



## **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**

**May 20, 2009**

Chief Bergamine called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. This meeting was conducted in the First Floor Assembly Room at the Police Department because the Lafayette Room was occupied at City Hall (budget hearings).

Attendance: Chief Bergamine, Police, City of Fayetteville  
Jackie Blue, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities  
Sergeant Dow, Police, City of Fayetteville  
Dianne Grumelot, Cumberland County Schools  
Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg  
Rebecca Lemings, Citizen  
Mercedes Rodriguez, Region 6 Coordinator for Nuestra Seguridad  
Captain Tom Salmon, Fire, City of Fayetteville  
Jackie Tuckey, Communications Officer, City of Fayetteville

Chief Bergamine recapped the business discussed at the last meeting, on April 8, 2009. Since the last meeting, the Dogwood Festival has occurred. Chief Bergamine thanked Jackie Tuckey for coordinating the booth at the Dogwood Festival. Chief Bergamine found it interesting that in spite of the good weather, there were many wrecks in the City during the Dogwood Festival. Not sure why exactly, and the accidents didn't occur at the festival itself, but occurred throughout the City. Huge turnout this year: learned some lessons, will be better prepared next year. Chief Bergamine and Sergeant Dow provided a big thank you to Fort Bragg/Mr. Hafner for Fort Bragg's assistance with all terrain vehicles (gators) and the use of the seat belt convincer for the festival.

Chief Bergamine also noted the dates for upcoming North Carolina State Highway Patrol events: Click It or Ticket (May 18 – May 31) and Booze It and Lose It (June 29 – July 5).

Sergeant Dow will be attending the meeting a little later. A copy of the statistics Sergeant Dow provided for the meeting were distributed. Chief Bergamine reported that the bridge on Morganton Road is scheduled to open at the end of July. There is an increase in fender benders due to congestion in the mall area (Cliffdale/Raeford and Skibo tend to become backed up because of Morganton). Chief Bergamine also noted that Russell Street is a mess due to construction. Chief Bergamine reported that Administrative Court continues to handle approximately 1,800 cases per month. The amount of citations being written this year compared to last is roughly the same. It was pointed out that many fatalities this year have been medically related, not alcohol or drug related.

Chief Bergamine also updated the group regarding the "Ghost Out" programs scheduled for Cape Fear and Westover High Schools. The goal of the "Ghost Out" program is to educate students during prom week about the dangers of drinking and driving. The program for Cape Fear High School did not occur this year. The program for Westover High School was conducted on May 14, 2009; however, it did not go well. The school was not ready, the students were unruly. Mr. Morrison and Mr. Adams from the School System were contacted and provided copies of our videotaped activity. The new administrator and the Parks & Recreation Department, Police Department, and others are working together to promote a positive relationship. The Police Department is involved in Badges for Baseball with the Westover Parks & Recreation.

**City/Military Relations:** There was some discussion about accessing Fort Bragg through a fire break, that the gate is ajar. Ms. Lemmings reported that depending on the weather, kids go out there to shoot weapons and "tag" the area. Mr. Hafner reported that there seems to be a problem with contractors working on the new billets. Chief Bergamine indicated that our zone officers will be asked to keep an eye on that area.

Mr. Hafner reported that Fort Bragg provides two debriefings per week for soldiers returning from overseas. Chief Bergamine pointed out that he learned a great deal about military debriefings from a Commander at a Mental Health meeting held downtown recently. Case in point: some behavior that the soldiers are taught overseas spills over to life here at home: overseas they are taught that if they see a dead animal on the side of the road, to speed and get away quickly. Mr. Hafner acknowledged and confirmed that Department of Defense has learned a lot about readjustment and have increased the debriefings to 14 days (used to be seven days) and they start prepping 120 days out.

**Legislative Committee:** No one available to provide an update. Goal remains to increase fees/fines for school zones to match those of construction zones.

**Marketing/Promotions Committee:** Jackie Tuckey had nothing new to report at this time.

When Sergeant Dow arrived to the meeting he provided some additional information. He reiterated that the top 10 crash sites remain around the mall area. He reported that the Traffic Unit has increased traffic specials on week-ends focusing on car clubs and drunk drivers. He informed the group that he continues to update the Speed Sentry data on the BeTheBadge.com website. He announced that there will be a Child Safety Seat class on June 1 at the Fire Academy, Doc Bennett Road.

**New Business:**

Chief Bergamine briefly discussed a new initiative that the Police Department is working on (license plate readers). According to the North Carolina law, we cannot hook up to DCI. We need to send a letter to legislators to change the law. He recently visited New York and discovered that they were able to achieve this by grant through Homeland Security. A perfect example of this feature is the patrol vehicles near high tourist areas – Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty. We are definitely interested in enhancing mapping capabilities from vehicles.

Chief Bergamine also briefly discussed his presentation to City Council on April 6. Things we've discovered: due to the increase in population, we need more support personnel. Man hours worked for special events has increased 150% this year. Chief Bergamine encourages officers to get involved with mentoring; however, the busiest times for calls for services and mentoring youth occur at the same time frame. Law Enforcement Recruitment continues to be an issue, not only for Fayetteville, but across the country.

It is being explored to include the SOS minutes on the Police Department website. Theresa Chance, our Public Information Specialist is currently working on that issue.

There being no further business, Chief Bergamine adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **July 8, 2009** in the LaFayette Room (if available) on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of City Hall. Dates were also proposed for the remainder of the year: August 12, September 23, November 4 and December 16.

**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.

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