

PRESS RELEASE

Bedford Police Recognized for Sex Offender Management Program

Keeping Communities Safe Using Best Practices

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – The Bedford Police Department has been certified by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (Association) in a special sex offender management program. The certification recognizes that the Bedford Police are employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The “Certified Best Practices” program was launched in 2009 to recognize police agencies using proven strategies to monitor sex offenders, provide community notification and conduct enforcement. Association Executive Director John P. Grebert said, “For several years, 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.”

Association President Joseph D. Waldron (Mechanicville PD) said, “We commend the members of the Bedford Police Department for the exceptional work they do in managing sex offenders in their community.”



Pictured from left: Lt. Edward J. Collins (Bedford PD), Chief William J. Hayes (Bedford PD), Director of Research, Development and Training Mark A. Spawn (NYS Assn. of Chiefs of Police), Lt. Jeffrey R. Dickan (Bedford PD).

The policies and operations of the Bedford PD 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 provide proof of monitoring of offenders, community notification, cooperation with other agencies, and enforcement.

Chief William J. Hayes noted, "Protecting this community is our singular focus. One of the most important outcomes of this certification is that the process of becoming certified ensured that we have all the pieces in place to best serve our citizens."

Superintendent Jere Hochman of the Bedford Central School District praised the work of Chief Hayes and the Bedford Police saying, "Chief Hayes has insured that we receive timely information so that we can inform families and be compliant with regulations. He has responded to our phone calls when these arise to insure we understand the level of the offender, the meaning of what we read on the website, and to provide other insights that might be beneficial for safety."

Town Supervisor Lee V. A. Roberts stated, "We are very proud of the Bedford Police Department and the professional manner in which they handle the difficult issue of reintroduction into the community of those sex offenders who have completed their sentence. The Department's efforts toward public awareness certainly helps alleviate the uncertainty that often follows these events."

The Association's director of research, development and training, Mark Spawn noted that the Best Practices program takes several factors into consideration. "This program identifies important aspects of sex offender registration and gives agencies the ability to have an external validation of their processes."