



## 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/September 18, 2019 – 5:30 pm

Gallatin County Attorney's Office Conference Room

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### **Members Present**

Kelley Parker-Wathne, Coordinator  
Katy Fritz, Chair  
Ed Hirsch, City Atty's Office  
Ed Sypinski, Citizen Member  
Rick Gale, ADSGC  
Jesse Stovall, Belgrade PD  
Frank Smith, Citizen Member  
Thomas Luhrsen, MSU PD  
KariLyn Gifford, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office  
Daryl Rogers, Manhattan PD  
Jon Ogden, Vice-Chair  
Nicholas Grillo, MRDTF  
Cathe Felz, Three Forks High School

### **Guests**

Steve Ette, Court Services  
Lauren Boland, Citizen

### **Absent**

Scott Newell, WYPD  
Jerry Pape, Citizen Member  
David Morris, MHP  
Dan Deming, Citizen Member  
Shelly Johnson, ADSGC  
Maureen Exley, County Atty's Office  
Iralene Osborne, Citizen Member  
Charles Kendall, Citizen Member

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

## **MISSION MOMENT**

- Vice-Chair, Officer Jon Ogden read the DUI Task Force Mission Statement.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

- All present introduced themselves, including Ms. Lauren Boland who has recently moved to the area and is attending as a guest of Chair, Katy Fritz.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- May and July Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

## **BUSINESS**

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared that she will be putting together Membership Manuals for the new members & will contact them when they're available.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne updated the group on the Bridger Canyon Fire Station sign, noting that Mr. Gary Andrews said construction of a new substation is taking any available funds so the mobile sign is now on hold. They are hoping they'll be able to "co-locate the mobile sign that Bridger Bowl is acquiring at several places in the Canyon". Coordinator Parker-Wathne would still like to pursue implementing a sign at the entrance to the canyon if possible.
  - Mr. Ed Sypinski said he may have block grant money available to contribute towards a sign.
  - Chair, Katy Fritz suggested reminding them there is also money available through the CEASE Award program.
  - Coordinator Parker-Wathne invited Task Force members to the Fire Station's biggest annual fundraiser, the Pancake Breakfast on 9/21 at 7:30 am, and said she will be taking a DUI Task Force banner and other promotional items to contribute.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne informed the group that she has resigned her position as the DUI Task Force Coordinator and accepted a new position as the Office Manager and Assistant Treatment Court Coordinator for Court Services. A definite date has not been set but she will assist and be available to help the transition to a new DUI Task Force Coordinator.

## **CEASE AWARDS**

- The Manhattan Police Department applied for and was awarded a CEASE Award for \$400 for the purchase of a new breathalyzer.

## **PI & E COMMITTEE**

### **Events**

- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared that MSU Dean of Students Matt Caires, along with several others from MSU (Frank Parish, Marci Torres, and Ed McKenna) attended the 9/3/19 PI&E Meeting to share a recent report they completed showing DUI numbers down by half from the previous year. They believe this is due to the implementation and enforcement of their new disciplinary program on campus and asked if the DUI Task Force would be willing to release the report to the public a week or so after school begins. Group congratulated the MSU team and initially agreed to release the report, however after visiting in the Executive Board meeting, decided that because we didn't create the report and do the research, we were uncomfortable being responsible for the release of the report.
  - MSU police officer, Mr. Thomas Luhrsen said he is apprehensive about the numbers in the report, noting that the reduced DUI's could be due to lack of enforcement because of being short staffed. He thinks the enforcement policy is great but thinks the data needs to prove out over time.
    - Mr. Frank Smith stated this would be a great opportunity for some upper level divisions to cut their teeth on as far as research.
    - Mr. Ed Hirsch agreed, stating it would be perfect for a 5 year PHD project.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared that MSU Athletics (Ms. Bethany Cordell) approved our request to air a PSA at half time and at the end of the Bobcat football and basketball games. She will be sending over logos and information for this.
- Group reviewed recently attended events: Belgrade and Bozeman Drivers Ed, Manhattan Potato Festival, and Catapalooza, noting that MSU Football and Christmas Stroll are coming up.
  - Officer Stovall noted that one pair of the Impaired Driving goggles we use for events are really just blurry vision goggles and we should probably buy another set that actually simulate impairment.
    - Officer Lurhsen noted that MSU has a set the Task Force could borrow.
    - Ms. Cathe Felz said her class at the Three Forks High School has DUI & marijuana goggles as well as a cart with a brake they use for demonstration.
  - Deputy Karilyn Gifford offered to work the Saturday, 9/21 MSU FB game.
  - Chairman Fritz, Ms. Lauren Bolden, and Mr. Ed Hirsch offered to work at the Cat/Griz game on 11/23.
    - Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Sypinski said they will work together to create a spinning wheel game to make the booth more interactive.

## **Promotional Items**

- The DMV brochures are printed and were delivered to the County Treasurer to distribute to the DMV.
- Chair Fritz received approval for the BAC posters to be put up in the restrooms at the Belgrade Mercantile building with request that they be laminated and framed first. Coordinator Parker-Wathne completed this and gave them to the building maintenance manager to hang up.
  - Chair Fritz offered the use of her laminator for laminating other posters.
    - Mr. Sypinski & Ms. Boland offered to help distribute.
- Deputy Gifford asked if there were any bracelets or other items she could hand out as a reward for designated drivers. Coordinator Parker-Wathne said there were a variety of items and for Ms. Gifford to stop by sometime to pick some up.
- Coordinator Parker-Wathne shared that new County Communications Officer, Whitney Bermes will mention the DUI Task Force in future Sheriff's Office videos as appropriate.
- Mr. Sypinski suggested checking with Heather at HRDC about having our logo put up at the Streamline Bus Stops.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- City Attorney, Mr. Hirsch shared that they are seeing more marijuana DUI's and just learned from the crime lab that time of the essence for blood draws because when inhaled, marijuana gets to the brain in 3-10 minutes and it moves out of the blood in 90 minutes.
  - Deputy Gifford noted that the '50 Code' allows officers to draw blood on a first offense with marijuana.
  - Officer Jesse Stovall shared that the problem with marijuana is that officers are scared of it because they don't know what to do. He said nationally DUI drugs are ahead of regular DUI but not in Montana because officers are afraid of it. He said officers should call him as he is a DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) and he is happy to help them.
    - Officer Daryl Rogers said it was good to know there was a DRE available for assistance.
  - Mr. Hirsch suggested funding for the ARIDE Training program would be a good thing for the DUI Task Force to do. He also noted there is no incentive for an officer to be a DRE and a grant or scholarship program could help.
    - Officer Stovall said funding and facilitating more Wetlabs is helpful too as they are huge for helping officers learn about DUI's.

- Mr. Sypinski shared that there is a Youth Prevention Round Table Event from 6-8 pm on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the City Hall Community Room regarding underage drinking that is open to the public.
- Mr. Gale shared that there is also a National Drug Take Back Day coming up soon at the Gallatin Valley Mall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 pm.

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**Next Meeting:**      **Wednesday/November 20, 2019 – 5:30 pm**  
Gallatin County Detention Center Community Room