

County of



Saratoga

## Board of Supervisors

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### SARATOGA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2016 – 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Wes Carr, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Ray Cordani, Stillwater PD; Lenny Fornabia, NYSP; Mickey Mahoney, Probation; Janine Stuchin, Prevention Council; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; Cynthia Dort, Cornell; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Brent Dupras, Sheriff's Office; Todd Moulthrop, South Glens Falls PD; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Rich Schoonmaker, Galway PD; ? Ballston Spa PD

Chairman Prestigiacomio called the meeting to order.

Mr. Carr stated the holiday crackdown claims are due in by Friday. He has received a few of them already. He said the Super Bowl crackdown will be February 5 – 8.

Mr. Carr said he had the opportunity to sit in on the Albany County Law Enforcement Evaluation Committee meeting this past Friday in Guilderland which is similar to this board. He said the new Shattered Lives booklets are out, and he has requested them from the State Association Director. As soon as he receives them, he will give them out to everyone. One of the things they discussed was the auto brewery syndrome. There is a case where a woman stated she produces alcohol naturally. He stated that is on the horizon, and he believes down the road, officers will come across people claiming that. Mr. Campion said the reality is legally, she still could be charged with DWI. In that case, she admitted to drinking four drinks before driving. She was still intoxicated. He said just because her

body increased her intoxication, legally he doesn't believe it changed anything. The judge chose to dismiss it based upon the motion that the attorney made.

Mr. Carr stated the Coordinator of Niagara County quoted a newspaper article regarding uncollected fine money. One of the towns in Niagara County, going back to 1985 to 2015, had roughly \$400,000 in uncollected fines. He said he does not know if there is anything he can do with the justice courts in Saratoga County as far as obtaining the uncollected fine money.

Mr. Carr stated there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night at the Cooperative Extension auditorium across the street. He has compiled some preliminary statistical analysis of the VIP demographics, and he will be getting together with the other people involved with coordinating the panels to review this.

Mr. Carr asked Mr. Campion where he would find the number of County DWI arrests County-wide for the past few years. Ms. Dort said maybe GTSC. Mr. Fornabia said they would only be available through 2013. They are supposed to be coming out with a new format any day now, and he could help Mr. Carr through that. He said he has been working with Division Headquarters, and they are supposed to be coming out with an actual real time map which is 30 days behind with crash data. The holdup has been DOT due to liability. They are afraid that if all of these attorneys have access to where all of these crashes occur, they will be sued over problems with the roadways. He understands that they have been able to work through that, and this will coming out within the next six months. For example, you could go on and check October to see how many fatalities there were in the County or State. Ms. Dort advised Mr. Carr that he could check with Linda who just received a breakdown from NITSA Region II, but it could also be a year behind. Mr. Fornabia asked Mr. Carr if he was looking for arrests or crash data, and Mr. Carr said anything and everything. Mr. Fornabia said he would give him a copy of their Traffic Safety Plan which includes Saratoga County. He believes it is just for 2013 because 2014 hasn't been posted because of the new format that is supposed to be coming out.

Chairman Prestigiacomio reported on the following:

SSPD DWI Activity – SSPD made 24 DWI arrests since the last meeting on December 7, 2015. 16 DWI arrests were made during the Holiday Crackdown



period (Dec. 18 – Jan. 3). Notably, Holiday DWI patrols effected additional arrests for possession of crack cocaine, aggravated unlicensed operation and an arrest warrant.

Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Instructor School will be January 12 – 15 at Columbia-Greene Community College. He said he will be attending that.

First Night was a success which included a 5K Race, the activities downtown and the fireworks at midnight.

Mr. Campion said they continue to be busy. He said DMV has renamed the DDP, the Drinking Driver Program, to IDP, the Impaired Driver Program. The press release indicated that the idea was to more accurately describe the scope of the program and to dispel misconceptions that it focused only on drunk drivers, and it's probably due to the increase of drugged driving arrests that they have been seeing over the past couple of years.

Mr. Williams stated they had one DWI during the last crackdown.

Mr. Dupras stated since the last meeting, they had 15 DWI's; three during the crackdown period, one ability impaired by drugs arrest. He said he is sending four deputies to the car seat tech class to add to the four or five he now has. He said the Sheriff is sending two deputies to the DRE class to be certified for the area. They will be going to Florida for the follow up which is the second part of the program. They will also be doing the ARIDE program. He stated they have applied for the Traffic Safety Grant again this year, so they will be continuing in 2016 to be involved in aggressive enforcement regarding seat belts, speeding and cell phone usage. That grant has been approved. He said the Sheriff will be putting on extra patrols for the Super Bowl. He mentioned the Sheriff's Department had 138 DWI's for 2015. Chairman Prestigiaco stated the SSPD ended up with 258 DWI's.

Mr. Cordani stated they have been participating with the Prevention Council and sent an officer to speak on distracted driving and impaired driving to the Junior class at the Stillwater School. It was very well received by the students and teachers, and they invited the patrolman to speak at Skidmore in March.

Mr. Fornabia said they had 35 DWI arrests since the last meeting and 294 accidents with six alcohol-related which is good for the holiday period. He said

they did a UDI detail in northern Saratoga County during the holiday period which yielded one arrest in the Village of Corinth. They had a New Year's Eve sobriety checkpoint, and they didn't have any arrests on that night. They also did traffic details during the holiday crackdown, and overall as a Troop, they ended up with 250 additional DWI arrests between 2014 and 2015. It was the first time in many years that they have seen an increase. He said he hears there will be a class of almost 300 for the State Police Academy. He said a trooper in his office is a senior checker for car seats that can do sign offs. He said he knows Mrs. Dort is getting very busy, and the program is expanding in the County. They are looking to make an Instructor also.

Mr. Mahoney said he received a note from their State Director before Christmas, and they are monitoring 500 people required to use the Interlock Ignition device. The State is looking at the offenders who plead guilty in court and attest that they do not own or have registered a vehicle. Every quarter, they are required to do a DMV check on those individuals to make sure their license is revoked or to see if they have a registered vehicle. In this County, if they catch someone, they have to notify the D.A.'s office or the courts. The good news is they have not had to do that for anyone. That's not to say that they are still getting behind the wheel and driving without a license. He said yesterday, he received a transfer in case from Vermont, and the man has nine priors and four felonies, and he is living in South Glens Falls with a valid New York State license. He said he finds that hard to believe, and he will be checking with DMV. He said as the receiving State, he can impose that he have the ignition interlock in his car.

Mr. Campion said in the Governor's new regulation, the look back is triggered upon the relicensure, so if someone who currently has a revoked license tries to get it back, it will trigger the look back. If that man received his license before the Governor's regulations came into effect, then he would have made it through. If he gets one subsequent, he will be revoked, and that will trigger the look back.

Mr. Fornabia said it would be nice to have a list of Probation's 10 people required to have the ignition interlock, and we divided them up among the agencies involved and we watch them. We could have a press release that Saratoga County is watching these people. We could get a lot of mileage with that. If you happen to catch somebody, it will be all over the news. The 490 other people that see this may think it is done all of the time. It is something to consider. He said people



are telling the judge that they sold their car, and three weeks later they are driving every day. Mr. Mahoney said a couple of counties have received funding to stake out places when they hear a person is driving to work, etc. Mr. Campion said down the road, this is coming, but not necessarily for our County. Mr. Fornabia said maybe if we are not one of the counties, it would be something we could do and tie it into their press release. He said if they do something they want out there, YNN will play it all day long.

Ms. Stuchin said they continue to do NARCAN trainings; they hold them monthly in Saratoga Springs the second Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. at the Saratoga Library, but in March or April they will be moving the program around the County. People have expressed an interest throughout the County. People are overdosing, and it is important to have people in the community out there that can do a treatment while waiting to get into a hospital. It's not really prevention, it's just saving a life and getting treatment to hopefully save a life.

Ms. Stuchin said they have a grant in South Glens Falls specifically dealing with opioids and trying to spread strategies throughout the County. They are also starting a program with the Sheriff's Department to develop a strategy for addressing opioid heroin use and overdose prevention in northern Saratoga. James Norton, who is on her staff, is working with the Sheriff's Department. There is nothing unique about drug usage in South Glens Falls other than they had a community-based coalition, and the grant required them to have that. She said whatever they learn they will try to get throughout the County. The grant is targeting opioid use and effective prevention between 18 and 25 year olds. For the first year of the grant, they had to survey that population. They will start to analyze that data to get a feel for what is going on.

Ms. Stuchin thanked that Saratoga Springs PD for partnering with them in December for the Lights On For Life. If you give the news media a title, they get it out there to raise awareness about drinking and driving especially between Christmas and the New Year and ways to party safely.

Ms. Stuchin said they will be sending invitations out for Safe Spring; their annual youth training. They will be focusing on training the youth in the high schools and their advisors to get back into programming to get kids energized around safety, eliminating drinking and driving in the community, etc. They have some good



training planned. She said it will be more on training and less on the big speaker name.

Ms. Stuchin said she has an article from some colleagues on Long Island talking about why are there more alcohol-related deaths than ever in this country, and we are so focused on other drugs. She said people are showing up at the VIP's who are alcoholics and who are clearly under the influence. There are people with more and more repeated DWI's still showing up, and it confirms what we know nationally; alcohol is killing Americans at a rate not seen in the last 35 years. In 2014, there were 30,000 American deaths from alcohol-induced causes. That is not including drinking and driving and other accidents. The top 10% of American adults who consume alcohol consume a majority of the alcohol in this country drinking 74 drinks per week on average. She said the liquor stores do not stay in business by you and I going in and buying our holiday bottle or monthly bottle of wine or case of beer. The industry stays in business with the people who are sick from this disease. We have a very intensified number of people drinking huge amounts of alcohol. We have created alcohol holidays because so many holidays are getting caught up in alcohol. In trying to change this behavior without getting the context of it, we are kind of missing it. She said she felt this obligation of bringing this background data. She hasn't any more answers. She said when we come here monthly and ask why are these numbers going up, why are we seeing the same people, some of the answers lie in our bigger challenges we face as a nation. Many of our favorite pass times are caught up in alcohol. She stated the crossing point is drinking and driving.

Mrs. Dort stated Campbell Soup has a commercial where a mom is in the grocery store with a child in the shopping cart and one following and school is going to be cancelled due to a snowstorm. She picks up a bottle of alcohol and puts it in her shopping cart to deal with her kids being out of school. She said she wrote to Campbell Soup, and their reply to her is that people want to see what everyday life is like. She stated that is Campbell Soup, an American kind of tradition, promoting alcohol to get you through your children being out of school and home for a few days. She said it is a culture that we are struggling to change. Ms. Stuchin said that is a stretch for Campbell's. Mrs. Dort said we've all seen the trend of soccer moms staying home and picking up their kids from school after drinking wine. Kathy Lee and Hoda are on the Today Show every morning drinking wine. She said that is the culture that we really have to look at. There



are so many stay at home moms. It's the culture that we have to start addressing if we're going to make a difference. Ms. Stuchin requested Mrs. Dort to e-mail her the contact to get a big campaign going.

Mrs. Dort said Chief Waldron, Deputy Mayhen and she will be going down to the National Safety Council on January 26 - 28 to become Defensive Driving Instructors. Hopefully, we will be able to offer a course beginning in March. She will be meeting with the magistrates in February to try to get them on board to send people to the actual class as opposed to on line. That should make a difference in them getting something out of it.

Mrs. Dort stated that Mr. Carr reminded her she left off the BAC from the last Panel. They found from the last Panel that was held, they were able to see that the average drinking age was 40+. They had six offenders there with three or more DWI's. She said with what Mr. Carr is doing with the demographic, what she is doing and what the Prevention Council is doing, by putting this all together, they may be able to target things that they weren't able to before. She said they had to ask one person to leave the Panel, and one got arrested out in the parking lot. He parked in the wrong spot, and when he was asked to move, it was realized that he was intoxicated. Mr. Carr said he had been smoking dope also. He said the man pulled into a Trooper Only spot, and a Trooper stood there watching him.

Mrs. Dort said she did a bike helmet giveaway at Bikeatoga in December for low income families who receive a refurbished bicycle. They gave away about 75 helmets that day to the children in Saratoga County who received one of these bikes for Christmas.

Mrs. Dort said she is running a car seat class March 1, 2 and 3 at the Clifton Park EMS. There are not many seats left, so if you have anyone in your agency you would like trained, get them signed up. She said she will open up the class to 20, but it was capped at 15.

Mrs. Dort said they are scheduled for Mechanicville, Waterford-Halfmoon and Ballston Spa in the Spring for Good Choices Week. They will be doing an Alive at 25 class at Ballston Spa High School on Saturday so that students can obtain a parking permit in September. She said hopefully, other schools will join in on this. She said on the kids' evaluations at the Alive at 25 classes, they said that they wish they had that class before. They feel it should be in the high schools. It's



the same with the evaluations for the Distracted Driving class. She stated they are thinking of ways to do these classes before they are required to go to them. She said those classes are going very well.

Mrs. Dort said at the last Alive at 25 class, there was a girl there for petty larceny. She didn't know why, so when she called the court, they said the judge does not know what to do with the kids. She said she told the girl that she was not there for a driving offense, but it's about making good choices. She said maybe there should be a course for some of the other young people who do not make good choices. She is working with Cornell to see if a course can be created.

Mrs. Dort stated there will be a car seat check at New Country Toyota on Rte. 146 in Mechanicville on February 27th, and she needs every agency that has techs to hopefully send them. It will be held 10 am to 2 pm. If you can't send them for the whole time, a few hours would be good also. She said New York State Central Mutual Insurance is sponsoring this. They have invested a lot for this event. She mentioned New Country gave them 100 clipboards for the Victim Impact Panel. She said if any agency has any displays, they can be put up for that event. She said she will be talking to the Sheriff about doing child I.D.'s that day. She said it will be a great opportunity to reach the families.

Mr. Dupras stated the enforcement crackdown is always done during the holidays, and he is sure that is a State mandate, but maybe we could take extra funding and look at localized enforcement i.e. Travers Day. He said Travers surmounts any holiday we have in this County, and we are not resourcing the funding for Travers which is huge or Dave Matthews or any of these concerts that bring thousands and thousands of people who drink and drive. He stated he'll give back their 8 hours in February, etc. and move that to Travers and some of the huge localized events where we really are stretching it. He said he'd love to run 20 Sheriff cars on Travers, and we would have enough business for everybody. Mr. Fornabia said that could be a coordinated effort between agencies. They did a UDI detail last year during the Dave Matthews Band concert. We were able to take funding that was out there and utilize it specifically for that. He said they have to do so many monthly checkpoints in Troop G, and they could probably coordinate with other agencies. Mr. Dupras said it even affects South Glens Falls and Waterford. Mr. Fornabia stated it affects surrounding counties as well. Mr. Dupras suggested



discussing this at the next meeting to see if there are resources that are not used. Chairman Prestigiacomio stated a sold out show is 25,000, and Travers is 50,000 to 60,000. Mr. Dupras stated it affects the whole weekend. Mr. Fornabia said it is to be expected now when the Americade comes around. We've already put out the message. We have a heavy police presence throughout the event, but we don't nearly have what we've had five years ago.

Mrs. Dort said enforcement is critical, but she is thinking about prevention. Maybe we could have some kind of incentive with SPAC like having the DD identified and they could have free admission. Mr. Fornabia said Live Nation contacted him about having a partnership and they had a partnership with the Connecticut State Police. He sat down with them and they were going to give them banners and free things for a mere cost of \$25,000 to them. It's all about the money. He said Live Nation wanted the NYSP to pay them to be a sponsor. They have zero interest of the safety of the patrons or getting a public safety message out. Mrs. Dort said maybe we could do a press conference with the Park or SPAC itself. Mr. Fornabia stated yes for enforcement efforts. Ms. Stuchin said incentivizing. Mrs. Dort said yes an incentive for those who show up with a DD. Mr. Fornabia stated if we do checkpoints during a big concert, we should let Live Nation know that so they can put it on their website that day for the people buying their tickets.

Mrs. Dort said if STOP-DWI, Prevention Council and Cornell had a meeting with SPAC, it would be in their best interest to save lives. She said we have to keep trying. There must be somebody at SPAC who would listen to us. Mr. Fornabia said Live Nation is a private entity, and they are out to make money. Mrs. Dort said maybe there are some funds through STOP-DWI where we could offer some DD admissions. Is there something prevention-wise to help? Can we do something on the prevention side to make the DD valuable? Mr. Dupras said we actually advertise our checkpoints. That is good prevention.

*\*\* NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AT 1:00 P.M. \*\**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann