



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 14, 2009

Chief Tom Bergamine called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Attendance: Chief Bergamine, Chairman
David Adams, Cumberland County Schools
Sergeant Dow, Police, City of Fayetteville
Dianne Grumelot, Cumberland County Schools
Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg
Chief Deputy Paul Hinson, Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Arthur LaSelle, Citizen
Rebecca Lemings, Citizen
Inv. Troy Looney, Fort Bragg Traffic
Mercedes Rodriguez, Citizen
Kathleen Ruppert, Police, City of Fayetteville
Captain Tom Salmon, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Captain Roger Sullivan, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Lieutenant Jason Tatro, Fort Bragg Traffic
Jackie Tuckey, Communications Officer, City of Fayetteville

Chief Bergamine asked Sergeant Dow for a safety statistics update. Sergeant Dow distributed Traffic Stats 2007 v. 2008 (copy attached). While there was an increase in crime for the year, there was a reduction of 38% in fatalities. Also noted was the fact that this amounts to a 60% reduction in fatalities over the past two years.

Traffic Unit has amped up efforts at Fort Bragg and have made presentations to approximately 5,700 soldiers. Traffic Unit recently applied for a grant requesting two driving simulators to target 18-25 year olds at area high schools and Fort Bragg. We're hoping to have results by March whether or not we'll receive this assistance from the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety. Citations continue to be up; however, numbers can't be provided at this time due to some technical difficulties with the computer. Traffic Unit (seven officers) issued 13,000 tickets this year. We continue to use the speed sentry signs (8 total) and the results are posted weekly on the BetheBadge.com website. We are still actively using the SAM mannequins. Two additional Civilian Crash Investigators scheduled to finish training and be on the road in the next few weeks.

Chief Bergamine mentioned the emphasis on increasing the number of Community Watch Groups to get the community involved and have citizens take ownership for their neighborhoods. Community Policing requires a partnership.

There was some group discussion about speeding in neighborhoods. A question was asked about the consequences of violating the speed with a speed sentry sign. It was noted that tickets are issued and when offenders attend Traffic Court, there are required to attend traffic safety courses for 16 hours (which involves the Alive at 25 program). Another suggestion was to contact the district commander when experiencing problems. Chief Bergamine shared that in 2009, more emphasis will be placed on high visibility in neighborhoods, to include: bike patrol and foot patrol. Of course, the needs will have to be prioritized.

Some upcoming concerns: closing of the Morganton Road Bridge next week. The bridge will be closed for 11 months. Police Department will be watching that area closely to monitor traffic issues. A major challenge will be the 295 Bypass. If it doesn't happen, it will cause a detrimental effort on traffic in the Fayetteville/Cumberland County area. Bragg Boulevard projected to close in 2011 for safety reasons on the military installation.

Legislative Committee: No one available to provide an update.

Marketing/Promotions Committee: Jackie Tuckey reported for the committee. A meeting was scheduled for this committee; however, due to holiday scheduling and sickness, etc. no meeting was held and they're planning another meeting soon. She indicated that due to the present economy, and no money budgeted for SOS, we currently only have one bus banner purchased and being used. Police Department budget has been funding all costs associated with SOS. There was some discussion about the current amount of post cards still available. Originally, 10,000 were printed. Kathleen Ruppert indicated that approximately 2,000 are left. They are distributed at major displays for Crime Prevention, at Family Readiness Group meetings at Fort Bragg, and Community Watch Group meetings.

City/Military Relations: No meeting this past quarter due to holidays. There was some discussion regarding 4 wheel drive vehicle activity on Morganton Road at the dead end to Fort Bragg. Mr. Hafner and the two Traffic Officers in attendance agreed to look into the matter further.

Other Business:

Sergeant Dow indicated that he and David Adams, Cumberland County School System have been working together to schedule "Ghost Out" programs for two high schools prior to prom season (spring). The plan is to target one school located in the County and one school located in the City. Cape Fear High School and Westover High School are being considered at the present time, since those two schools have experienced situations with their students.

Traffic Court was also discussed. Sergeant Dow reported that 1,700 cases were handled in Traffic Court last Friday. The amount of cases has doubled in one year. City officers wrote 36,000 tickets last year.

Chief Bergamine asked the committee if they thought it worthwhile to pursue pitching to the legislation the need for banning the use of cell phones while driving. The committee felt it was worth pursuing.

There being no further business, Chief Bergamine adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **February 25, 2009 at 4:00 PM** in the LaFayette Room on the 1st floor of City Hall.

ACTION ITEMS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Continue progress on programs and provide updates

ALL

- Committees continue to meet to pursue action plans to support overall goals and objectives.

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