



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

February 25, 2009

Chief Tom Bergamine called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Attendance: Chief Bergamine, Chairman
David Adams, Cumberland County Schools
Jackie Blue, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Sergeant Dow, Police, City of Fayetteville
Darrell O. Fisher, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Dianne Grumelot, Cumberland County Schools
Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg
Sergeant A. L. Hill, NC State Highway Patrol
Rebecca Lemings, Citizen
Donna Moore, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Kathleen Ruppert, Police, City of Fayetteville
Captain Tom Salmon, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Tiffanie Sneed, Police Attorney, City of Fayetteville
Captain Roger Sullivan, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Jackie Tuckey, Communications Officer, City of Fayetteville
Charles H. Yates, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities

Chief Bergamine asked Sergeant Dow for a safety statistics update. Sergeant Dow distributed Traffic Stats 2008 v. 2009 (copy attached). Handwritten note on the stat sheet indicated that 7 of top 10 locations for crashes this month are on Skibo, Morganton or McPherson Church Road. Bridge repair on Morganton Road impacting the traffic in that area, especially on Fridays/Saturdays and Sundays.

Sergeant Dow also reported that speed sentry signs are running strong. Results are posted on the website (BetheBadge.com). Traffic Unit continues to make safety presentations at Fort Bragg to squad level and/or battalion size levels of soldiers (at least one per week) and have talked to approximately 2,000 soldiers so far this year. Traffic Unit is actively using the SAM mannequins in neighborhoods. Chief Bergamine and Sergeant Hill compared notes regarding the number of vehicle accidents experienced on the recent "snow" day.

Legislative Committee: Tiffanie Sneed was welcomed back to the group after maternity leave. No recent action, nothing to report. General Assembly met in January; however, nothing traffic related. Chief Bergamine indicated that he recently had a meeting with Representatives Glazier & Dickson and there was some discussion about "hands free" messaging while driving. The representatives didn't seem to be aware that Fort Bragg has banned those activities on the installation. Also brief discussion regarding new bill for no frame covering allowed around license plates. Tiffanie Sneed commented that if the bill passes, it will become effective on December 1. Chief Bergamine also noted that a report was recently submitted to the General Assembly regarding the impact of Civilian Crash Investigators on staff.

Marketing/Promotions Committee: Jackie Tuckey reported for the committee. Jackie Tuckey and Kathleen Ruppert confirmed that there will be a City of Fayetteville booth at the Dogwood Festival (April 25 & 26). Ideas for the booth include: seatbelt demonstrator and IDLE sign up. Chief Bergamine asked Jackie Tuckey to discuss the GIFT (Government Focus on Transparency) and in accordance with that program, look into adding the SOS minutes to the website.

City/Military Relations: Mr. Hafner reported that after checking into the 4 wheel drive vehicle activity discussed at the last meeting, the 4 wheelers are not getting access to Fort Bragg. Mr. Hafner indicated that two brigades will be deploying this spring; however, not all soldiers from Fort Bragg will be gone at the same time.

Sergeant Dow pointed out that there will be a DWI checkpoint coming up soon (spring timeframe) at a location near Fort Bragg (Bragg Boulevard or Reilly Road – close to gate).

Chief Bergamine indicated that funding has tentatively been approved for the 295 Bypass. There was brief discussion about the impact of the 295 Bypass and the closing of Bragg Boulevard in the future.

New Business:

Chief Bergamine introduced Mr. Charles Yates to the committee. Mr. Yates briefly described the role of the Fayetteville-Cumberland Advisory Council for People with Disabilities (non-profit organization), and introduced the three members who were in attendance with him. He invited the SOS committee to attend one of their meetings and indicated that the meetings are conducted on the third Wednesday of each month at the Kiwanis Recreation Center at 6 pm.

It was agreed between the SOS committee and the members of the Advisory Council for People with Disabilities that more education is needed for citizens. Sergeant Hill from the NC State Highway Patrol shared some information with the group regarding that the North Carolina General Statutes indicate that motorized vehicles are treated as pedestrians; therefore, motorized vehicles must yield to traffic, must travel facing traffic, and if a vehicle approaches, they must get off the road. Many in attendance acknowledged that they were not aware of this. Several suggestions were discussed to include: Advisory Council putting out information on the community channel; Sergeant Hill and Sergeant Dow working together to put out an informational piece to the media; now that CPTV is back up and running, possibly a good resource for running a story. Advisory Council asked if CPTV is closed captioned for the hearing impaired? Need to check with Public Information Officer, Theresa Chance, to find out.

Mr. Yates shared a website (wheelieatholic.blogspot.com) with the committee that provides good safety information. He provided his phone number and it was suggested that he may want to contact Jimmy Teal and see what the procedure is for the Advisory Council to attend Planning meetings. Mr. Yates indicated that he'll provide an update at the next SOS meeting.

Sergeant Hill indicated that with the weather warming up, we'll be seeing more motorcycles on the roads. He stated that he'd like to see law enforcement take a more friendly approach at addressing motorcycle riders/groups to help them understand "safety" from the law enforcement perspective. There was some discussion about there being a place for them to ride as fast as they please, and that's the only appropriate time and place to do that, and of course, they must sign a waiver to be able to do so. Mr. Hafner indicated that Fort Bragg conducted three motorcycle safety courses per week.

Sergeant Dow and David Adams stated that they'll be attending a meeting next week to discuss the "Ghost Out" program for two selected high schools in the spring.

There being no further business, Chief Bergamine adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 8, 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.
- Mr. Yates to provide update from the Advisory Council for People with Disabilities

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