

SAFE PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2007 10:00am

R.O.I.C., New Jersey State Police Division Headquarters

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

Lt. Robert Parlow, Operations Safety Bureau, called the meeting to order.

II. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Attendees around the table introduced themselves, including the agency represented.

III. **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

a) Year to date crash and fatality update.

Lt. Robert Parlow updated the attendees regarding the year to date fatalities. Compared to last year at this time the number of fatal crashes is down 21 which represents a 10.65 % reduction. The total number of fatalities is down 47, representing a 6.57 % reduction from 2006. Data sheet was distributed.

b) Thanksgiving Holiday enforcement period summary.

Sgt. Chris Reinhart briefed the attendees in regards to the Thanksgiving Holiday period enforcement and comparison of enforcement and fatalities over the similar period in 2006. Data sheet was distributed.

c) #77 use update. Issues with cell service provider connectivity.

Lt. Parlow opened discussion on this topic. Issues with connectivity are related to the particular cell carrier, not the receiving system. Received calls are logged in C.A.D. Public should be encouraged to continue using #77 with realistic expectation that officer may not be able to reach the violator for immediate enforcement action.

d) Electronic Data Transfer - William Beans, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT).

Capt. Warren Shakespeare has been advised that the move toward electronic submission of NJTR-1 is moving forward (45% complete.) Pat Ott, NJDOT reports that Hanover Twsp. in continuing a pilot program of electronic reporting.

e) Alcotest progress.

Several significant issues were raised, including; John Dellaquilo reports that AG may approve Alcotest training in jurisdictions in which it has been rolled out. There will be no expansion of training into counties not currently using Alcotest. Lt. Mike Zaleski reports that in Troop "A" the lack of trained breath test operators is causing a critical enforcement dilemma. Robert Pinizzotto, NJSMPA, reports that prosecuting cases is becoming more difficult as the number of states witnesses is increased. The attendees were asked to submit brief summaries of their concerns on the subject to Sgt. C. Reinhart by e-mail for inclusion in these

minutes. (e-mail: lpp5090@gw.njsp.org)

- f) Driver Education Curriculum. Website update.
Mr. Don Borowski, MVC stated that a request for proposals regarding a consolidated driver's education curriculum is being developed. The driver manual is being updated.
- g) Real time driver abstract progress / press release, Robert Pinizzotto.
Mr. Pinizzotto restated his enthusiasm for the benefits of real time access to driver abstracts for municipal prosecutors.
- h) William Margaretta, New Jersey Safety Council, Alive at 25 update.
Mr. Bill Margaretto informed the attendees that the Alive at 25 program is gaining momentum and expanding to interested counties across the state from Atlantic to Somerset.
- i) Graduated Driver's License (GDL) Detail update.
Ms. Violet Marrero, DHTS informed the task force that the Teen Driver hearing are developing a variety of suggestions to assist law enforcement and the motoring public at large in the identification of new drivers.
- j) Work Zone E-learn progress.
Sgt. Steve Ciecwicz, Commercial Carrier Safety Inspection Unit, NJSP advised the attendees that the e-learn program was installed and available for all law enforcement, statewide, on the njlearn portal. It was brought to light that this is a refresher course and is not to be substituted for the original four hour block of in person instruction that results in certification to oversee highway work zones.
- k) Traffic Safety Engineering Forum report. Sarah Weissman.
Ms. Weissman reported that the forum was a resounding success, well attended with positive feedback. She has plans to expanded the sharing of each agency information with others next year.
- l) Chiefs Challenge. Chief John Coyle.
Rich Maxwell, Colts Neck PD reported for Chief John Coyle that the 2007 Law Enforcement Challenge application is available.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) H.A.L.O. - DSG Dawn Dalrymple, Victim Services Unit

DSG Dalrymple addressed the task force regarding the issue of notification to next of kin of persons involved in serious or fatal crashes, or other emergency situations. The concept stemmed from a call to the Operations Safety Bureau Chief from the parent of a young driver who was killed in a crash and felt that the

notification process was extremely impersonal and traumatic in itself. DSG Dalrymple developed a Help And Locate Order (HALO) card that could be kept with a drivers license and would contain information for use by anyone needing next of kin information. The .pdf file to print this info card will be made available on the Safe Passage web site. For greater exposure and use of the program it is recommended that MVC explore a way to make this information connected to a person driver's license number. DSG Dalrymple will collaborate with Mr. Borowski, MVC and report on further progress. Mr. Gerald Plante, Subaru, reported that this is an important safety issue that should be a concern of the task force, and reported that the ITS World Congress will most likely report on this subject at their November 2007 summit in NYC.

- b) A.B.C. Underage Enforcement Detail - Lt. Michael Zaleski, Troop "A" Traffic
Lt. Mike Zaleski reported that the Troop "A" Traffic Office has undertaken to combat instances of the sale of alcohol to minors in four counties across the Troop area. This is due to the number of licensed establishments within the area of primary law enforcement for the Troop. As a result of 46 undercover operations, 219 persons were arrested, 231 ABC violations were issued, 3 DWI arrests were made along with other criminal matters that arose.

V. **OPEN FORUM**

- a) In a continuing effort to initiate information exchange, attendees are offered the opportunity to highlight new and existing safety activities of their organization.
- b) The following topics should be prepared for discussion at the next Safe Passage Task Force meeting;
 - 1) Training of DREs and preparation for trial by arresting officers/troopers. The ADTU will be invited to present and respond to questions, as well as help the task force understand the hurdles that are being faced in this area.
 - 2) The notification process for Troopers to attend municipal court will be addressed.
 - 3) The process for municipal prosecutors to obtain discovery for traffic cases will be discussed.
 - 4) Goals for the Safe Passage Task Force in 2008

VI. **CLOSING REMARKS**

- a) The next Safe Passage Task Force meeting is scheduled for 1/11/2008, 10:00am at the Log Cabin..