

## **Breakout 7: Law Enforcement**

*Moderator:* Lt. Robert Gilbert, Texas Department of Public Safety

### Session Summary:

The Law Enforcement session opened with a presentation by Assistant Chief Vicki King of the Houston Police Department on Houston's *Fatality Crash Reduction Campaign*.

This multi-faceted campaign, started during Spring Break of 2007:

- Targets multiple driver behaviors that threaten safety
- Involves multiple local area agencies
- Incorporates significant media involvement
- Relies on police officer input to the program.

The goal of the program, captured by the program's line officer-developed tagline "*Do you feel lucky?*" is to create the perception of omnipresent enforcement in which the only publicly perceived outcomes of dangerous driver behavior are a collision or interaction with law enforcement. Among the program components detailed by Chief King are its DWI strategy (including "No Refusal Nights" and the truck-based mobile blood and breath alcohol testing, holding cell-equipped *BAT Mobile* used for field DWI processing). Also described were the program's aggressive driving, evading arrest, and dangerous commercial vehicles strategies.

Following Chief King's presentation, three Texas DPS officers each discussed an element of traffic law enforcement in Texas that is both important and controversial:

- The consequences of increasing the number of traffic enforcement troopers in DPS's contingent of sworn officers.
- The Texas Driver Responsibility Program, aka the Texas Points System.
- Texas' implementation of the federally mandated *Real I. D. Program* intended to improve the integrity and security of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.