



**For Immediate Release
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SAFE Annual Meeting Indicates a Great Deal Accomplished

Members of SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition met recently at a sustainability planning meeting to review their individual committee's accomplishments in the past year as well as forecast a plan of action for the upcoming year.

Tony Jiminez, Community Committee Chair, said SAFE will continue to work for the Glen Cove community even though the funds continue to dwindle. He reiterated the Coalition's commitment to evolving into a self-sustaining group by becoming a foundation negating a need for dependence on federal grant funding. SAFE Board Chair is in the process of forming the Glen Cove PRIDE Foundation to sustain the Coalition after the Drug Free Communities Support Program Grant (the Federal grant that supports the Coalition), runs out.

Glen Cove Police Sgt. Christopher Ortiz said sting operations have revealed an increase in the sale of alcohol by local merchants to minors. There are 45 businesses participating in SAFE Downtown and 71 summonses were given this year, an increase from last year's 40 to 50 summonses.

The Glen Cove Business Improvement District, an active member of the Coalition, adopted SAFE Downtown. Businesses display SAFE Downtown stickers in their windows as a pledge that they support the enforcement of the underage drinking laws in Glen Cove. Sgt. Ortiz was disappointed that some local businesses making this pledge were not following it.

"There has been an increase and the year isn't even over yet," he said. "We think this is due to clerks changing continually in the stores. We need to get them to understand the law and know that there are consequences."

It was decided at the meeting that SAFE Downtown will be revitalized immediately to address this problem.

On a more positive note, Sgt. Ortiz reported that there has not been an increase in Social Host Law violations with it remaining at approximately 2-4 incidents per year. Ann Gailius, Parent Committee member and Kiwanis sector of the Coalition, suggested that Sgt. Ortiz attend a Glen Cove Kiwanis Club meeting to discuss the Social Host Law with members in an effort to expand the message even further.

Sgt. Ortiz also said that there were other violations this past year which included: the confiscation of 20 fake ID's, 3 DWI minor arrests, and 6 Shoulder Tap violations.

Arlene O'Dell, Youth Committee Co-Chair, said that this past summer the Coalition was able to continue SAFE Summer Fun, a program created to provide alternatives to idle time for youth between the ages of 10 and 16 even though it is no

longer funded by a grant. SAFE used discretionary funds matched by the Glen Cove Youth Board and Boys and Girls Club enabling 51 youth to enjoy the program like in previous years.

The program depends on participation by youth in the community which O'Dell said is becoming problematic. She said that they age out and recruiting more is not easy since the School District no longer requires community service hours. There was a suggestion that it be required that youth participate if they plan to go on free trips throughout the year.

Tony Gallo, Coalition Co-Chair, City Councilman and School Committee member, said the Teens as Teachers students will take on more of a prevention role.

"We're reaching out to the student body through the Teens as Teachers club at the high school to give the Coalition feedback in regards to the Bach Harrison survey," he explained. "This club will be linked to the youth committee."

SAFE's School Committee has partnered with the Long Island Anti-Tobacco Coalition to implement the "We've Seen Enough" anti-tobacco campaign as a result of statistics gleaned from the Bach Harrison Survey indicating an increase in tobacco use in all grades. The Great American Smoke Out on Nov. 15 will serve as the kick-off date for this campaign.

School Committee Chair, Denise Kiernan, discussed the Student Athletes Leadership Training where students attend Molloy College to learn about healthy decision making and impart their wisdom to their peers. Approximately 20 students have participated.

There are currently 300 families participating in SAFE Homes Campaign. This campaign is designed to eliminate substance abuse from Glen Cove homes and raise awareness about underage alcohol and drug use. Participants receive a SAFE Homes window cling to display on the front of their home showing that they support the SAFE Homes pledge. Not only do the window clings indicate a family's commitment to the message but also act to encourage parents to speak as a family about the important issues of drugs and alcohol, their expectations and open the lines of communication with their children on the subjects.

A decision was made at the meeting to try another approach to get more of the community involved. The Pledge will now be promoted in all of the health classes where students will be encouraged to bring it home to share with their parents.

Robin Mead, a licensed social worker who is SAFE's Parent and Life Skills Coordinator spoke on behalf of the Parent Committee, representing Laurent Caballero, Committee Chair. The Coalition is moving forward on their plans to host a Parent University in January.

A Parent University Survey was created as a result of a suggestion by Anne Gailius, Committee member and Kiwanis representative, to determine what type of workshops will best serve the community. This survey was promoted at all Back to School Nights within the District, is on the SAFE website/Facebook, has been included in press releases and is on the District website. Anne also suggested that Kiwanis promote Parent University throughout the community.

For further information on any SAFE Inc. upcoming event please call (516) 676-2008. SAFE Inc. is a not for profit tax exempt substance abuse education and prevention

agency located in Glen Cove. Visit our website at www.safeglencove.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition.