

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 10, 2009
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Emmett H. Harmon, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Grant Award - Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition - \$1,200

The Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition (HTSAC) has received a grant through the Governor's Office of Substance Abuse Prevention for its efforts in the Historic Triangle. The James City County Police Department is named as a partner in this grant receiving \$1,200 for overnight lodging with the Every 30 Minutes program being held at Lafayette High School and Warhill High School this year.

The Every 30 Minutes program is a two-day event. The first day, an officer dressed as the Grim Reaper calls on pre-determined students every 30 minutes and removes them from the classroom. One of the police chaplains then reads to the class an obituary, which has been written by the "dead" student's parents and briefly discusses the circumstances of the student's death and the dangers of drinking and driving. A few minutes later, that student will return to class as the "living dead," complete with white face make-up, a coroner's tag, and a black Every 30 Minutes T-shirt. From that point on "victims" will not speak or interact with other students for the remainder of the school day.

After lunch, a mock car crash is staged on the school grounds. After the full junior and senior classes are escorted out and view the crash, Police and Fire personnel will arrive as though it were a real-life crash that had just occurred. Simultaneously, rescue workers will treat injured student participants and carry them away in an ambulance; the coroner will handle the fatality and the student will be removed from the vehicle, placed in a body bag, and after being positively identified by the parent escorted in by the police chaplain, leave in a hearse; the injured student will be extricated by the jaws-of-life manned by firefighters and paramedics; and police officers will investigate, arrest, and book the student "drunk driver." Student participants will continue their experience by an actual trip to the funeral home, to the hospital emergency room, and to the court where an actual mock trial takes place, which includes the participation of the parents.

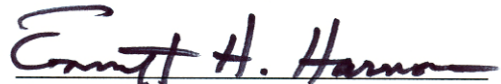
At the end of the day, those students will be transported to the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center for an overnight student retreat. The retreat is meant to simulate the separation from friends and family. Male and female police officers facilitate and chaperone the retreat. During the retreat, officers and students discuss the dangers and real consequences associated with drinking and driving. Each student will write a letter to his or her parents starting out with . . . "Dear Mom and Dad, every 30 minutes someone in the United States dies from an alcohol-related traffic collision, and today I died. I never had the chance to tell you....." Parents will also be asked to write similar letters to their children. All of these letters will be shared the following day when students and parents will be reunited at a school assembly. A video of the previous day's events will also be shared. This assembly, again, includes all of the junior and senior classes.

Staff recommends adoption of the attached resolution.

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Emmett H. Harmon

CONCUR:


Sanford B. Wanner

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Attachment