

Press Release

Avon Police Recognized for Sex Offender Management Keeping Communities Safe Using Best Practices

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - The Avon Police Department received certification on July 21, 2009 by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (Association) in a new sex offender management program. The certification recognizes that Avon Police are employing proactive and sound methods in managing sex offenders in their community. The “Best Practices” certification program was launched in January and focuses on certain strategies used by police to: monitor sex offenders, provide community notification, and conduct enforcement. Association Executive Director John P. Grebert said, “For more than a decade, managing sex offenders has become an important function of law enforcement. Police are on the front lines in ensuring that offenders comply with the law and that citizens are informed about certain offenders living in their communities.”



Avon Police Chief James Carney commented, "We take the issue of sex offender management very seriously here in Avon. We recognize the fact that offenders will be living within our community, but at the same time, we are committed to providing the public with the maximum information allowed under the law. It's imperative for the public to be well informed so that they can take reasonable measures to insure the safety of themselves and their families."

Association President Robert D'Angelo (North Castle PD) said, "This program provides an independent review of the law enforcement role in sex offender management. I am so pleased that we are able to provide this service not only to recognize those agencies that are being proactive, but more important, to promote safety in our communities."

The presentation of the Best Practices certification was made at the annual training conference of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police in Saratoga Springs. More than 100 police executives from across New York State gathered for the three day training event which featured speakers and presentations by New York State Deputy Secretary of Public Safety Denise E. O'Donnell, Former Deputy Secretary of Public Safety for California Michael Brown, Saratoga County District Attorney James Murphy, International Assn. of Chiefs of Police Chief of Staff and former New York State Police Superintendent James McMahon, HIDTA Director and former Commissioner of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Chauncey Parker, New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli and others.

The policies and operations of the Avon Police Department were assessed and found to be in compliance with the elements of the Best Practices program. In addition to having a written policy pertaining to sex offender management, they were also required to submit proof of monitoring of offenders, community notification, cooperation with other agencies, and enforcement. Avon Police join about 15 other agencies across New York State that have been certified under the Best Practices program.

The Association's Director of Research, Development and Training Mark A. Spawn said that the Best Practices program takes several factors into consideration. "This program identifies the most important aspects of sex offender registration and gives agencies the ability to have an external validation of their processes."

The Best Practices program was recently highlighted the 2009 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability in Houston, Texas. Spawn said that for agencies that do not yet have a policy in place, the Association has resources to assist them in developing a plan to meet their needs.