



## Gallatin County DUI Task Force

### DUI Task Force Purpose:

- Reduce Impaired Driving Traffic Incidents
- Educate Public on Dangers of DUI
- Prevent DUI

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday/July 17, 2019 – 5:30 pm

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room

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### **Members Present**

Kelley Parker-Wathne, Coordinator  
Katy Fritz, Chair  
Ed Hirsch, City Atty's Office  
Charles Kendall, Citizen Member  
Ed Sypinski, Citizen Member  
Shelly Johnson, ADSGC  
Maureen Exley, County Atty's Office  
Iralene Osborne, Citizen Member  
Rick Gale, ADSGC  
Jesse Stovall, Belgrade PD  
Dan Deming, Citizen Member  
Frank Smith, Citizen Member  
Thomas Luhrsen, MSU PD

### **Guests**

Steve Ette, Court Services  
Taylor Rockafellow, MSU PD

### **Absent**

Jon Ogden, Vice-Chair  
Nicholas Grillo, MRDTF  
Scott Newell, WYPD  
Jerry Pape, Citizen Member  
David Morris, MHP  
Daryl Rogers, Manhattan PD  
Cathe Felz, Three Forks High School  
KariLyn Gifford, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office

Katy Fritz, DUI Task Force Chair, called the Meeting to order at approximately 5:40 pm.

## **MISSION MOMENT**

- Chair, Katy Fritz read the DUI Task Force Mission Statement.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

- All present introduced themselves, including Thomas Luhrsen and Taylor Rockafellow who are visiting from MSU PD. Officer Luhrsen will be the attending officer from now on.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne introduced Charles Kendall who is the newest official DUI Task Force Citizen Member.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- March Meeting Minutes approved.
- May Meeting Minutes are forthcoming.

## **BUSINESS**

- Group discussion occurred around the topic of overall performance and impact of the DUI Task Force in response to Coordinator's conversation with Mr. Ed Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch said he thinks the prevention work happening in the schools is good but suggested picking a tangible goal for each year and focusing on it in order to see more visible results.
  - Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared the checklist for DUI Task Forces provided on the state website in order aid discussion.
    - Chair Katy Fritz reminded everyone to keep in mind what other agencies and organizations may be doing in order not to duplicate services and encouraged the group to be thinking about what THEY can do individually. She reminded the group that the Task Force is only as effective as it's members.
    - Mr. Rick Gale suggested implementing a Court Watch Program in order to gather information on sentencing in regards to DUI's.
    - Coordinator Parker-Wathne liked this idea and stated it seems too many defendants get off on plea agreements.
    - Officer Jesse Stovall referred to the 2015 DUI Task Force Report that showed only about 10% were being pled down at that time (although that was not the case in Belgrade courts). He said he really enjoyed that report and it would be good to continue doing them periodically. Mr. Hirsch agreed and said he refers to it frequently.
    - Ms. Maureen Exley of the County Attorney's office shared that alot of felonies are thrown out on technicalities.

- Mr. Hirsch shared that sentencing orders are accessible to the public and then presented a comprehensive overview of types of DUI's, arresting criteria, and how DUI charges "stack". He said the maximum sentence for felony DUI's is 5 years no matter how many they have. He said research shows it is better to have harsh penalties on a first time DUI than the antiquated system Montana has now. Mr. Hirsch also stated that Utah and Europe have now implemented .05 as their legal limit. Group asked Ed to type of flow chart of this information.
- Mr. Gale noted that Yellowstone Park is like another country and sharing DUI information from there is difficult.
- Officer Stovall said officers need to pull records when they're writing citations and often up to date information is not available.
- Mr. Hirsch agreed and said if there's not enough information attorneys won't know. They can research but it takes a lot of time.
- Mr. Gale noted that now there's the increase in cannabis for officers to contend with too.
- Officer Luhrsen suggested inviting the Tavern Owner's Association, Brewers Association & Dept. of Revenue to the Task Force meetings.

## **P I & E COMMITTEE**

### **Events**

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared an updated events list for the rest of the year and encouraged members to be thinking about what to participate in.
  - Mr. Ed Sypinski said he would talk to the Sweet Pea Committee about the possibility of handing out Task Force promotional items at the gate.
  - Coordinator Parker-Wathne noted we would likely target 2-3 MSU football games.
    - Chair Fritz suggested having a DUI Task Force "blurb" on the jumbotron at the games.
    - Mr. Frank Smith suggested also having it at the MSU basketball games. Coordinator Parker-Wathne will pursue this.
    - Office Luhrsen suggested talking to Melanie Stocks in Sports Facilities as soon as possible as they are already planning for the fall. He also suggested doing beer goggle golf cart racing at the basketball games to demonstrate impairment as well as noting that the Greek Society on campus is always looking for philanthropic activities to participate in.
    - Officer Jesse Stovall mentioned even having banners at the entrance/exits would be good.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared promotional items with Fermentana at their request for the summer concert series at MAP Brewing.
- Chair Fritz noted Belgrade is beginning a main street music event similar to Bozeman's called Saturday Night Live which starts July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

- Ms. Maureen Exley stated they also have their Christmas Festival of Lights.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne noted even just walking around handing out items is helpful.

### **Advertising**

- Ad was renewed in the MSU Student Survival Kit for Fall semester.
  - Ms. Exley suggested seeing if someone would sponsor a free coffee coupon for alternative option to alcohol for students.

### **Promotional Items**

- BAC Posters are printed & ready for distribution.
  - Mr. Frank Smith offered to help with this.
  - Officer Stovall said he'd take some for Belgrade.
  - Chair Fritz will take some for the Belgrade Mercantile building.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. Edward Sypinski shared information about the new Communities that Care group that is being organized and invited anyone interested to attend the inaugural meeting this Friday at 8 am.
- Ms. Shelly Johnson said Buzz Davis of Big Sky Behavioral Health is looking for DUI numbers for Gallatin County and Big Sky for research he is doing.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.

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**Next Meeting:**      **Wednesday/September 18, 2019 – 5:30 pm**

Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room