

# Press Release

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – JULY 7, 2009 The Gates 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 Gates Police are employing proactive and sound practices 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.”



Gates Police Chief David R. DiCaro commented, "The laws regarding the management of sex offenders and what information police can legally provide to the public are ever changing. It is important that our policy and procedures stay current to ensure we are employing the best possible tactics in managing offenders and protecting our citizens."

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 Gates 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.

“We are very proud of the men and women of the Gates Police Department. The sex offender management program is important to us and the Gates Police do it very effectively” said Town Supervisor Ralph Esposito.

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.” Spawn extended special thanks to Lt. Gordon Whitehair who worked on the agency’s application for certification. “It has been a pleasure to work with Lt. Whitehair on this project. The Gates Police Department does an exceptional job in monitoring sex offenders and keeping the community informed.”

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.