

DUI TASK FORCE MEETING

MINUTES – December 1, 2021

The Granite County DUI Task Force met on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in open meeting at the Granite County Courthouse's District Courtroom for its normally scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to Order by Sheriff Scott Dunkerson at 1:00 p.m. Task Force members in attendance included the following Sheriff Scott Dunkerson; Blaine Bradshaw, Granite County Attorney; Claudette Parke, Granite County Attorney's Office (non-voting); Dirk Sichveland; Dwayne Ulrich, and Anna Belle Locke and Amanda Bohrer. Members not in attendance were Montana Highway Patrol Sgt. Dave Oliverson and Tami Martin, Butte Cares, Administrator.

Sheriff Dunkerson noted that a quorum was present for this meeting.

Reading of the Minutes: The meeting minutes from September 1, 2021 were reviewed and approved. A motion for approval of the September 1, 2021 minutes was made by Dwayne Ulrich and seconded by Anna Belle Locke with all voting in favor of the motion.

FINANCIALS: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson shared an email that was received showing \$100 reinstatement fees that were received for the task force and that they would continue to come due to the DUI Task Force Plan that is in effect.

MIP/DUI REPORT: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson provided the MIP/DUI report for the last 2 months from the sheriff's office with reporting only 5-6 DUI's in the past few months with 2 being felony DUI's. Sheriff Dunkerson stated that he had a recent conversation with the new MHP Captain Mark Wilford regarding the gaps in the MHP coverage for Granite County, most due to not having the troopers to cover the area. Captain Wilford shared that there have been a large number of fatality accidents in 2021.

Additionally, Sheriff Dunkerson stated that there was two (2) recent stops involving drugs which led to a search warrant on the car. Sheriff Dunkerson commended GCSO Deputy Rick Olsen for his hard work getting DUI/Drug stops.

OLD BUSINESS: Sheriff Scott Dunkerson stated that there had not been any DUI Patrols the last couple months.

Member Anna Belle Locke shared with the Task Force what she had found out in her research into getting a speaker into the local schools and had contacted Kaitlyn Lester who was a victim of a DUI crash. She would be following up with both superintendents to get it scheduled. It was agreed upon that Grades 7-12 would participate.

Amanda Bohrer had some questions about the Think Twice program and the success as she shared a recent experience at the Sunshine Station in Philipsburg. Amanda stated that she is the chairperson for the Powell County DUI Task Force and is hoping to implement a similar program in Powell County. She asked for any suggestions and advice as she moves forward. There was some discussion and suggestions about the program in Granite County.

Amanda also shared that Law Enforcement in Powell County had some concerns about an individual using the Think Twice product and using it as an excuse to drive. It is stated on the product that this is a tool but not 100% effective to not get a DUI. Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw shared contact information for Forest McKay with Amanda to coordinate information about the Think Twice program.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The Task Force listed the following upcoming events: Yule Night/Light Parade and New Years Eve. Sheriff Dunkerson stated that there would be DUI patrols on both nights.

Sheriff Dunkerson stated that there had been some discussion regarding reimplementing the 24/7 program at the Sheriff's Office but he still has health concerns for his staff. Amanda Bohrer stated that the Powell County Attorney requests a higher fine which goes to the DUI Task Force Budget in DUI cases. Sheriff Dunkerson was in support of this process in Granite County if you could get the judges to support it. Currently, some money goes to the Granite County Food Pantry, but he felt the money would be better served through education and prevention.

NEW BUSINESS: Amanda Bohrer shared some upcoming activities that she is planning as the Tobacco prevention specialist. It would be a prevention event to include tobacco prevention, suicide prevention and alcohol/underage drinking in an overnight event in a similar style to Survivor. She had experienced success with it previously and was looking forward to having the Task Force's support. She was hoping to schedule it in May 2022 as it is just in the beginning planning stages. Contact information was shared with Amanda for the Superintendents of both schools, SRO Deputy Jason Ostler, and Granite Schools Counselor, Ray Hess.

Sheriff Dunkerson led the discussion regarding additional members, hoping to include the ambulance crews, specifically, Eagle Ambulance. Kat Hauptman, who is the owner of Eagle Ambulance would be the contact person there.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None were discussed

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 1:00 pm in the Granite County Courthouse District Courtroom. Meetings are held, per the by-laws, on the first Wednesday of March, May, September and December.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m. with a motion made by Granite County Attorney, Blaine Bradshaw and seconded by Dwayne Ulrich.