



SAFETY OVER SPEED

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO TRAFFIC SAFETY

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop creative and innovative approaches designed to address and reduce the serious issue of speeding and reckless driving to protect all citizens of our community.

Safety Over Speed Coalition Meeting Minutes January 13, 2010

Sergeant Dow called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. This meeting was conducted in the Lafayette Room at City Hall.

Attendance: David Adams, Cumberland County Schools
Chief Tom Bergamine, Police, City of Fayetteville
Jackie Blue, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Captain Kenneth Eaker, Police, City of Fayetteville
Dianne Grumelot, Cumberland County Schools
Joe Hafner, XVIII Airborne Corps, Accident Investigations
Assistant Chief Charles Kimble, Police, City of Fayetteville
Rebecca Lemings, Citizen
Ronald Richardson, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Mercedes Rodriguez, Region 6 Coordinator for Nuestra Seguridad
Kathleen Ruppert, Police, City of Fayetteville
Captain Tom Salmon, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Captain Roger Sullivan, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Jackie Tuckey, Communications Officer, City of Fayetteville
Charles Yates, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities

Sergeant Dow explained that Chief Bergamine was wrapped up in other meetings and would possibly attend the meeting later. Sergeant Dow discussed the statistics comparing 2008 against 2009 (attachment): number of crashes were about even; increase in citations issued in 2009; increase in fatalities.

Sergeant Dow introduced Captain Eaker to the group. Due to recent promotions at the Police Department, Captain Eaker is the new commander of the uniform section of the Operations Support Bureau, Traffic Unit and he can be reached at (910)433-1792.

Sergeant Dow updated the group on the new initiative called Collision Avoidance Program (CAP) that targets educating teen drivers. This program will be implemented this spring (March/April). He also updated the group on the License Plate Readers: this afternoon at 3 pm, a test was conducted with DCI to interface with that system in the near future. Police Department will be coordinating with Mr. Adams to schedule Ghost Out/Keys to Life at two high schools (one in City limits, one in county). Last year we were only able to coordinate one event at Westover High School. This event involves participation from the students/faculty and Mr. Adams will be coordinating with Sergeant Dow to select the schools and start preparation, as it coincides with prom season, coming soon.

Sergeant Dow reported that School Resource Officers have been more visible in the school zones this year and it seems to be having a positive impact. Speed sentry results continue to be posted on the website.

Sergeant Dow commented that the Holiday Special went well this year (Thanksgiving through the end of December) in the shopping areas and Lieutenant Owen reported in a press release that there was only one armed robbery. New Year's Eve event at Festival Park also went well. Police Department had extra officers working, with 6-7 working at Festival Park. Patrol began working new shifts (8 hours) the first of year to allow for more cross-training.

Legislative Committee: No one available to comment.

Marketing/Promotions Committee: Jackie Tuckey discussed the "Pedestrian Safety" flyer. Police Department will make copies to disseminate when the flyer is complete. There was some discussion about adding some wheelchair safety information/picture to the flyer. Mr. Yates/Ms. Blue will contact Jackie Tuckey to coordinate that effort and Jackie Tuckey will bring proposed flyer to next meeting.

City/Military Relations: Mr. Hafner reported that there are no current projects. Sergeant Dow indicated that defensive driving classes are conducted at Fort Bragg on a weekly basis. Mr. Hafner stated that 2nd Brigade will be deploying to Haiti for humanitarian efforts due to the earthquake, and since 1st and 3rd Brigade are already deployed, Fort Bragg will be "empty" for an undetermined period of time. Fort Bragg assisted with the recent fatality on Pamalee Drive.

At approximately 4:30 pm, Chief Bergamine and Assistant Chief Kimble joined the meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Richardson distributed ADA standards regarding "handicapped parking" to the group and shared his recent experiences during the holiday season when parking at Wal-Mart and Sam's. Mr. Richardson indicated that officers are mistakenly indicating that patrons with a handicap placard can park in areas they should not be parking in. Sergeant Dow stressed that we can enforce if posted correctly. It was also mentioned that parking lots managed by parking companies/businesses have a mutual understanding with the Police Department to enforce and write tickets. Sergeant Dow indicated that the Police Department will send an email to remind/educate officers about the proper procedures for issuing tickets for handicapped parking.

Sergeant Dow explained that he would like to see the Safety Over Speed Committee set some goals for 2010, take a look at the current subcommittees and make any adjustments needed. Chief Bergamine echoed that idea; however, expressed the need to keep budget concerns in mind.

New laws went into effect December 1, to include "no cell phone usage while driving". Question was asked about tracking those types of violations. Sergeant Dow indicated that we cannot track those violations on the current RMS system; however, we'll be receiving a new system in the near future. In the meantime, Chief Bergamine will instruct supervisors to send an email of those types of violations to Captain Eaker to track.

Ms. Jackie Blue's safety slogan for cell phone/texting usage while driving was again mentioned. It was suggested to add it to the website. Jackie Tuckey will work with Ms. Blue on this issue. Ms. Rodriguez loved the "Pedestrian Safety" flyer and would like to see something similar to educate the public about "cell phone usage and texting while driving". Sergeant Dow indicated that those would be great goals to set at the next meeting.

Ms. Lemings commented on the efforts regarding the third lane on Reilly Road. Neighborhoods notice the efforts and it was discussed at the community watch meeting last evening.

A proposed schedule was distributed with meeting dates 4 weeks, 6 weeks and 8 weeks apart. A decision was made to adopt the six weeks calendar for 2010. A copy of future meetings is attached and will be posted on the website.

Sergeant Dow adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Continue progress on programs and provide updates
- Select schools for spring "Ghost Out/Keys to Life" programs
- Instruct supervisors to notify Captain Eaker of violations of new laws
- Educate/remind officers of handicapped parking violations

ALL

- Committees continue to meet to pursue action plans to support overall goals and objectives
- Set goals, consider joining a subcommittee

PLEASE e-mail Kim Gardner at kgardner@ci.fay.nc.us to notify when committees are scheduled to meet.