

Press Release

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – MAY 21, 2009 - The Endicott 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 Endicott Police are employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The presentation was made at the Endicott Police Department in Endicott, New York. 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.”



Endicott Police Chief Michael R. Cox commented, "This certification confirms the proactive approach that the Endicott Police department utilizes in handling registered sex offenders, while at the same time, keeping the public informed. This recognition from an outside agency furthers the professional approach that our department exhibits on a daily basis."

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 Endicott 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.

Marilyn Blake, Public Information Coordinator for the Union Endicott School District praised the work of Endicott Police, saying, “The Endicott Police work closely with the School District and provide notifications that are of good quality with clear pictures. This speeds our turnaround time in duplicating these important notices for our parents.”

At Thursday’s presentation, Chief Cox 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 noted that Endicott PD has a comprehensive policy that provides for monitoring of sex offenders and notification to the community. “Not only does Endicott PD have a comprehensive policy, they have a history of monitoring sex offenders, enforcing violations and providing information to their community.”

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 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.