

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, January 18, 1984

10:00 a.m. Model Community Seatbelt Program "Kick Off" Ceremony.

Commissioners Norris, Mansfield and Rohrer met in regular session on the above noted date.

MODEL COMMUNITY SEATBELT PROGRAM

Chairman Norris welcomed everyone and introduced John Rumsey, the Master of Ceremonies.

Mr. Rumsey from the Public Works Department stated that Skagit County had approximately 1700 accidents last year, one half of these ended in injury and in excess of 20 in death. He stated that statistics indicate that proper use of seatbelts could cut those figures in half. He spoke briefly of seatbelt programs and how the community was needed to make it a success. John introduced a number of attendees, from 4-H programs, hospital workers and various other people who were all volunteering their time to this effort. Mr. Rumsey also introduced Curtis Winston, Regional Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Region X; William Lathrop, Director, Washington Traffic Safety Commission; and Chuck Hayes, Assistant Director, Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

Mr. Rumsey introduced Katie Hicks, Passenger Protection Manager, Washington Traffic Safety Commission. Ms. Hicks stated the model community concept for use of seatbelts is currently a national push right now. Trying to change the habits of 4/5 of the population is not easy. The need to encourage people to use their seatbelts as automatic behavior is great. Skagit County with its great community involvement can be a role model to other communities.

Dr. Paul Williams, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Project Coordinator spoke about physicians taking part in various programs that are related. He has been involved for a number of years in educating different groups in the importance of buckling up. In 1980 he was involved in "First Ride - Safety Ride" a program geared toward infants. In the programs that he has been involved in, he believes they effect 50 percent of the people they deal with.


Lauretta Carlson, Highway Safety Program Area Director, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, spoke about the programs she has been involved in since 1968. She felt the hardest thing to convince people of was the high risk of being in a crash. She spoke on national organizations that have material and program directions that can be utilized by smaller communities who do want to push some sort of safety belt program. She stressed that these type of programs within a community such as ours can make a real difference.

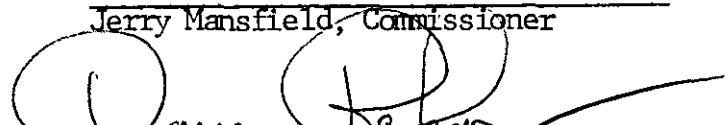
John Rumsey thanked all the guest speakers and the attendees and the Board for their participation in this important program.

ADJOURNMENT

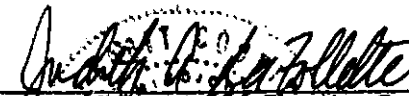
Commissioner Rohrer made a motion to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Mansfield seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Bud Norris, Chairman

Jerry Mansfield, Commissioner

Dave Rohrer, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Judith L. LaFollette
Skagit County Auditor
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners
