



Leaders at the Core of Better Communities

2010 Annual Awards Program

Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Deadline for Nominations: March 12, 2010

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Medina County OVI Task Force

Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: City of Brunswick, Ohio

Jurisdiction population(s): 36,000

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2009, to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: January Year: 2008

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in San José, California, October 2010. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Robert A. Zienkowski

Title: City Manager/Safety Director Jurisdiction: City of Brunswick, Ohio

Name: _____

Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of contact: Robert Harrison

Title: City Manager and
President, OCMA

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Problem assessment, the challenge or need that prompted the local government to develop the program.

When Brunswick, Ohio, police saw an increase in OVI-related crashes and fatalities, they decided to make a focused effort to address the problem. They brought together officials from across Medina County with the goal of reducing injuries and fatalities from alcohol-related crashes. The solution they agreed upon was aggressive saturation patrols in identified problem areas throughout Medina County, a task that had to be accomplished without participating communities needing to increase funding for the effort.

Program implementation and costs.

The Medina County OVI Task Force is made up of every law enforcement department in Medina County. Another member is the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP), which provides regular updated information regarding the location of stops and crashes involving alcohol. The Ohio State Highway Patrol "hot spot" map helps the task force target specific neighborhoods for enforcement efforts. As local communities see an increase in OVI activity, the task force can be called upon to increase the number of officers in the targeted area. Officers from participating departments join forces to provide these multiple officers in the areas identified by the OSP. Instead of static checkpoints, the task force uses saturation patrols bringing nine or ten officers to patrol the streets of the "hot spot" area. There is no way for the offending drivers to know when and where throughout the county the task force has set up on any given day. There is also no

way small, rural partners such as townships and villages would be able to afford ten person units patrolling their neighborhoods.

The program provides free training and support for local law enforcement agencies. In addition, through a partnership with the county Sheriff's Department, participating officers gain the freedom to work in communities throughout the county.

Even while communities are struggling with decreased revenues, in the area of OVI enforcement, Medina County is providing increased services. Thirteen agencies receive additional support and road details via the program.

Tangible results or measurable outcomes of the program.

In less than a year, Medina County traffic crash fatalities involving drinking and driving were reduced by more than 29% with no budget increases required. In 2007, Medina County deaths resulting from drunk driving was 45%. In 2008, that rate dropped to 16%. Fewer drunk drivers mean fewer crashes and fewer deaths and injuries. Associated benefits are seen in decreased medical costs. Other results include:

- 100% of all law enforcement agencies in Medina County participate in the OVI Task Force. These include Brunswick Division of Police, Medina Police Department, Wadsworth Police Department, Medina County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Spencer Police Department, Seville Police Department, Brunswick Hills Police Department, Hinckley Police Department, Montville Township Police Department, Medina Township Police Department, Westfield Police Department, and Lodi Police Department.
- 100% of participating officers receive additional support and training to effectively respond to an increase in drinking and driving in a small town, village or city neighborhood.

- 100% of the communities in the county have received assistance from the task force with 16 details completed since the program's inception.
- 691 warnings have been given to motorists since the start of program reminding them of the importance of not operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Task Force activities have led to 175 arrests and citations for drunk driving, drug violations, warrants, and suspended drivers' licenses.
- Dollar savings to the community for prevention of a death due to drinking and driving is reported by the National Highway Safety Administration to be \$3,366,388 per crash.

Lessons learned during planning, implementation, and analysis of the program.

The biggest lesson learned is that communities do not have to wait for drinking and driving fatalities or injuries to reach high levels before implementing a strategy. By working together, municipalities can create collaborative and innovative relationships that allow difficult problems to be resolved. The OVI Task Force proves that obstacles can be overcome through creativity and collaboration. For instance, it is unusual for officers to be able to work on projects outside of their jurisdiction. This was resolved by the Sheriff's Department swearing in officers from every agency as sheriff deputies.

The willingness of police chiefs, courts, and prosecutors' offices to work together contributed to the success of this program. The ability of the task force to identify high risk areas so that details can be scheduled was also important. The willingness of local police departments to share personnel so that a minimum of eight officers can work the scheduled activities was important.