported that they had one felony DWI after the St. Patrick's Day Crackdown period.

Mrs. Dort stated she attended the Crime Victims' Rights vigil yesterday. She said she also wanted to congratulate Dan Morley on his Public Service Award. She said he is a good speaker at the Victim Impact Panels. She said the vigil was well attended. She would have like to have seen more law enforcement presence there, as it is a time where families could use that visual from law enforcement. There were a lot of victims from Saratoga County there. She said Kerry Liedel's family met Dan Morley there for the first time who was the Sr. Investigator at that crash. She said it was very emotional.

Mrs. Dort stated there is a car seat check planned for September at New Country Toyota in Clifton Park. She said this will be another big one – Seat Check Saturday. She said a date has not been narrowed down as yet.

Mrs. Dort said she received the mid-year numbers for the car seats: In Saratoga County, 597 car seats were checked; 121 given away to low income families; 33 given away for other reasons other than low income. She stated there are 51 certified car seat technicians in Saratoga County which is amazing.

Mrs. Dort stated for people who need a ride to the CPS Conference, she can take eight after the Victim Impact Panel Tuesday night around 7:30 p.m. Just let her know.

Mrs. Dort said for teen safety, Good Choices Weeks are coming up with the first one at Mechanicville next week Monday and Tuesday; Waterford Thursday and Friday; Shenendehowa May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>; and Ballston Spa May 24, 25 and 26. This year it is Celebrating My Life; Celebrating My Drive. The speaker will be Emma Grace who is 13 years old now. When she was 11, her father was hit by

a speeding driver, and he now has a brain injury. She is a tremendous speaker who will make an impact on the kids on how her life has changed because of someone's careless choice. She said they will have the fatal vision goggles, the golf cart, the National Guard will be there, Sheriff's Dept., Waterford PD, and CBS 6 and the Safe Drive Zone. There will also be State Police and Sheriff activities.

Mrs. Dort stated there was an article in the Post Star stating that Warren County's view is that they are winning the war against drunk driving. They believe their numbers are down. She said she does not know how they are doing it and we are not. They believe their numbers are down and they can cut down on their DWI checks. She said she is trying to decide whether to call them or not.

Mrs. Dort stated for last month's VIP, 116 evaluations were received back. She said the interesting thing they are finding is the majority of attendees were 21 to 25 years old which is not normal. Usually, they are a little bit older. The numbers for when they had their first alcoholic beverage is 14 to 16 years of age (43 of them) and 17 to 20 years of age (69 of them). There were 19 who started using drugs between the ages of 14 and 16 and 24 between the ages of 17 and 20. She stated DWI out ranks any other crime. She said she does not see how Warren County feels they are winning the war against DWI, as it is not showing in Saratoga County. Chairman Prestigiaco stated maybe they will share their success with us.

Mrs. Dort mentioned the Ballston Spa PD, Sheriff's Dept., and Cornell will be hosting a Buckle Up event at the Job Lot parking lot on Route 50. They are working on a date for this Spring.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Pratt