

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Lancaster Police Recognized in Sex Offender Management Program**

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – The Lancaster 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 Lancaster 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 proactive strategies to monitor sex offenders, provide community notification and conduct enforcement. Association Executive Director Margaret Ryan said, “Managing sex offenders continues to be 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.”



**President Michael Ranalli presents the certificate to Chief Gerald Gill of Lancaster Police Department at the annual conference of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police in Saratoga Springs, NY.**

Association President Michael Ranalli (Glenville PD) said, “We commend the members of the Lancaster Police Department for the exceptional work they do in managing sex offenders in their community. It is important for

the community to know that the Town of Lancaster not only has procedures for handling sex offenders, but that they routinely provide notification to their community and take action when offenders fail to register.”

The policies and operations of the Lancaster 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 Gerald Gill of the Lancaster Police Department said, “The men and women of the Lancaster Police Department are committed to proactively monitoring the sex offenders who are registered in our community. We have a history of not only verifying the locations of offenders, but also for enforcement when they fail or refuse to comply with the law.”

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.”

In New York State, sex offenders are required to report changes in address and submit to regular photography at police stations. In addition to other registration requirements, high risk and predatory sex offenders are required to report to the local police station every 90 days. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in a felony arrest for a first offense.

Chief Gill was presented with a certificate in recognition of his department’s certification at the annual training conference of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police on July 14, 2015 in Saratoga Springs, New York.

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