

PEDESTRIAN FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

October 20, 2015

10:23 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Captain Eric Walker, Chairman
Michael Ryan, Vice Chairman
Violet Poe
Nigel Floyd

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Poss, Facilities Management
Megan Chapman, Health Department
Dr. Dave Oedel
Kristen Swilley, 13 WMAZ
News@WGXA-TV

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rob Ryals
Lt. Brad Wolfe
Dr. Chris Tsavatewa
Sam Henderson
Commissioner Elaine Lucas

The meeting was called to order by Captain Eric Walker, Chairman.

Education Subcommittee:

Captain Walker inquired about Nigel Floyd's appointment to a Subcommittee; Mr. Floyd responded that he was not appointed to any subcommittee due to his absence on the prior meeting.

Captain Walker started by addressing the issue of the holiday (Halloween) for safety with children. Captain Walker also suggested using the media, distributing flyers in various businesses on public safety.

Dr. Dave Oedel addressed the Board regarding the difference in gathering information pertaining to pedestrians and roadway traffic variations, historical designs for roadways over the years. The Board Members agreed that educating the Public Schools on public safety starting in the classrooms, educating parents and provide a safe zone for pedestrians was essential to reduce fatalities.

Mr. Michael Ryan, Vice-Chairman, agreed involvement by the school board would be beneficial in educating children from elementary to middle and high school. Youth education on riding bicycles, using the pedestrian crossing and the awareness of motor vehicles is very important and a start to the awareness to how to be safe in the community.

Vice-Chairman Ryan stated that the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) is crucial in preparing individuals on testing questions pertaining to pedestrians' fatalities. Vice-Chairman Ryan mentioned the numerous roads, streets and areas within the county limits that are maintained by various agencies, which includes the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Government and Local Government.

Ms. Violet Poe agreed there should be more education on public safety starting with drivers' education. Ms. Poe acknowledged her business (Driver Education: Defensive Driving School, est. 2013) has been educating individuals on the importance of operating a vehicle, providing defensive driving education and practices, driving and traffic laws. Ms. Poe stated the course encourages safety to drivers and passengers, the awareness of distractions while operating a motor vehicle in relation to taking the defensive drivers course.

Nigel Floyd stated the possible use of Flashing Amber Signals that other surrounding counties are using to reduce the speed of traffic when approaching pedestrian crossing. More information would be needed on how this would be beneficial in the safety of pedestrians and to reduce the fatality rates.

All Board Members concurred that more education on safety is required, involvement with the community, parents, schools and businesses to prevent pedestrians' injuries while crossing busy streets and highways will help reduce the fatality rates. The Board concurred that they would like to see the DMV make improvements on the testing portion regarding pedestrian safety and not just the driving portion before issuing licenses.

Captain Walker asked if there was any further business to discuss. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Charletta Y. Price
Recording Secretary