

Press Release

Suffolk County Police Recognized for Sex Offender Management

Keeping Communities Safe Using Best Practices

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – DECEMBER 18, 2009 The Suffolk County Police Department has been certified by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (Association) in a new sex offender management program. The certification recognizes that Suffolk County Police are employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The “Certified Best Practices” program was launched in January to recognize police agencies that employ certain strategies 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.”



Association President William J. Kilfoil (Port Washington PD) said, “The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police is pleased to provide this service to our members. It is a nice acknowledgement for the hard work being done to monitor sex offenders throughout New York State.”

The policies and operations of the Suffolk County 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 provide proof of monitoring of offenders, community notification, cooperation with other agencies, and enforcement.



From left: Executive Director Laura Ahearn (Parents for Megan's Law), Chief of Detectives Dominick Varrone (SCPD), Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Commissioner Richard Dornier (SCPD), Director of Research, Development & Training Mark Spawn (New York State Association of Chiefs of Police), Det. Lt. Gregory F. Byrne (SCPD), Sgt. Michael Pirone (SCPD)

Photo by Mark L. Smith, Deputy Director of Communications, Office of Suffolk County Executive

County Executive Steve Levy applauded the work of Suffolk County police in managing the county's sex offenders. "Our Special Victims Unit monitors approximately 830 registered sex offenders in the five western towns through a comprehensive database that maintains up-to-date information and facilitates community notification." Levy added that the database is accessible as well to village and town police that are charged with monitoring offenders within their jurisdictions.

Laura Ahearn, Executive Director of Parents for Megan's Law and The Crime Victims Center applauded the Special Victims Section for their dedication and commitment to developing and implementing proactive sex offender management initiatives aimed at preventing victimization. Executive Director Ahearn said, "The Special Victims Section employs a comprehensive approach to managing registered sex offenders, including the use of advanced technology for tracking and multi-jurisdictional collaborations to ensure strict enforcement of local, state and federal laws. Their collaboration with our organization also provides the community an opportunity to be educated about responsible use of notification information and sexual abuse prevention."

Police Commissioner Richard Dormer extended his thanks to the Association, saying, “This is an honor to be recognized by such a prestigious organization as the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police.”

Detective Lieutenant Gregory F. Byrne is the Commanding Officer of the Special Victims Section at SCPD. Lt. Byrne said, “As a commander, it is always gratifying to have an organization such as yours formally recognize our unit, and our detectives specifically, for their dedication and hard work doing a very difficult job. We are very proud and honored to receive this recognition.”

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 the most important aspects of sex offender registration and gives agencies the ability to have an external validation of their processes.”

The certificate was presented by Spawn to Suffolk County Police officials and County Executive Steve Levy on December 16 at a press conference at the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge, New York.

The Association’s program was presented at a National Symposium on Sex Offender Management in Houston in April. Spawn noted that for agencies that do not yet have a policy in place, the Association has resources to assist departments in developing a plan to meet their individual needs.