

# PRESS RELEASE

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – The Peekskill 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 Peekskill 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 John P. Grebert said, “For several years, 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.”

Association President Steven Heider (Colonie PD) said, “We commend the members of the Peekskill Police Department for the exceptional work they do in managing sex offenders in their community.”

The policies and operations of the Peekskill 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 Eric Johansen of the Peekskill Police Department said, “The City of Peekskill Police Department recognizes the importance of keeping our community informed about the presence of sex offenders and remains committed to monitoring them in a manner considered by the New York State Chiefs of Police as a model for others to follow”.

Detectives in the police department carry a caseload which includes designated sex offenders. They routinely check addresses to ensure that offenders are at the addresses reported on the sex offender registry.

Mayor Mary Foster said, “We take pride in the great work performed by our Police Department and their commitment to serving the residents of Peekskill. The Police Chief and the entire department deserve credit for developing model practices in law enforcement and managing sex offenders.

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.