

Press Release

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

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK – MAY 20, 2009 - The Webster Police Department received certification today by the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police in a new sex offender management program. The certification recognizes that Webster Police are employing proactive and sound practices in managing sex offenders in their community. The presentation was made at an 11:00 AM event in Brighton. The Best Practices certification program was launched in January and focuses on certain strategies used by police 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 Robert D'Angelo (North Castle PD) said, “This program provides an independent review of the law enforcement role in sex offender management. I am so pleased that we are able to provide this service not only to recognize those agencies that are being proactive, but more important, to promote safety in our communities.”

The policies and operations of the Webster 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 submit proof of monitoring of offenders, community notification, cooperation with other agencies, and enforcement.

At Wednesday evening's presentation, Chief Pickering received the certification from Mark A. Spawn, Director of Research, Development and Training for the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police. Spawn said 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 offered special thanks to Lt. Joseph P. Rieger who provided policy information and other data to be considered in Webster PD's application for certification. "Lt. Rieger provided a number of documents in support of the application. It has been a pleasure with him in this project."

The Best Practices program was recently highlighted at the 2009 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability in Houston, Texas. Spawn said that for agencies that do not yet have a policy in place, the Association has resources to assist them in developing a plan to meet their needs.