



## **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 September 24, 2008**

Chief Tom Bergamine was attending a meeting with Mr. Iman. Sergeant Dow called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Attendance: Chief Bergamine, Chairman (attended later)  
David Adams, Cumberland County Schools  
Sergeant Dow, Police  
Dianne Grumelot, Cumberland County Schools  
Joe Hafner, XVIII Airborne Corps Safety Office  
Arthur LaSelle, Citizen  
Rebecca Lemings, Citizen  
Chris Morey, Fire  
Chief Benny Nichols, Fire

Sergeant Dow explained that Chief Bergamine was tied up and would be attending as soon as available.

Sergeant Dow distributed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Departmental and Traffic Unit Stats (copy attached). Those stats were discussed noting the increase in citations issued, reduction of fatalities (we believe due to the increase in citations issued). It was also discussed that, again we're seeing an increase in the number of crashes, and that is attributed to the fact that all Fort Bragg troops are back in town. Since August 25, first day of traditional school calendar, 214 citations have been written in school zones throughout the city. School Resource Officers have been highly visible and are issuing warnings. David Adams added that grant money is being considered to equip the School Resource Officers with radar equipment so that they can issue citations as well.

Press conference at E.E. Miller Elementary School was mentioned. Good turn out. Stuff the Bus event was discussed and it was noted that when the post cards were distributed at the event at Wal-Mart, some citizens made positive comments about what they had learned, how different North Carolina laws were from other states, and the overall information seemed to be well received.

Sergeant Dow also reported that there has been a recent interest from radio stations wanting to conduct interviews regarding traffic concerns/issues. He would like to see the SOS committee members rotate interviews and discuss how traffic issues affect all areas of the community. This used to be done in the past, and seems to be making a come back.

Kim Gardner shared some information on behalf of Chief Bergamine. 1) Email to all city employees from Greg Schaefer regarding school bus safety in August and 2) page four of "Inside Track" newsletter, September issue, for all city employees that featured an article on the August 12 SOS campaign, as well as another article on school bus safety.

**Marketing/Promotions Committee** update. No one available to provide an update.

**Legislative Committee** update. No one available to provide an update.

Chief Nichols explained that the Fire Department will begin providing updates regarding the medical side of accident scenes at future meetings. He also pointed out that it's not too early to start planning events at the schools for "prom night" safety. Some ideas were discussed and it was agreed that Sergeant Dow, Assistant Chief Morey and David Adams would meet separately and decide which schools, and make some definite plans. Sergeant Dow shared ideas about a national program that works with the Drama Club at the schools for a powerful presentation for the students.

Sergeant Dow deferred to Mr. Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg Safety Office, who reported on **City/Military Relations**. Mr. Hafner stated that the entire 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division is back. Approximately 200 troops from Corps Headquarters are still deployed, due back in seven months. Mr. Hafner shared information regarding a fatality at Fort Bragg on September 14.

Assistant Chief Morey distributed flyers for the upcoming Fall Safety Day. Event is scheduled for October 11, 2008 at Cross Creek Mall. Location has changed from the food court to the Sears parking lot. This location is more visible and we're hoping to attract a large crowd. Fall Safety Day features displays, demonstrations, giveaways, blood drive, music, birthday cake with Sparky, McGruff, Booze Buggy, fire trucks/vehicles, mounted patrol, and various other agencies are involved as well. Ms. Grumelot offered "Buster the Bus" (robotic bus) for the event as well.

Chief Bergamine joined the meeting and there was some discussion regarding cross walks. It was stated that Fayetteville is not "pedestrian friendly". Two incidents occurred last week with pedestrians being struck while crossing major streets. Speed was not involved in either case; however, cross walks also were not being used. It was also noted that some citizens believe that city buses are treated like school buses, causing people to step out into traffic at bus stops.

There being no further business, Chief Bergamine adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **November 5, 2008 at 4:00 PM** in the LaFayette Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of City Hall.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Post cards for Fall Safety Day
- Continue progress on programs and provide updates

**ALL**

- Committees continue to meet to pursue action plans to support overall goals and objectives.
- Invited Rusty Thompson to next meeting

**PLEASE e-mail Kim Gardner at [kgardner@ci.fay.nc.us](mailto:kgardner@ci.fay.nc.us) to notify when committees are scheduled to meet.**