

# Press Release

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – MAY 20, 2009 - The Brighton Police Department received certification today by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (Association) in a new sex offender management program. The certification recognizes that Brighton Police are employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The presentation was made at an 11:00 AM ceremony at Brighton Police Department headquarters. 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.”



Brighton Police Chief Thomas M. Voelkl commented, "Our responsibilities under New York's Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) have grown significantly over the last decade and information is critical. Using a rational approach to providing accurate and timely community notification has proven to be the best way to manage sex offenders and keep our community safe."

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 policies and operations of the Brighton 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.

At Wednesday's presentation, Chief Voelkl received the certification from Mark A. Spawn, the Association's Director of Research, Development and Training. 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." Spawn extended special thanks to Captain Mark T. Henderson who worked extensively on the agency's application for certification, and to Captain William J. Principe who demonstrated the recordkeeping of the department's sex offender files during a site visit by the Association.

The Best Practices program was recently highlighted at the 2009 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability in Houston, Texas. Spawn said that for those law enforcement 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.