

# PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Mark A. Spawn  
Director of Research, Development and Training  
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police  
2697 Hamburg Street, Schenectady, NY 12303  
Phone 323-474-6651

For Release: July 14, 2015

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



SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – The Olean 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 Olean 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.”



**Pictured from left: Mark A. Spawn, Director of Research & Training of New York State Assn. of Chiefs of Police (NYSACOP), Sgt. Lance Edwards, Chief Jeffrey Rowley, Executive Director Margaret Ryan, NYSACOP.**

Association President Michael Ranalli (Glenville PD) said, “We commend the members of the Olean 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 City of Olean not only has procedures for monitoring 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 Olean 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 Jeffrey L. Rowley of the Olean Police Department said, “This certification recognizes that the Olean Police Department is employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The officers of the Olean Police Department are very serious about their commitment to protect our community. We are always working towards improving our ability to make Olean a safe place to live. We feel that the new procedures that we have implemented in the area of Sex Offender Management will do just that.”

Sgt. Lance Edwards is the Sex Offender Registration Act Compliance Officer for the police department. He handles all communications from the State for sex offenders in Olean, as well as preparing cases to be prosecuted when offenders fail or refuse to register. Sgt. Edwards ensures that the highest risk offenders appear frequently for address verification and for updated photography, according to state law.

Mayor William J. Aiello said, “As Mayor, I am very pleased that the Olean Police Department is receiving this certification for managing the sex offenders who are living in this community. Safety of the citizens of Olean is very important to all of us in City Government. On behalf of the City of Olean and its residents we would like to extend our gratitude to Chief Rowley and the members of the Olean Police Department for the great job they do, not only in managing sex offenders but for their dedication in keeping our City a safe place in which to live.”

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.”

The City of Olean has a website listing sex offenders in Olean, along with a link for frequently asked questions and a link to the State’s public registry. The website can be found at [cityofolean.com](http://cityofolean.com) – click on the ‘Police’ tab, then ‘Sex Offender Registry’.

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.

Point of contact – Olean Police Department: Sgt. Lance Edwards, 716-376-5677;  
[ledwards@cityofolean.org](mailto:ledwards@cityofolean.org)

Point of contact – New York State Association of Chiefs of Police: Mark A. Spawn, 323-474-6651; [apb@nychiefs.org](mailto:apb@nychiefs.org)