

# Press Release

## Town of Poughkeepsie Police Recognized for Sex Offender Management Keeping Communities Safe Using Best Practices

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 (UPDATED NOV. 3, 2009 WITH PHOTO) The Town of Poughkeepsie 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 the Town of Poughkeepsie 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 Town of Poughkeepsie 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.

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." Spawn extended a special thanks to Detective Rocco Cordato III who made the application for certification on behalf of the police department.



From left: Director Mark Spawn, NYSACOP Research, Development and Training; Town of Poughkeepsie Police Det. Rocco Cordato, III, Capt. Ron Spero and Capt. Paul Lecomte.

The certificate was presented by Spawn to Town of Poughkeepsie Police officials on September 29 in Dutchess County. Receiving the certificate were Captain Paul Lecomte, Captain Ron Spero and Detective Rocco Cordato III.

The Association's program was presented at a

National Symposium on Sex Offender Management in Houston in April. Spawn also said 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.