

Washington Traffic Safety Commission
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January 9, 2014

Dear Commissioners and Mr. Grondel,

It has been brought to our attention that WTSC is seriously considering eliminating the TZM's from many counties in the State. We firmly believe that eliminating these positions, that cover areas of the State where 65% of traffic fatalities take place, is counterproductive and will eliminate any hope of ever achieving the goal of "Target Zero"—zero fatalities and serious injuries by the year 2030.

While we don't know with certainty what programs TZM's around the State are utilizing, in Walla Walla County our TZM is tasked with many lifesaving programs that will likely cease to exist if our TZM position is eliminated.

The efforts of Nancy McClenny-Walters in running long-standing programs, while bringing in new programs, has undoubtedly saved many lives over the past 20 + years in Walla Walla County. Nancy, a survivor of a DUI fatality crash in 1988 that took the lives of her husband—Frank, and her youngest daughter—Emily, has worked tirelessly to help our local communities meet the TZ goal of WTSC.

Eliminating her TZM position, and using those funds in more-populated areas of the State, shows a lack of trust in the TZM program and is detrimental to the safety of all Walla Walla County residents.

Here is just a partial list of the programs that Nancy has been instrumental in coordinating in the Walla Walla Valley:

- DUI Victim Panels (English & Spanish), 18 years—Managing and running the program, and presenting her story hundreds of times to offenders and students.
- "Every 15 Minutes" program, 16 years—Coordinating this program through every public and private high school in Walla Walla County. Nancy is instrumental in this program, from spending the night with the "dead" students, working with the students on their "last letters", and being an integral part of the assembly the 2nd day. Keeping the dangers of drinking and driving fresh in the minds of our high school students has led to **ZERO** DUI fatalities among our current students since the inception of the program.
- Child Passenger Safety Team, 15 years—Nancy is a Car Seat Technician and Trainer, sharing her experience and expertise with hundreds of volunteers through this program to keep our most vulnerable citizens safe on our roadways.
- "Buckle Up Helper Program", 13 years—Nancy visits kindergarten classes throughout the county every school year, weighing and measuring the children, and sending home information to their families on how to keep the children safely secured while traveling.
- DUI Memorial Sign Project, 15 years—Nancy was one of the driving forces to get this program running throughout the state. These signs, posted on our roadways, are a stark reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving to everyone who sees them.

- DUI Memorial Park, 5 years—Nancy spearheaded this memorial, working with the Parks Department of the City of Walla Walla for placement of the trees and markers as a tribute to the lives cut short due to drunk drivers.
- Traffic Safety Recognition Awards luncheon, 14 years—Nancy coordinates this annual event that celebrates individuals, groups, and businesses who have contributed locally to the success of our traffic safety programs. This event includes recognition of local law enforcement personnel who lead their agencies in the apprehension of impaired drivers.
- “Tipsy Taxi”, 7 years—Nancy is responsible for setting up this yearly program that provides safe rides home from parties and bars during the Holiday season, utilizing dozens of volunteer drivers. Every year, Nancy successfully obtains donated vehicles, cell phones, answering service, and advertising to get the word out. This free program is utilized by over 200 celebrants annually, who otherwise may have gotten behind the wheel while intoxicated.
- “Walla Walla Walks Against Drunk Driving”, 2 years—This recent program was brought to life after a DUI victim approached Nancy with the idea of increasing awareness of the victims of drunk driving collisions and raising money for education and victim expenses. Nancy saw the value of the program and worked tirelessly to implement the program within tight time constraints.
- “Don’t Drink and Drive Offender Video”, 3 years—Nancy worked with the Department of Corrections to get the heart-wrenching story of an inmate made into a video that describes the history of the offender and the DUI collision that took the life of a local mother. This video is shared with our youth and is an extremely valuable tool in sharing our message.
- Fatality Map, 5 years—Nancy has set up and continues to monitor and update this map of DUI fatalities and serious injury crashes, going back over 25 years.
- Project “Red Ribbon”, 10 years.
- Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force Facebook page, 2 years.
- Traffic Safety Emphasis Patrols, 5 years—Nancy coordinates and works with law enforcement agencies in a tri-county area to make sure agencies have everything they need for these patrols.
- Localized Public Service Announcements—Nancy works extremely well with our regional media outlets to get our traffic safety message out to our citizens.

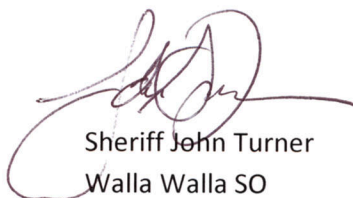
While these programs are just a partial list of what our TZM is tasked with, the elimination of this position would eventually erase the successes of the past two decades in the Walla Walla Valley. There is no doubt the number of traffic fatalities is low in the Walla Walla Valley due to the extraordinary efforts of our TZM. The money spent by WTSC in funding our local TZM is minuscule when compared to the benefits we’ve reaped thanks to Nancy’s efforts.

We strongly urge you not to eliminate the TZM position in the Walla Walla Valley.

Sincerely,



Chief Scott Bieber
Walla Walla PD



Sheriff John Turner
Walla Walla SO



Chief Dennis Lepiane
College Place PD