

## HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY SUMMIT GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE AWARD LUNCHEON Trenton • New Jersey • September 21,2004

The Highway Safety Act of 1966 required the Governor of each of the states and territories to be responsible for the administration of federal highway safety programs. In New Jersey, the Governor, through delegation of powers, has designated a Governor's Representative for Highway Traffic Safety (GR) to administer federal highway safety programs. This post is held by Director Roberto Rodriguez of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety who was appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. As such, he represents the Governor at the U.S. Department of



Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is chairperson of the Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisor Council. The Division of Highway Traffic Safety is under the direction and supervision of the Office of the Attorney General.

In 2003 the Division of Highway Traffic Safety established the "Governor's Representative Award" to honor and recognize individuals and organizations for their efforts in saving lives. In 2004, the Highway Traffic Safety Summit continues the tradition by recognizing those with outstanding commitment to traffic safety.



For 2004, the second Highway Traffic Safety Summit focused on partnerships between the Community and Law Enforcement sharing the responsibility for Highway Traffic Safety. Education and its importance in forming a bond with law enforcement to work together for mutual goals within the highway traffic safety framework were stressed. Forums and workshops reflecting this spirit set the tone for the event. The high point of the day, the awards luncheon, recognized the efforts of partners who worked to make our state safer during the

past year. In addition, throughout the event, DHTS partners exhibited materials and programs for the participants. Exhibitors in addition to the Division of Highway Traffic Safety were the Office of Emergency Services, New Jersey State Safety Council, Safe Kids NJ, MADD, AAA and Alcohol Beverage Control. The events and displays all contributed to increasing the knowledge of the participants with respect to our programs and services.

The Summit began with a presentation of our national and state flags by the New Jersey State Police Color Guard. A Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Roden Lightbody, Ocean County Engineer's Office. Opening remarks were made by Director Roberto Rodriguez, Mr. Thomas Louizou, Regional Administrator NHTSA, and Mr. Michael Nise, President of OMNI 2000, served as master of ceremony. A panel entitled "Law Enforcement and Community Perspectives on



Traffic Safety" was then held. John Fuentes, Special Projects Coordinator for the Camden Redevelopment Agency, moderated the panel, which consisted of: Major John Hunt of the NJ State Police, Chief Anthony Parenti, President of the NJ State Traffic Officers Association, Chief Douglas Scherzer President of the NJ Association of Chiefs of Police, Mr. Martin Perez, Esq. President of

the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey. The forum offered all attendants the opportunity of participation in the panel discussion of law enforcement and community partnerships. This set the tone for the summit by introducing the theme of the summit and preparing participants for the forum and workshops to follow. Upon conclusion of the forum participants were invited to take part in one of three venues: **1.-** Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Council (HTSPAC) town hall meeting, **2.-** How to Become a Grantee or Partner workshop, and **3.-** An Overview of Traffic Safety Programs.



The HTSPAC Forum on policy expanded upon the discussion that began at the opening forum. Chairman Roberto Rodriguez introduced the participants. The following members attended and introductions were made in the following order: Pamela Fisher, AAA, Chief Parenti, President of the NJ State Traffic Officers Association, Don Borowski, Motor Vehicle Commission, Pam Hamilton-Bond, Police Training

Commission, Thomas Louizou, NHTSA, Chairman, Director Roberto Rodriguez, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, Honorable Janice S. Mironov, Mayor of East Windsor, Patricia Ott, NJDOT, William Anderson, Vollmer Associates, John Podeszwa, AOC (sent to represent HTSPAC member Robert Smith), Chief Doug Scherzer, NJ Association of Chiefs of Police and Karen Yunk, FHWA. Dr. Carl Valenziano, a HTSPAC member, facilitated the discussion. The forum opened with a discussion of the structure of DHTS especially with respect to the present requirement that grants be made only to political subdivisions. A discussion of opening funding to non-profit Community Based Organizations was discussed and commented on by the panel and participants. Concerns over the duplication of efforts, the streamlining of the grant process, the need for collaboration and the importance of galvanizing participation from the community were also voiced.

Some subjects introduced by participants included: the importance of approaching the community through the bridge of its leadership, the idea of more aggressively involving schools in preventive and educational programs offered by DHTS, the importance of tying the media into initiatives, the need for engineering coordination on a local and regional level and focusing on local media as opposed to regional media to obtain a higher level of effectiveness. The Forum was closed with remarks from Mr. Thomas Louizou, NHTSA.





Concurrent with the HTSPAC forum two workshops were held. The first workshop entitled "How to Become a Grantee or Partner" was presented by Ms. Ann Burton, Regional Program Manager NHTSA and Mr. Gary Poedubicky, Deputy Director, DHTS. Ms. Burton provided information on how monies are distributed to the states. Mr. Poedubicky provided the group with information on how to apply for grants and the components of a grant application. Grant applications and the Highway Traffic Safety

Plan were provided to participants.

A second workshop entitled "An Overview on Traffic Safety" was presented by Mr. Ed O'Connor, Supervisor DHTS, Mr. Robert Gaydosh, Supervisor DHTS and Mr. Tony Velez, DHTS Motorcycle Program. Mr. Gaydosh gave an administrative overview of the division and how it fits into the state Office of the Attorney General. He also covered the types of programs currently being funded, important dates for submitting



funding proposals and methods for developing traffic safety programs. Mr. O'Connor gave a presentation on occupant protection initiatives in the state including seat belt education and enforcement and child passenger safety seat education. He mentioned the "Click it or ticket"



mobilization held every May and the increased in seat belt usage rate and police departments participation that New Jersey has enjoyed of late as well as the upcoming "Buckle Up South Jersey" initiative, the division's first attempt at a strictly regional mobilization. Further, Mr. O'Connor commented on the current status of the Child Passenger Safety Technician training program and how there will be less classes in the upcoming years. The new administrator of this program, National Safe Kids, is requiring

more of a selection process for students so that quality is maintained in the field. Finally, a short description of the levels of child passenger safety training, other than the 32-hour technician certification, was presented. Mr. Tony Velez, Motorcycle Safety Instructor, gave an overview of the motorcycle safety program. His presentation discussed the increase in the number of registered motorcycles in the last few years and the high level of demand for this training. Mr. Velez described the process of registering for the classes, what is presented in each, and why motorcycle safety training can benefit all motorists. Motorcycle riders learn to be more visible and motorists learn to be more aware of other types of motorists and non-motorists.

On display and open during the event were the "Safety Cruiser" and a selection of motorcycles from the Motorcycle Training Program. Participants in the forums and workshops were encouraged to visit each of these displays which were manned by DHTS Staff just outside the entrance to the hotel. Many of the attendees took the opportunity to visit.

The Governor's Representative Award Luncheon included keynote speaker Thomas Louizou, Regional Administrator NHTSA. The Governor's Representative



Awards were presented by William Margaretta of the New Jersey State Safety Council and Theresa Thomas of the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance. Awards were given to each of the following:



Sheriff Jean E. Stanfield of the Burlington County Sheriff's Department to recognize her commitment to Traffic Safety in the areas of child passenger safety and occupant protection enforcement. Sheriff Stanfield was elected as *Burlington's County's first female Sheriff*. She is the second woman in New Jersey history to hold a Sheriff's post. During 2004, Sheriff Stanfield expanded her department's highway safety initiatives to include a special Defensive Driving Program for teens that focuses on drunk-driving prevention. She also created the Burlington County Traffic Safety Task Force, and serves as chairperson of the Task Force.

Lt. Edward Baginski of the Elizabeth Police Department. Lt. Baginski was given an award to recognize his tremendous efforts and contributions over the years to Traffic Safety in the City of Elizabeth and the State of New Jersey. Lt. Baginski has been actively involved in enforcement and education programs relating to pedestrian safety, seat belt usage, and aggressive driving. The lieutenant served for over 33 years with the Elizabeth Police Department. As Traffic Commander for the Department, Lt. Baginski coordinated the Division of Highway Traffic Safety grant programs in Elizabeth, which



included the Pedestrian Safety Task Force, Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund, Aggressive Driving program, and Seat Belt Enforcement effort. The Pedestrian Safety Task Force has lowered pedestrian crashes in the City of Elizabeth by 62% in the past 3 years. This effort was recognized by AAA with the AAA Silver award.



Mr. Don DeVore, Senior Engineer with the Sussex County Department of Engineering. Mr. DeVore has made tremendous and innovative contributions to highway traffic safety in the field of Engineering. Mr. DeVore's activities have included the creation of a Digital Video Log of all county roadways in Sussex County, the collection of data and preparation of comprehensive traffic data maps for Sussex County highways, and work zone safety training for Sussex County Public Works employees and Sheriff's Department officers. Mr. DeVore was acknowledged this year with the "Outstanding Achievement in Transportation and Work Zone Safety Awareness" Award from the New Jersey Work Zone Partnership.

Chief William Cicchetti of the Washington Township Police Department was recognized for his outstanding contributions to Traffic Safety and law enforcement throughout his career. His dedicated involvement strengthened traffic safety laws in New Jersey and helped facilitate 100% participation by Bergen County in the "Click It or Ticket" 2004 campaign. Chief Cicchetti has been a member of the Washington Township Police Department since July of 1969. He is an original member of the Bergen County Fatal Accident Unit and is Vice President of the New Jersey Police Traffic Officers Association. Chief Cicchetti also serves as Traffic Chairperson for the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and is serving his third term as President of the Bergen County Traffic Officers Association. In October of 2003, Chief Cicchetti was appointed to represent New

Jersey on the Traffic Safety Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski, in recognition of his tremendous contributions and leadership in the New Jersey State Legislature. Assemblyman Wisniewski recently sponsored key legislation pertaining to driver distraction, which strengthened Traffic Safety Laws and enhanced safety on the roads of New Jersey. Assemblyman Wisniewski, a lifelong resident of Sayreville, New Jersey brings vigor and commitment to all of his work. In his



role as Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, Assemblyman Wisniewski led a probe into the state's E-Z pass system that resulted in many improvements to the system. Assemblyman Wisniewski also wrote the laws that led to the complete overhaul of the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the consolidation of the states two major toll road agencies.



Mr. Shafqat R. Khan, Founder and President of Pakistanis for America. Mr. Khan has demonstrated his commitment as a community leader and his dedication to making New Jersey safer by promoting Traffic Safety in his community and throughout the state. Shafqat Khan has been a prominent community leader for the past 23 years. He is a passionate advocate of Pakistani-American rights and over the past three years has sat at the helm of the Pakistanis for America organization.

Pamela S. Fisher, Vice President of Public Affairs with the AAA-New Jersey Automobile Club. AAA has been a strong partner and supporter of Highway Traffic Safety Initiatives for many years. DHTS presented this award to Ms. Fisher in recognition of her promotion of Highway Traffic Safety and her contributions as a member of the state's Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Council. As a certified child passenger safety technician, she led the effort to gain passage of New Jersey's 8/80 child passenger restraint law and is currently working on legislation that would provide



Good Samaritan protection to New Jersey's certified child passenger safety technicians. During her 18-year tenure with AAA, she has also worked to gain passage of a number of other traffic safety laws including seat belts on school buses, primary safety belt enforcement, mandatory bicycle helmets, graduated divers licensing, and the state's safe corridors program. Nationally, Ms. Fischer serves as chairman of AAA's award-winning child passenger safety initiative, "Seated, Safe & Secure" and is also a member of the association's Traffic Safety Sub-Committee, Senior Mobility Workgroup, and Publishing Alliance. Ms. Fischer is a member of the Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Policy Advisory Council, Highway Safety Task Force and Driver Education Commission, and serves on several New Jersey Department of Transportation task forces focusing on traffic safety initiatives.



Mr. Anthony Johnson, ABC-7 Eyewitness News Reporter. Recognizing the role that media plays in bringing awareness and conveying a message of Traffic Safety to the public and we appreciate the contributions Mr. Johnson has made in promoting Traffic Safety to the residents of the Garden State. Mr. Johnson is an award-winning journalist and part of the ABC-7 Eyewitness News Team. He recently received the regional Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association for his series detailing the history of African Americans in New York City.

## Acknowledgements Special thanks to:

Ann Burton, NHTSA

John Fuentes, Special Projects Coordinator, Camden Redevelopment Authority

Major John D. Hunt, Commanding Officer of the Field Operation Section, New Jersey State Police

> Roden Lightbody, Ocean County Engineer's Office

> Thomas Louizou, Regional Administrator, NHTSA

New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police

**New Jersey State Police** 

New Jersey State Police Color Guard

New Jersey Traffic Officers Association

Michael Nise, President, OMNI 2000

Chief Anthony Parenti, President of New Jersey State Traffic Officers Association

Mr. Martin Perez Esq., President of the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey

Chief Douglas Sherzer, President of the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police

Theresa Thomas South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance

William Margaretta New Jersey State Safety Council

Dr. Carl Valenziano, New Jersey Medical Center

**All Exhibitors** 

and DHTS Staff

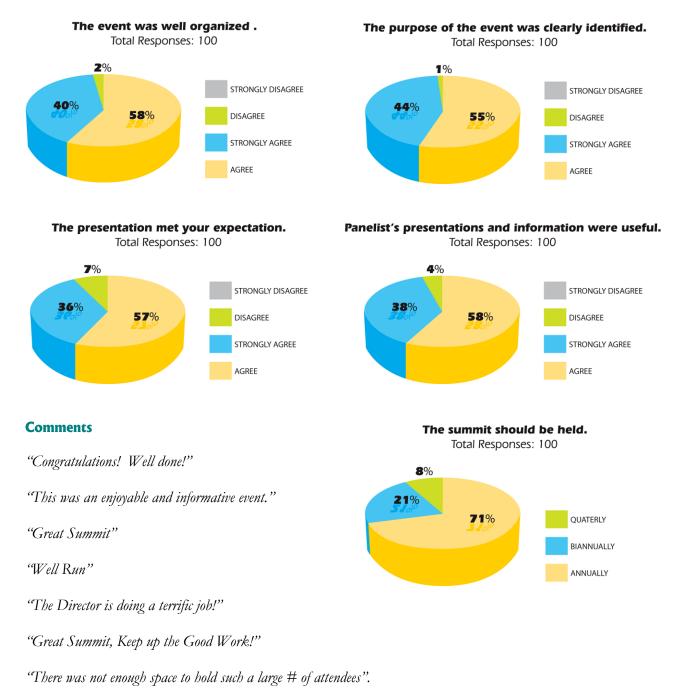
Ms. Angie Armand Leon, Director of the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development. The award was presented in recognition of Angie Armand Leon's initiative for implementing an innovative program to reach the Hispanic community, by bringing education and awareness to Latino children and parents concerning traffic safety issues. Angie Armand Leon is a consummate professional with a dynamic personality and a strong commitment to the Latino community, especially its youth. During the past several years the CHPRD has experienced unprecedented success and visibility due in large measure to the untiring and steadfast work provided by Ms. Armand Leon. Her initiatives have included the CHPRD's Hispanic Interns in Community Service Program, and Latino Leaders Fellowship Institute.

Mr. William Elliott of <u>The John</u> <u>R. Elliott Foundation</u>. Mr. Elliott has worked tirelessly to reduce impaired driving on our roads since the tragic death of his son at the hands of an impaired driver. Mr. Elliott created <u>The</u> <u>Hero Campaign</u> in honor of his



son, which serves to educate the public about the dangers of drinking and driving. Mr. Elliott also spearheaded the passage of John's Law, which allows police to confiscate the vehicles of people arrested for driving while intoxicated, and allows law enforcement to hold a driver in custody until they are no longer deemed a safety risk to themselves or others. Unfortunately, Mr. Elliott could not be present to accept his award. Mr. Bob Gaydosh, DHTS accepted on his behalf.





## SUMMIT'S EVALUATION CHARTS

"See you next year, thanks for your support to the law enforcement community".

"More for community leaders-would like more specific info for law enforcement".

"Bring, invite school superintendents, principals, people who work with children M-F for ideas, and action on preventing tragedies and promoting safety".

## **Attendee List**



William Anderson, Vollmer Associates Tina Arcaro, New Jersey Division of State Police Angie Armand Leon, Center for Hispanic Policy Ed Baginski, Elizabeth Police Department **Dianne Baginski** Jackie Baliko, Jersey City Police Department Sandra Banguero, Immigration & American Citizenship Organization Geri-Marie Bendel, DHTS Edward Bernhard, Long Beach Township Police Department Harry Bernstein, MADD Middlesex Union Chapter Patricia Bernstein, MADD Middlesex Union Chapter David Best, Middletown Township Police Department **David Biederman**, Consumer Affairs Richard Bland, Jr., Essex County Prosecutor's Office Paul Blanda, New Jersey State Police Donald Borowski, Motor Vehicle Commission, Driver Control Mung Bosch, El Club del Barrio Robert Bowser, Mayor of East Orange Paul Bruno, Glen Ridge Police Department Ann Burton, NHTSA Joe Calavini, Vineland BOE **Gerard J. Campanella Richard Carlson**, Leonia Police Department Shafiq Chaudhry, Pakistanis for America James Chelel, South Orange Police Department William Cicchetti, Washington Township Police Department **Janet Cicchetti** Joseph Cofone, Burlington County Prosecutor's Office William Colangelo, Middletown Township Police Department Jack Connors, New Jersev State Assembly Dean Coppolella, Town of Newton Police Department Jose Cordero, East Orange Police Frank Coyle, West Windsor Township Police Department Fred Curvy, State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Anna Czajka, Burlington County Sheriff's Department Mark Dailey, Glen Ridge Police Department Daphne Del Olmo, Puerto Rican Action Committee Vincent DeRienzo, Office of Highway Safety **Donald DeVore**, Sussex County Department of Engineering and Planning Paul Dring, Wayne Police Department Patrick English, Highland Park Police Department Arnie Escobar, Cumberland County Sheriff's Department

Maria Fatima Esteves, MADD Middlesex Union Chapter Carlos Esteves, MADD Middlesex Union Chapter

Brian Fazio, Montclair Police Department Charles Feggans, DHTS Margie Feliciano, SASCA, Inc. Patricia Feliciano, NJDOT Efrain Feliciano, New Jersey Parole Board Victor Fernandez, Mercer County Hispanic Association Sylvester Fernandez, Asian Securities Inc. Marco Fernandez, Public Service Electric & Gas Company **Evelyn Field**, National Council of Negro Women Pamela Fisher, New Jersey Automobile Club Robert Fleshman, Upper Saddle River Police Department Timothy Franco, Traffic Officers Executive Board John Fuentes, Camden Redevelopment Agency Geraldine Garrett, East Brunswick Police Department G. William Garrison, Cumberland County Traffic Safety Coordinator Bob Gaydosh, DHTS Ana Ghanooni, Immigration & American Citizenship Organization Carol Ann Giardelli, Safe Kids New Jersey Steve Giardino, Wayne Police Department Ernest Gigante, Deptford Township Police Department Jeffrey Glennon, Clinton Police Department Lois Goldman, NJTPA Les Goldstein, Passaic County Office of Highway Traffic Safety Chip Greiner, Office of Highway Safety Bergen County PoliceDepartment Mangal Gupta, Indo American Festival Joseph Hadge, The College of New Jersey Karen Halupke, Department of Health Pamela Hamilton-Bond, Police Training Commission Norman Hand, Bordentown Township Police Department David Hardin, West Milford Police Department Frederick Henry, Middletown Township Police Department Mirna Hernandez, SASCA Inc. Lee Hibert, DHTS Justine Hiros, Burlington County Sheriff's Department Kevin Hoopes, Haddon Heights Police Department Drew Humphries, Rutgers University Police Department John Hunt, New Jersey State Police Barth Johnson, Wayne Dumont Jr. Administration Howard Johnson, Essex county Prosecutor's Office Robert Jones, East Orange Police Lisha Jones, DHTS Choudhri Jusain, Pakistanis for America





John Keane Sr., Montclair Police Department Derek Kearns, Harrison Police Department Shafqat R. Khan, Pakistanis for America **Douglas Kinney**, Brick Township Police Department Barbara Klaczynska, Rutgers University Police Department Robert Klingen, Midland Park Police Department **Richard Koesel**, Washington Township Kyle Kroll, South Orange Police Department Anthony Krupocin, East Rutherford Police Department John La Greca, East Rutherford Police Department **Clara Langley**, DHTS Vincent Laurentino, Saddle Brook Police Department Phillip Laviana, Teaneck Police Department Ron Lehm, Deptford Township Police Department **Althea Lewis**, Better Beginnings Roden Lightbody, Ocean County Engineering Megan Lincoln, Burlington County Sheriff's Department **Donald Ling**, Brick Township Police Department Paul Loriquet, Office of the Attorney General Thomas Louizou, NHTSA Vincent Maak, Bayonne Police Department **Craig Mack**, Belleville Police Department Pamela Maiolo, AAA Mid-Atlantic Richard Malinoski, Harrison Township Police Department William Margaretta, New Jersey State Safety Council Violet Marrero, DHTS James Martinelli, Saddle Brook Police Department **Richard Maxwell**, Colts Neck Police Department Frank McVey, New Jersey Division of State Police Kelly Millroy, Harrison Police Department Janice Mironov, Mayor of East Windsor Township Patrick Monahan, Washington Township Police Michele Mount, AAA Mid-Atlantic Region Michael Nise, OMNI 2000 Joe Novick. Consumer Affairs Frank Nucera Jr., Bordentown Township Police Department James Oakes, Maplewood Police James O'Connor, Lyndhurst Police Edward O'Connor, DHTS Gariel Olmo, Camden Police Department **Douglas Ort**, Mansfield Township Police Department Wanda Ortiz, ASPIRA Patricia Ott. NJDOT Nicholas Paolella, Office of the County Engineer Anthony Parenti, NJ State Traffic Officers Association Robert Peacock, Leonia Police Department Martin Perez Esq., NJ Hispanic Alliance Michael Perrella, Rider Education Motorcycle Program Joseph M. Pica Jr., West Windsor Township Police Department John Podeszwa, AOC Municipal Court Services Gary Poedubicky, DHTS John Prudente, South Bound Brook Police Pamela Pruitt, WIMG/Morris Broadcasting Raymond Reeve, DHTS

Mike Richman, Newark Governor's Office Roxana Rivera, Burlinaton County Sheriff's Department Jenny Rivera, El Club Del Barrio Karen Rizzo Richards, Puerto Rican Action Committee Luisa Robinson, Mercer County Hispanic Association Inc. Jose Rodriguez, Camden Police Department Director Roberto Rodriguez, DHTS Nancy Rosado, Puerto Rican Action Board Inc. Mr. Roshanlal, Pakistanis for America Steven Sargese, Roseland Police Department Lori Scannella, DHTS Douglas Scherzer, NJ State Police Chiefs Association Wendy Schwartz, Haddon Heights Police Department Maureen Sczpanski, Office of Alcohol Beverage Control Lawrence Shaver, Hoptcong Borough Police Department John Sherry, New Jersey City University Patrick Shields, Richard Stockton College Police Department Mitchell Sklar, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Jean Stanfield, Burlington County Sheriff's Department Tracie Steckel, East Brunswick Police Department Teresa Stevens, MADD Kevin Stewart, Florham Park Police Department John Strachen, DHTS John Sutton, Brick Township Police Department **Jim Sweeney**, Office of Emergency Medical Services Mike Taylor, Deptford Township Police Department Dave Taylor, DHTS Safety Cruiser Teresa Thomas, South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance Al Tindall, DHTS Eric Trevena, Washington Township Police William Turkus, Rider Education Motorcycle Program Carl Valenziano, Jersey City Medical Center Department of Surgery Bernard Vandenberg, Midland Park Police Department Kathy Vega, ASPIRA Tony Velez, Motorcycle Safety Program Sandra Vladyka, South Bound Brook Police Robert Voorhis, Dumont Police Department Ranjit Walia, Voorhees Transportation Center Joseph Walilko, Hawthorne Police Department William Scott Webster, Middle Township Police Department David Winagte, Harrison Township Police Department Bruce Winter, Middletown Township Police Department John Wisniewski, New Jersev State Assembly William Yarzab, Randolph Township Police Department Karen Yunk, FHWA Michael Zaleski, NJ State Police Troop "A" Headquarters

