

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2008 10:00am

Log Cabin, New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Capt. Warren Shakespeare.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

An attendance sheet was circulated.

III. ITEMS

- a) Year to date crash and fatality update was provided by Captain Shakespeare. Year to date fatalities reflect a 15% decrease (-31). See attached statistical sheet. This is an updated form developed by the FAIU. The Captain reminded everyone that the continuing Holiday enforcement programs as well as educational and awareness efforts are playing important roles in the overall reduction.
- b) LTC Juan Mattos was introduced and commended the participants of the Safe Passage Task Force for their great efforts. He also brought to the attention of all attendees the recent heroic effort by Tpr. Oliveira at the scene of a motor vehicle crash.
- c) Captain Warren Shakespeare reported that the NJTR-1 is about 70% complete as related to the electronic report submission project. A diagraming component needs to be updated.
- d) John Podeszwa, AOC reports that State v Chun has been decided and that, pursuant to that case, the Alcotest is a scientifically reliable instrument. 8-10 thousand cases are stayed pending appeal. Three 1/2 day mandatory training sessions for Municipal Court judges are being held. The training is being provided by the AOC and consists of presentations by DAG DellaQuillo, Sgt. Flanagan, FAIU, Jeffery Gold, Esq. (Amicus to the Court in this case) and Robert Ramsey, Esq.
- e) During the upcoming Memorial Day weekend there will be supplemental patrols, variable message signs as well as the continuance of Click It or Ticket patrols in place.
- f) Travelers Insurance is sponsoring a program on Teen Drivers which is to air on May 9, 9:00pm on NJN.

- g) Captain Shakespeare described a recent DUI / Teen Driver education program carried out at Manalapan High School. Students witnessed a simulated crash and heard from speakers representing Robert Wood Johnson, parents and teens. The NJSP Community Services Unit also provides the services of a DWI FatalVision Program and the NJ Drive Program that educates youthful drivers on the deleterious effects of drinking and driving.
- h) LTC Mattos asked for more efforts to form cooperative opportunities through which to provide the type of information described in (g). Mindy Lazar of MADD offered volunteers to speak at future events.
- i) Suggestions to disseminate training to officers, conduct program advertising and possibly videotaping NJ Drive programs was made by Mike Brunson.
- j) Violet Marrero reported that NJIT is developing a Teen Driving website that will link to the Safe Passage Web Site.
- k) SFC K. Gyongyosi reports that DOT is in the preliminary stages of accepting and reviewing applications for the Red Light Running (RLR) program.
- l) John Podeszwa reported that A709 is in committee. It references enhanced penalties for DWI convictions.
- m) It was announced that the Click It or Ticket Program for FY08 is scheduled for 5/19 through 6/1/2008.
- n) John Podeszwa reports that an electronic ticket project is underway. Standards are being developed to allow private vendors to create applications.
- o) Lt. Robert Parlow reports that NJ continues to face pressure from the FHWA regarding the timely reporting of Commercial Vehicle Crashes.
- p) Captain Shakespeare reports that the Safe Passage Symposium has been adjourned from its originally scheduled date of June 3rd. A new date is yet to be announced. Violet Marrero discussed the possibility of moving the event to the East Brunswick Hilton.
- q) Wendy Burk and the Brain Injury Association is honoring LTC Juna Mattos with the Christopher Scales Memorial Award on 5/15 at the Sheraton, Eatontown.
- r) Chief Parenti offered that the Police Training Commission staffing has been cut to 1 person and that there will be questions of what agency will provide training to law enforcement.

- s) Lt. Crain stated that the Work Zone Safety Training Course and the corresponding on-line training are meant to compliment each other.
- t) LTC Mattos summarized the overall agenda of the meeting by stating that each member of the Safe Passage Task Force should strive to overcome stumbling blocks that may prevent progress in achieving a greater degree of overall highway safety. The suggestion he made was for each member to “keep it personal.”
- u) In a continuing effort to initiate information exchange, attendees are offered the opportunity to highlight new and existing safety activities of their organization.

IV. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- a) The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for 10:00am on 6/6/08 at the Log Cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.