Menasha

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Chief Tim Styka

Date: October 9, 2012

RE: OWI Task Force

Over the past few months representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Oshkosh, Neenah, Town of Menasha Police Departments and the Winnebago County Sheriff Department have been meeting to establish an OWI Task Force for Winnebago County. The model for this program has been in place for the past few years in other surrounding counties, most notably Brown County. The concept behind the project is to reduce intoxicated driving within the area by having a coordinated effort with all police agencies within Winnebago County.

The way the task force operates is that a few officers from each participating agency will go to a targeted area within the County for the purpose of identification of intoxicated drivers. The area which is selected will vary from event to event but the task force will be present in all of the communities which have officers participating. These task forces have been successful because of providing the time and resources for officers to specifically target this issue without being responsible for routine calls.

This program is set up for the State to cover 100% of the officer's wages and benefits when working as a part of the task force. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the project. As a result, we will be submitting our costs to their office and they will be reimbursing us. While the value of this project will vary based upon the actual number of hours worked, we are projecting approximately $14,000 in reimbursement for participating.

I am excited for this program as it is an example of how multiple agencies can work together on a solution to a problem that impacts the community as a whole. While there is no direct cost to Menasha from a monetary perspective, there are some indirect costs, such as administration and recordkeeping. As a result, I am requesting the Council to approve our participation in the Winnebago County OWI Task Force.