

Press Release

Waterford Police Recognized for Sex Offender Management Keeping Communities Safe Using Best Practices

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – FEBRUARY 2, 2010 The Waterford 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 the Waterford Police are employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The “Certified Best Practices” program was launched in one year ago 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 Waterford 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.

Commissioner John Tanchak said, "I would like to thank the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police for recognizing the Town of Waterford Police Department as the first Police Department in the County of Saratoga to receive this certification. Additionally I would like to thank and commend Sgt. Patrick O'Connell for his dedication and for developing the sex offender registry program within the Police Department which has been in place for a number of years."

Saratoga County District Attorney Jim Murphy said "The Waterford Police Department continues to do an outstanding job under John Tanchak's leadership. Waterford has been doing the right thing for a long time and now it is nice to have them recognized publically for their work and for the protocols established for handling sex crimes. It is a well deserved honor and I congratulate them."

Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District Superintendent Timothy Lange was pleased to learn of the Waterford Police Department's achievement. "We have an outstanding relationship with the Department on many levels," Lange said. "They do a great job of keeping us informed about the status of sex offenders in our school community, enabling us to better enforce our policies which, in turn, help us to inform parents and keep our kids safer."

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 also extended special thanks to Sgt. Patrick O'Connell who provided information to the Association during the application and review process.

The Association's program was presented at a National Symposium on Sex Offender Management in Houston in April 2009. 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.