



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

November 5, 2008

Chief Tom Bergamine called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

Attendance: Chief Bergamine, Chairman
Sergeant Dow, Police, City of Fayetteville
Doug Hewett, Assistant City Manager, City of Fayetteville
Dale Iman, City Manager, City of Fayetteville
Arthur LaSelle, Citizen
Chief Benny Nichols, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Kathleen Ruppert, Police, City of Fayetteville
Tom Salmon, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Lynder Serbio, Risk Management, City of Fayetteville
Roger Sullivan, Fire, City of Fayetteville
Jackie Tuckey, Communications Officer, City of Fayetteville
Mercedes Rodriguez, Citizen

Chief Bergamine asked Sergeant Dow for a safety statistics update. Sergeant Dow distributed Traffic Stats 2007 v. 2008 thru October 31 (copy attached). Two fatalities in October; handout describes the scenarios. Chief Bergamine added information for a fatality that occurred on November 1. There was some discussion regarding how many fatalities are alcohol/drug related. Sergeant Dow will bring statistics to show comparisons to the next meeting. Citations continue to be up; however, the amount of increase has gone down because of the various specials the Police Department has been involved with recently, such as, presidential elect visits.

Chief Bergamine mentioned that Fayetteville is not a pedestrian friendly city. Many ideas were discussed and Sergeant Dow shared that we are currently in the process of applying for a traffic grant to deal with driving awareness/safety. Homeless Officer may be a resource to help educate the homeless population. Neighborhood Improvement Team is in partnership with the federal Housing Authority to help educate the low income community. Sergeant Dow indicated that education money is available through grants and may be worth pursuing to increase awareness.

Chief Bergamine introduced Ms. Mercedes Rodriguez to the group. Chief Bergamine met Ms. Rodriguez at a United Way public meeting. Ms. Rodriguez is the local coordinator for El Pueblo, Inc. Ms. Rodriguez provided the group a copy of a grant application for "2009 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative". Deadline is December 5, 2008. Chief Bergamine indicated that the Police Planner will take a look at the application to determine if it's feasible to submit in this short time frame.

Legislative Committee update. Doug Hewett reported for the committee. Tiffanie Sneed out on maternity leave. Mr. Hewett that there are no changes at this time. General Assembly did not cover our proposal in the short session; however, we're hopeful for the long session. He updated the committee on the current goals, and indicated that now would be the time to identify any new issues to be brought up at the long session. The main goal at this time is for the General Assembly to assign school zone fines to match construction zone violations.

There was some discussion about poor and/or no street lighting in some areas of the City and what a safety issue this is.

Marketing/Promotions Committee update. Jackie Tuckey reported for the committee. She indicated that now is a good time to implement a holiday safety campaign. Police Department begins the week of Thanksgiving with holiday specials, increasing presence in shopping areas, changing scheduling to maximize police enforcement for traffic, robberies, motor vehicle break-ins, etc. Chief Bergamine asked Jackie to work closely with the Police Department Public Information Officer, Theresa Chance to keep the public informed and educated about our crime prevention efforts.

Mr. Joe Hafner, Fort Bragg Safety Office, was not present to report on **City/Military Relations**. Sergeant Dow did indicate that Fort Bragg is scheduling safety briefings and "booze buggy" presentations at least on a weekly basis and we're doing our best to accommodate those requests. Sergeant Dow expressed that there's an on-going traffic situation at the Reilly Road gate each morning from 5-7 am. DOT is involved to help with a long term solution for this traffic issue.

Chief Bergamine reported that he had received an email from Ms. Evelyn Blank from the Idaho Transportation Department. Ms. Blank was looking for traffic safety initiatives on the internet and Fayetteville, North Carolina's SOS Committee is only one of three listed for the entire country. Ms. Blank was furnished with copies of the minutes since the start of the SOS committee, as well as IDLE information. Ms. Blank was very thankful for the information.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 14, 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
- Comparison of alcohol/drug related traffic accidents at next meeting

ALL

- Committees continue to meet to pursue action plans to support overall goals and objectives.
PLEASE e-mail Kim Gardner at kgardner@ci.fay.nc.us to notify when committees are scheduled to meet.

Traffic Stats 2007 v. 2008

Crashes

2007 = 10,405

2008 = 10,760

Crashes are up 3% from last year.

Citations

2007 = 27,540

2008 = 30,502

Citations are up 9.7% over 2007.

Fatals

2007 = 17

2008 = 14

Down 17% from 2007.

We had 2 fatalities in October. The first was on the 3rd and occurred at Gillespie near Owen Drive (in front of Waffle House). Dianna Peoples walked out in front of a tractor trailer and lifted her hands as if to try and stop the vehicle. Drugs were a factor. The driver was not charged.

The second also occurred on the 3rd and involved a Derek Anderson and occurred in the PVA of Northgate shopping center on Ramsey Street. Mr. Anderson accelerated his vehicle into a light pole in the PVA. This case has been ruled a suicide and will not count against our state reported traffic statistics.