

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2007

Log Cabin, NJSP HQ

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lieutenant Robert Parlow**, Assistant Traffic Bureau Chief, opened the meeting. He informed everyone in attendance that **Captain Shakespeare** was unable to make the meeting do to other obligations. In addition to the meeting Agenda, material distributed to all attendees included the following: 1) cover page of the new Safe Passage link, accessible through the State of New Jersey website, 2) cover page of the Fatal Accident Unit Tracking System (FAUTS), accessible through the NJSP website, 3) up to date, statewide, fatal statistics, 4) Assembly Bill #4195 requiring decal for holder of provisional license, 5) Assembly Bill #4281 requiring rear bumper placard or sticker for holders of permits, examination permits and provisional driver's license, 6) Fatal motorcycle statistical page, 7) Matt Lauer seatbelt article. **Lieutenant Parlow** summarized the Agenda's contents and reminded all attendees that of the purpose and goal of these meetings to reduce crashes and saving lives, should not be forgotten. Lieutenant Parlow afforded the opportunity of all attendees to introduce themselves.

II. TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- A.** Thus far the fatality count for 2007 sees a 18% reduction over 2006 statistics. The 2007 Memorial Day holiday fatality count was six for 2007. A reduction of ten from 2006 (16).
- B. Lieutenant Rinaldi, NJSP**, unveiled Troop E's, **SAFARI (Serious And Fatal Accident Reduction Initiative)** program with a power point presentation. The program consists of a multifaceted strategy involving engineering, enforcement and research. Additionally, education in the wearing of seatbelts is set as high priority. The following fatal statistics explain why seatbelt usage is such a high priority in saving lives:
In 2004, 20% of fatal accidents resulted from ejections, 34% of occupants were unrestrained.
In 2005, 35% of fatal accidents resulted from ejections, 35% of occupants unrestrained.

In 2006, 28% of fatal accidents resulted from ejections, 40% of occupants unrestrained.

Troop E has formed a partnership with **NJIT** in producing a photo enforcement program. Utilizing fiber optics, cameras will be placed throughout the entire length of the Garden State Parkway and will monitor driver behavior, specifically speeding, following too close, and unsafe lane change violations. Warning signs would be posted prior to designated locations. NJIT will mail out warning letters to registered owners - no tickets - no revenue generated. **Sergeant Reinhart** suggested photo enforcement legislation by holding the registered owner responsible for infractions, similar to parking and EZ Pass violations. This method is currently being utilized in other locations throughout the country with positive results.

Educating the public through media outlets in Public Service Announcements (PSA) will be used in sending out messages in simple, clear and concise language.

NASCAR may become involved as driver, **Martin Truex** and crew chief, **Ray Evernham**, who have New Jersey roots and have expressed interest in participation.

Other venues which will be utilized in educating the public include service areas, the PNC Bank Arts Center and the casino areas.

- C. Sergeant Heitmann, NJSP**, unveiled a safety poster designed to educate the public to driving at a safe speed in suggesting that racing is to be left to race car driver professionals on sanctioned tracks and not on the highway and encouraged all attendees to offer suggestions to the intended message.

He spoke of the **Raceway Park, National Hot Rod Association (NHRA), Supernationals** which will be held June 21 - 24, 2007 where the New Jersey State Police Safety Cruiser will be available to spectators in the 'pit' area of the facility alongside the participating drivers and will be handing out public safety reference materials such as pamphlets and posters.

In early 2007 a request to the Attorney General's office was submitted asking to display the poster on a billboard where a local bank offered to defray the cost, however, a response was never received. It was suggested that a meeting be scheduled to designate a point of contact within the AG's office who would be available to field new ideas and offer suggestions to how these can be accomplished.

- D. Sergeant First Class Neil Brosnan, NJSP**, described the **National Safety Council's, 'Alive at 25'** and a handout was disseminated. The program's focus topic is the Graduated Driver License initiative. At the present time there are thirteen, New Jersey State Police certified instructors who were trained over a two day period. The four hour block of instruction they provide is offered to high schools, who unfortunately have had problems scheduling this training due to it's length, therefore, training will take place during the summer months. There will be a meeting June 21, 2007 with the eleven school principals located within the Trenton Diocese in order to introduce this training and make it available in central New

Jersey. At the present time the program is taking place in Randolph, New Jersey. **Pam Fisher, Director, Division of Highway Traffic Safety**, stated that the successful program in Freehold was largely due to the leadership from the top and urged school superintendents to get involved.

The **Community Outreach Unit** within the NJSP is conducting DWI training with newly purchased fatal vision goggles and golf carts. These are stored in trailers and can be made available immediately. The NJSP has a resource of 100 certified, Child Safety Seat Technicians at their disposal.

- E. NJVMC** representative, **Don Borowski** discussed the increase of serious and fatal motorcycle accidents and the reasons involved including the increase of riders during warm weather conditions and the rise in registration figures of these vehicles by both experienced and inexperienced riders.

The NJMVC offers a basic motorcycle safety course at the Sea Girt, National Guard Training Academy and in Egg Harbor from March to November at no cost for 1,000 participants with private training instruction available for a fee. A glaring problem appears when a rider takes the road test on a smaller and more maneuverable motorcycle than what the rider intends to use. A tiered license to address this issue was suggested. Continue education and awareness initiatives. The NJMVC has set a goal to allow all New Jersey municipal prosecutors who must first acknowledgment an agreement, to have access to driver abstract records by the end of the summer.

A committee task force has been established to focus on the current NJ driver license point system which has been deemed, not working and in need of revision.

Seatbelt violations are now being captured in a driver's abstract.

- F. Sergeant First Class Scott Wishart**, NJSP Traffic Bureau addressed the audience by advising that the 'Safe Passage' website is up and running. This site can be accessed by typing in address: <http://www.nj.gov/safepassage> In the future the site will include statistics, meeting minutes, contact information and related traffic links. The site will be expanding as suggestions and recommendations were welcomed.

- G. Lieutenant Robert Parlow** stated that \$450,000 of DOT funds may be available to push forward the Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) for crash reports initiative. A co-location meeting will take place to discuss logistics at the DOT, Bureau of Safety.

Assembly Bills 4281 and 4195 were reviewed requiring holders of special learners permits, examination permits and provisional driver's licenses to require a placard, sticker or decal be placed on their vehicle. If passed, this bill would make it possible to enforce this as a primary violation.

- H. John Dell'Aquilo, Deputy Attorney General**, briefed all attendees on the

current Alcotest 7110 status. He expects a final court decision regarding the validity of the instrument to be made in October or November. Municipal prosecutors have been told not to render pleas but cases are being 'dumped' in order to clear the docket. 7110 statewide training remains suspended while Breathalyzer training is to continue. **Chief William Cicchetti, President, NJPTOA**, stated that there are problems in getting ampules shipped from Canada.

- I. **Adele Kristiansson, The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc.**, offered her business information and urged all to contact her for reference materials including areas in education and enforcement.

III Open Forum

Chief William Cicchetti announced a train the trainer, pedestrian safety course to take place at Rutgers University Police Department on June 13, 2007 in New Brunswick. This program is also being used in Washington state.

Wendy Berk, Brain Injury Association, explained a program for kids where they are rewarded for wearing their helmets. Through this program, police officers reward adolescents with Best Buy gift certificates for being "caught" wearing their helmets. The program is currently being piloted in Ocean and Monmouth counties.

Lieutenant Colonel Juan Mattos, NJSP, put forth a request for DHTS to again organize a 'Safe Passage Symposium' for 2007 and based on the current 18% reduction in traffic related fatalities thus far, **Pam Fisher** agreed. All were encouraged to continue the communication, networking and sharing of resources among all Safe Passage partners.

VI Closing Remarks

Lt. Parlow informed that the minutes from this meeting will be sent out and thanked everyone for coming.

The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for **Friday, August 3, 2007 at 10:00 AM and will be held at the Log Cabin, NJSP Division Headquarters.**