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GREENE COUNTY
S.T.O.P. – D.W.I. PROGRAM



Sheriff Greg Seeley

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FOR CALENDAR YEAR

2015

SUBMITTED BY

Gregory R. Seeley

COORDINATOR

This report is submitted as prescribed by the Greene County Legislature for all county departments. It is submitted so as to provide the legislators, and any others who read it, with an overview of the activities, expenses and revenues of the STOP-DWI Program during calendar year 2015.

ENFORCEMENT:

The final reported numbers for 2015 have been received by the program as reported by New York State Department of Motor Vehicles TLED Program (Traffic Safety Law Enforcement and Disposition Program). The data received indicates a year as follows: Throughout Greene County, there were 481 DWI related arrested subjects. Resulting from these arrests there were 865 tickets issued for a DWI related offense as well as 114 tickets issued for driving while their license was suspended due to an alcohol related suspension/revocation.

The amount of funding available for additional road patrols remained at the same limits as in the past. The number of arrests made during funded patrols appears to have greatly increased than the previous year. Naturally, the various departments have their own operational issues, well outside of our program's knowledge, so any reduction or increase in gross numbers of arrests should not be strictly construed, nor as a direct indicator of the program's effectiveness. It should just be recognized as being a factor of influence.

In 2015, The New York Highway Safety Symposium, affording educational and legal proficiency was sponsored by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, The Association of Traffic Safety Boards, and NYS STOP DWI, was held in Binghamton, NY. The program sponsored attendance by county enforcement personnel, as well as probation and prosecution individuals, as it has in the past. Additionally, we sponsored attendance by members of the program's advisory board. Many topics were discussed including current drug trends and ignition interlock related traffic stops. Overall, this component area functioned normally during 2015.

COURT RELATED:

As in prior years, the Greene County District Attorney's Office received funding in the amount of \$48,000 from the program for the prosecution of vehicle crimes resulting from the impairment by alcohol and/or drugs. The District Attorney's Office maintains its' commitment to the citizens of Greene County to vigorously prosecute these crimes that effect so many, in so many ways.

The amount of fines levied and donations in our County's courts for our subject cases was \$138,869.62. From this total, \$11,550 was levied in Greene County, \$86,684 from the NY Justice Office and \$40,635.62 from donations and other reimbursements to the Greene County STOP DWI Program.

PROBATION:

The program funded a portion of the salaries of a Probation Officer at \$28,600 and an Officer focused on Alternatives to Incarceration at \$19,000, totaling \$47,600. This funding helped support the overseeing of DWI probationers during 2015. Support of certain seminar attendances was provided, and the presence on the Program's Advisory Board by the Director of Probation remained.

As of this writing, Senior Probation Officer Grasse supervises some 73 offenders, totaling 77 cases. Of her caseload, 33 cases are felonies (including 4 in which the final conviction is not expressly that of a DWI offense, but still driving related), and 44 are misdemeanors (including 4 non-DWI, but still driving related). The rest of the DWI cases (including some other DWI felonies) are split among several other officers, including the officer who supervises Greene County Drug Court offenders. Given our substantial criminal caseloads for a small county, the DWI caseload is too much for just one person to adequately supervise, and Senior Probation Officer Grasse, as she has had for several years, has the largest caseload in the department comprising approximately 25% of our criminal supervision caseload.

In addition to other duties, SPO Grasse has assisted STOP-DWI with presentations at the Greene County Youth Fair, DARE day, and local car shows in a continued effort to enhance public safety by reducing drunk/impaired driving. She is also the department's "point person" for the use of user pay alcohol monitoring Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor (SCRAM) bracelets, which in addition to furthering the anti-drunk driving message, also serves as an alternative to incarceration. Lastly, at least once a year, this department, in conjunction with the sheriff's department, runs the aforementioned DWI victim impact panel. SPO Grasse spearheads this effort, including interviewing prospective speakers. Starting with the session held in late 2012, a \$25 fee has been collected from participants who are able to pay, with consideration of a "sliding scale" for others. Proceeds collected are viewed as revenue for the STOP-DWI program. In 2015 the program increased significantly, with 3 panel presentations held, and at the requirement of the Greene County District Attorney's Office, offenders who were required to attend also included drug offenders. In 2015, a total of \$4,900 was collected from offenders at \$25 each, with another \$1,175 collected via "donations" from offenders, for a total of \$6,075, a very large increase from the \$950 collected from this program in 2014.

As the ignition interlock monitor for probation sentences imposed in the county, this department further aids to limit the effects of intoxicated drivers in the community. This effort includes the filing of quarterly reports with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services as to the number of ignition interlock devices ordered at initial sentencing, and, in conjunction with the Greene County Sheriff's Office, the submission of claims to the state for reimbursement under the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant. For 2015, a total of 23 sentences were submitted relative to conditional discharge sentences reported to the sheriff's office, and 34 probation sentences, for a grand total of \$7,695 received from the program. While the number of offenders who have had ignition interlock devices installed is small, each installed device is required to have a camera and global positioning system.

In addition to partially funding SPO Grasse's position, STOP-DWI also provides additional funding which offsets county expense toward the salary of a probation assistant for the department. In 2015, that assistant's duties expanded to include oversight of the department's

community service program, in addition to her workload of receptionist duties and updating probationer's addresses in our address database. From that database, on a monthly basis, she distributes a list of adult probationers in their respective jurisdictions to police departments in the county, with countywide lists provided to the New York State Police and the Greene County Sheriff's Office. Further, the probation assistant assists probation officers with recording information in the department's case management system, and aids in the production of quarterly state reports and financial aid/grant submissions. She also assists Senior Probation Officer Grasse with the DWI Victim Impact Panel.

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION:

During 2015, the program continued to influence the education of the citizens of Greene County. Informational material and presentations were all performed by the program coordinator, Deputy Sheriffs, and probation officers to our youth, local clubs, and various organizations. The Sheriff's Office continues its support with educational and informative reference materials at multiple public forums throughout the year. Members of the Sheriff's Office along with the Sr. Probation Officer set up and maintained a very informative and popular booth at the Greene County Youth Fair for the second year in a row as well as at local car shows and DARE Day. The STOP DWI educational booth garnered many good reviews and several requests to return annually and engage with the public, both young and old. Again this year, a successful Crackdown campaign was participated in with several local agencies supported by a grant through the GTSC. The media was involved and the announcement was published in the local newspaper.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

Since 2011, the program has had some important structural changes. Due to retirements of the existing staff, the Greene County Sheriff's Office took over the responsibilities of the department, with Sheriff Greg Seeley as the coordinator. Internal efficiency remained very high, and the program maintained its abilities to serve the general public, interact well with agencies, and provide support to other county departments in an efficient and professional manner. The constant contact with enforcement departments, the media, and the various agencies that wish to work with the program enables us to maintain the professionalism that the STOP DWI program has provided over the years. The accounting for all program income and expenditures was maintained efficiently without criticism.

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for monitoring the subjects that have been ordered for the interlock systems who are not placed on probation supervision. The Sheriff's Office monitored approximately 44 subjects for violations and maintained oversight of their responsibilities, contacting the appropriate courts as well as the assigned Assistant District Attorney when a violation of conditions occurred. All interlocks systems that are ordered as a condition of probation are monitored by The Greene County Probation Department.

These changes in the administration area of the program saved tens of thousands of dollars, thus enabling the program to achieve even a higher level of expectation and produce a streamlined effort by several departments working hand in hand to effect the DWI situation and manage offenders in Greene County.

SUMMARY:

The program spent its 35th year of operation in much the same way as it has in the past with efficient use of funding. While there has been an escalated level of public attention in DWI related topics, Greene County seems to have the enforcement, prosecution, probation and rehabilitation of these offenders firm in its' grasp. Furthermore, the activity in the information and education realm concerning the youth of this county continues to grow. The program has shown growth and effectiveness in these past few years and continues to be a success for Greene County.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gregory R. Seeley
Program Coordinator
Greene County STOP-DWI Program

