



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

July 8, 2009

Chief Bergamine called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. This meeting was conducted in the LaFayette Room at City Hall.

Attendance: Chief Bergamine, Police, City of Fayetteville
David Adams, Cumberland County Schools
Jackie Blue, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg
Rebecca Lemings, Citizen
Ronald Richardson, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
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

In the absence of Sergeant Dow, Chief Bergamine distributed the statistics comparing 2008 with 2009 and commented on some notes that Sergeant Dow provided to share with the group: accidents are up 6%; also a sharp increase in fatalities; 85% of fatalities are speed and/or alcohol related; fatality on June 12 on Pamalee Drive, driver was not wearing a seatbelt, we had cited him twice this year for speeding; fatality on June 2 on Legion Road, driving a moped while intoxicated, hit a car head on; 246 seatbelt tickets issued during Click It or Ticket campaign; six of the top ten intersections for crashes are still related to the bridge on Morganton (mall area). We received word today that the bridge opening is being postponed from the end of July to October; we will be contacting two high schools in the near future to participate with "Ghost Out" next spring to avoid the complications with

Westover High School in May; Russell Street continues to be a mess due to construction; District Attorney's Office indicates that Administrative Court continues to handle approximately 1,000-1,100 cases per week and all but approximately 100 cases are from Fayetteville Police Department; new license plate reader equipment mounted in two patrol vehicles (part of the Community Wellness Plan).

Legislative Committee: Ms. Lemings reported that they haven't met, nothing new to report. Chief Bergamine reported that the Police Attorney, Tiffanie Sneed is researching recent case law involving breathalyzer readings. All parties have to be present in court (to include SBI lab representative) or the cases are dismissed. Legislature is moving forward with banning "text messaging" while driving; however, officer has to witness it to charge for it. Law enforcement would like to include cell phone usage in the ban as well. Chief Bergamine is making it a policy at the Police Department to prohibit using cell phones and computers while driving.

Marketing/Promotions Committee: Jackie Tuckey indicated that "I Drive the Limit Everywhere" IDLE registration will be coming up again. At the end of July, they will be located at Target. On August 1, they will be located at the National Night Out Kick Off at Festival Park, and in October, they'll be located at Safety Day. Chief Bergamine commented that he'll pursue getting Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) involved as volunteers for these events. It was discussed that August, start of school, is a good opportunity to remind the community of the dangers of "speeding". Next meeting will be a brainstorming meeting to accomplish this goal.

City/Military Relations: Mr. Hafner reported that the 4th of July celebration at Fort Bragg went well. Summer Jam is coming up. Another brigade to deploy soon. 82nd Airborne Division should be quiet. There was some discussion about vehicles going through the checkpoints on Fort Bragg to access the expressway quicker. Chief Bergamine indicated that he'll stress more visibility on the expressway.

New Business:

Mr. Adams reported that the traditional calendar schools open on August 25. Cumberland County Sheriff's Office has assured the School System that more School Resource Officers are equipped and certified with radar equipment. Due to the starting of schools in August, Chief Bergamine would like to invite the SRO commander and discuss more visibility in the zones and surrounding the schools (speeding occurs right outside the school zones after drivers go beyond the boundaries established). briefly discussed a new initiative that the Police Department is working on (license plate readers).

Police Department Public Information Specialist, Theresa Chance, continues to work with IT personnel to get the SOS minutes posted on the website.

Mr. Yates stated he'd like to step up wheelchair/seatbelt awareness. He's spoken with Sergeant Dow about this initiative and will contact him again. Ms. Blue asked for clarification regarding the direction for a manual wheelchair to travel (same direction as traffic, or going against traffic). Refresher training for officers recommended on this topic as well.

Cross walks were also discussed. Fayetteville State University has designated cross walks; however, the students don't use them. Chief Bergamine commented that the same situation occurs in front of the Police Department. There is a cross walk at the intersection and in front of City Hall; however, employees don't use them.

Chief Bergamine adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

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Meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2009:

Wednesday	August 12	LaFayette Room at City Hall at 4 pm
Wednesday	September 23	First Floor Assembly Room at Police Department at 4 pm
Wednesday	November 4	LaFayette Room at City Hall at 4 pm
Wednesday	December 16	First Floor Assembly Room at Police Department at 4 pm

ACTION ITEMS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Continue progress on programs and provide updates
- Contact 2 high schools for “Ghost Out”
- Invite MADD representative to next meeting
- Invite SRO Commander to next meeting
- New policy to prohibit cell phone and computer use while driving

ALL

- Committees continue to meet to pursue action plans to support overall goals and objectives
- Brainstorm for ideas to educate community and remind them of “safety in the school zones”

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