



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

August 12, 2009

Chief Bergamine not available for this meeting. Sergeant Dow called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. This meeting was conducted in the LaFayette Room at City Hall.

Attendance: David Adams, Cumberland County Schools
Jackie Blue, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities
Sergeant Dow, Police, City of Fayetteville
Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg
Lieutenant J T Morgan, CCSO, SRO Program
Captain Roger Sullivan, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Lisa Vogel, MADD Representative
Nathan Walls, Public Information Specialist (for Jackie Tuckey), City of Fayetteville
Charles Yates, Advisory Council for People with Disabilities

Sergeant Dow started the meeting as a brainstorming session to discuss August 25, beginning of the traditional calendar school year. Lieutenant Morgan commented that the School Resource Officers typically concentrate their efforts inside the schools during the first two weeks of school to prevent disturbances. Sergeant Dow and Lieutenant Morgan agreed to work together to focus on the neighborhoods near the school zones to coordinate efforts to cover more area between the two organizations. David Adams added that the first few days/weeks of school pose serious traffic issues because the majority of parents want to drive their children directly to school, even those who are designated bus riders. David Adams indicated that most of these schools are located in the county and the school system has been working with the principals this summer to handle these issues. The Cliffdale/Reilly Road (Lake Rim, E.E. Miller & Benjamin Martin) area is always a traffic concern as well. Max Abbott experiences traffic issues each year as well. David Adams commented that there are many new principals

in place this year; therefore, it's a learning process for all. David Adams indicated to the Fayetteville Police Department and Cumberland County Sheriff's Office to direct and calls of complaints about school traffic issues to his office. Joe Hafner indicated that Fort Bragg will be handling these issues on base as well.

Sergeant Dow reported on program updates for the Police Department. Two new programs initiated recently.

1) License Plate Readers (LPR's): Received a JAG grant to purchase this equipment (\$18,000 each). We have two purchased on the grant and working on a third in the budget. Sergeant Dow explained that this is very high-speed equipment. Cameras are mounted on the trunk and can read 100 plates per minute. Within the first week of usage, we recovered two stolen vehicles (one at Marketfair Mall and one on Rosehill Road). When the reader scans the plates, they are looking for Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts and or stolen vehicle information.

2) Collision Avoidance Training (CAT): Just got approved last week. Geared towards teen drivers. Also a grant funded project (\$8,500) which includes tuition, first five classes, pays the instructor, and a t-shirt for the participants. Provides 12 hours of instruction: 4 hours of classroom training on Friday, and 8 hours of driving training on Saturday. Designed as a Train-the-Trainer course. Sergeant Dow indicated that he's talked with other organizations that have utilized this program and if it goes over as well as expected, Sheriff's Office will certainly be included in the training and share in the benefits of this project. Crown Center parking lot will more than likely be the training site for the driving portion.

A copy of the statistics comparing 2008 with 2009 was distributed. Sergeant Dow explained that there was a 3.5% increase in crashes; a 6% decrease in citations and an incredible increase in fatalities for unknown reasons. Very strange situations and unpreventable circumstances involved. Ms. Vogel, MADD representative inquired as to how many of these fatalities were alcohol related. Sergeant Dow indicated that amazingly enough, only 5 of the 18 are alcohol related. Also cannot be attributed to soldiers. They involve pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. No explainable reasons.

Legislative Committee: No one available to comment.

Marketing/Promotions Committee: Nathan Walls attended the meeting for Jackie Tuckey. He spoke of the efforts at the booth for National Night Out at Festival Park on August 1; and he discussed the upcoming Public Safety Day on October 10. A booth will also be set up at that event. David Adams also discussed the upcoming "Reading Rocks" event on October 17. Ms. Vogel, Victim Advocate, expressed an interest in participating in these upcoming events and apologized for not participating in the National Night Out event – she wasn't aware that a booth was provided for MADD.

City/Military Relations: Mr. Hafner reminded Sergeant Dow of his interview with the Paraglide newspaper on Fort Bragg regarding the Fayetteville Towing Initiative. If soldiers register their vehicles, and then the vehicle gets towed while they are deployed, we can pull the information and contact the person they have designated to handle in their absence so that the tow bill is not outrageous for them to retrieve their vehicle when they return from deployment. Sergeant Dow and Mr. Hafner agreed to work together for the Police Department to meet with soldiers at the deployment meetings to educate the soldiers about the benefits of registering for this towing initiative. Mr. Hafner indicated that there is only one brigade here at Fort Bragg for the next 12 months; 1/3 of Fort Bragg max.

New Business:

Mr. Yates inquired about a public awareness message regarding “wheelchair safety”. Sergeant Dow indicated that Ms. Theresa Chance is the point of contact at the police department and that we’ll provide Mr. Yates information to Ms. Chance to make contact.

Ms. Jackie Blue indicated that she has developed a slogan/message she’d like to pursue for a bumper sticker, etc. regarding use of cell phones and texting while driving. Sergeant Dow indicated that Ms. Jackie Tuckey, Marketing/Promotion Committee would be the best point of contact that that initiative.

Police Department Public Information Specialist, Theresa Chance, has accomplished getting the SOS minutes posted on the website. If you click on the SOS icon on the bethebadge.com website, you’ll see the minutes, the latest stats, and agendas for review.

Sergeant Dow adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2009:

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”
- New policy for Police Department Employees 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.