

Vermont Criminal Justice Council
Traffic Safety Committee
June 17, 2022

Members in Attendance

Lt. Kevin Geno, Chair, Rutland County Sheriff's Dept.
LEL Bill Jenkins, State Highway Safety Office Behavioral Safety Unit
LEL Paul White, State Highway Safety Office Behavioral Safety Unit
Mandy White, Vermont Highway Safety Alliance
Anthony Facos, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles

Other Attendees

John Flannigan, Vermont Police Academy DRE Consultant
JamieLee Bedard, Vermont Police Academy

Meeting called to order at 10:14am

No minutes were taken at the last meeting and there wasn't a quorum to vote at the beginning of the meeting

Old Business:

- Discussion of a standardized drivers education curriculum for Police Officers: the tutorial was for new drivers going through driver's education; was looking for a curriculum for officers to teach/speak about when asked to speak to students. Jay has one for VSP but it hasn't been seen yet – maybe it could be the starting point. Geno to contact Pat McMahon from DMV.
- A.R.I.D.E. courses scheduled and posted on VCJTC Website: ARIDE is scheduled for October 27th & 28th in Essex with Chief Hoague instructing. Unsure if it's on the website yet but it has been requested to be put on there.
- Ideas to reaffirm the importance of highway safety during basic recruit class. Hours found to be sufficient. How do we engage command/administration? How do we develop interest? Biggest concern is to get Officers motivated again after COVID: Jamie will reach out to see if it's possible to get this into the basic class. Discussion surrounding the need for proactive policing, limited resources, priorities from leadership and the need for a clear message. NHTSA came out with a new research study that shows the law enforcement presence reduces crashes but there are conflicting studies.



New Business:

- Any new updates on impaired driving (John Flannigan) New impaired driving curriculum to hopefully come this fall. New ARIDE refresher course from NHTSA is coming before the end of the year; it'll be held online and is self-paced, it should take 3-4 hours. Yesterday there were nine interviews for the September School with at least 6 solid students and 2 holdovers. It'll be a mix from DSA's to VFL chemist. DRE's are currently at their lowest in 5 years. There are currently 41 DRE's with one who is not renewing. The new DRE's are coming from all over including St. Johnsbury, St. Albans, Manchester, and Montpelier.
- Check Point Supervisors Course (Kevin): DUI supervisors course was supposed to occur next Thursday, June 23rd, at 3pm in New Haven but no one has signed up.
- Crash Data (Mandy): 38 fatalities so far this year. There are more drugs (stimulants/cocaine) than alcohol, but the alcohol has had high concentrations. Seatbelts seem to be the bigger issue at over 66%. We've had 9 fatal crashes in the last 17 days. In 2021, at this time there were 24 fatalities. In 2012, at this time there were 37 and that year was a total of 77 fatalities. We are projected to be over 100 fatalities for 2022. Discussion surrounding the tone not being set that traffic is important, there's no deterrence (no tickets). Anthony noted that DMV is expanding the size of its unit to add 3 additional officers who will report to the captain and their dedication will be traffic enforcement. There is the understanding that there's concern over 911 calls getting answered as well.
- How did Departments do during Click it or Ticket (Group): Departments made efforts to participate in it even if it was only a day or two. There were a lot of DUI arrests (92) in a two-week time period. A couple more weeks are needed for final numbers.
- Next meeting to occur on September 16, 2022, at 10am, in person at the Academy.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am

