

# Press Release

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK (AUGUST 4, 2011) – The Watervliet 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 Watervliet 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 proven 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 Joseph D. Waldron (Mechanicville PD) said, “We are proud to include the Watervliet Police Department as one of our certified agencies for the excellent work they do in managing sex offenders in the community.”

Watervliet Police Chief Ronald A. Boisvert, Jr. said, “With the addition of OffenderWatch Systems software, we have been able to not only streamline our internal management of our sex offender population, but we have also been able to much more efficiently and effectively notify our community about changes in that population. Our residents can easily access our city website at [www.watervliet.com](http://www.watervliet.com) and search the published offenders on the Police Department web page. The management system allows for tracking of our sex offenders, and now with the inclusion of many other jurisdictions surrounding us using OffenderWatch, we and our residents are able to monitor non-resident sex offenders working in our community. Incorporating OffenderWatch into our Departmental Policy has made our management system much more efficient.”

Dr. Lori Caplan, Principal of the Watervliet City School District noted, “In my six years here I can say that the relationship between the school and the police is top notch. In particular, our School Resource Officer keeps us informed on issues such as sex offenders in the community.”

The policies and operations of the Watervliet 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: Immediate Past President Margaret Ryan (Chief, Dryden PD), Chief Ronald A. Boisvert, Jr. (Watervliet PD), and Director of Research, Development and Training Mark A. Spawn, at the Association’s annual training conference in Lake Placid, New York.

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.”