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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SARATOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE NEW YORK STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON
POLICING AND SAFEGUARDING SCHOOLS HOLD FIRST ANNUAL SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING CONFERENCE**
Law Enforcement & Educational Leaders From Across The State To Attend School Safety Event In Saratoga County

SARATOGA COUNTY, NY -- The Saratoga County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Sheriffs' Association Committee on Policing and Safeguarding Schools (C-PASS) today announced the first annual C-PASS School Safety Training Conference. This three-day event is scheduled for February 21-23, 2022 at the Saratoga Casino Hotel in Saratoga Springs, New York and has drawn more than 120 law enforcement and educational leaders from across the state.

The conference will focus on training for School Resource Officers as well as school personnel through presentations and training exercises that examine and analyze past school incidents; Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training; mental health education; bullying in schools; social media trends; understanding unique needs and topics relative to the LGBTQIA community and students with disabilities; and officer wellness.

The conference will feature nationally recognized speakers from across the country. The following individuals will be presenting:

Jon Romano: Columbia High School incident

Jon will tell his story, explain where he was mentally and what drove him to think he had no other option. His presentation will focus on mental health education in an effort to stop incidents similar to this from happening again.

Carly Posey: Sandy Hook Elementary

Carly tells her story of no one being prepared for what happened inside Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. She shares what went wrong and right on that day and the days and years to follow. She shares her perspective on the events and how a community can be proactive and be prepared for the unthinkable. Carly gives real solutions on school safety, reunification, and recovery in the aftermath.

Frank DeAngelis: Leadership Lessons from Columbine and Beyond

The tragedy at Columbine redefined the nation. Frank DeAngelis tells his story from the events through the aftermath. This presentation reveals the leadership lessons he learned in the focus of an international firestorm. Frank's honest, straight-forward account provides invaluable insights into managing the after-crisis with students, staff members, community members and never-ending media attention.

Assistant Chief Gary Forward: Santa Fe School shooting

Forward is retired from the Saratoga Springs Police Department and is currently the assistant police chief for the Santa Fe Independent School District. He and fellow Officer John Barnes were the only officers on campus on May 18th 2018 when a school shooting occurred at Santa Fe High School. Ten people were fatally shot and thirteen others were wounded. Forward will take us through that day, the things that were done and not done, and lessons learned.

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John Curnutt: Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training

Curnutt is one of the founding members of the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Program and works for Texas State University as the Assistant Director for ALERRT. From the initial calls coming in to surgical intervention to save the critically wounded, each response link in the chain of survival requires time to perform essential tasks. The goal is to shorten that timeline as much as possible. This presentation will discuss analysis of over 400 active attack events to provide perspective in how to engage in calculated risk-taking and decision-making.

Director Kenneth Cooper: Anatomy of a Lockdown

Kenneth D Cooper Jr. is the Director of the Community Outreach and Youth Services Unit for the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department. He is a certified Active Shooter Instructor who has trained more than 20,000 people throughout New York State. This presentation will focus on the importance of performing lock down drills, safe evacuation drills, and district wide training as well as establishing and maintaining a close partnership with school administrators to provide for a safe school environment.

Dr. Gianleo Duca & Daina Sisk: Dignity for All Students Act

Dr. Gianleo Duca is the Principal at Ballston Spa High School where he also serves as a Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator. Daina Sisk is an Assistant Principal at Ballston Spa High School and a DASA Coordinator. This presentation will provide attendees with an overview of the Dignity for All Students Act, including its origination and history, how the act has been updated in response to societal changes, the processes and procedures implemented by Ballston Spa High School in addressing all reports of bullying/harassment, case studies, and how school districts and law enforcement can work together to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students.

Vernon House: LGBTQIA and Sensitivity

NYPD Supervisor of School Safety, Vernon House, will take the SRO through the journey of navigating LGBTQIA topics in a school setting.

Pam Aini: Students with Disabilities

Pam is a New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (NYDCJS) Certified Police Instructor as well as a C-PASS instructor. This presentation will touch on key topics when dealing with students that have special needs.

Deputy Zachary Cicardi: Officer Wellness

Deputy Cicardi is with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office, assigned as the SRO to the Burt Hills-Ballston Lake School District. He will provide an overview of the Employee Assistance Program: how it works, what's available to help you, your coworkers and family. He will also touch on Officer Wellness, mental health and ways to cope with the stress of the job.

Additional breakout sessions led by federal and local law enforcement staff will focus on social media and digital communication trends popular among students; drug awareness; and National Threat Assessment Center (NTASC) assets for SROs and local law enforcement agencies and analysis of recent active school shooter cases.

Conference Sponsors include: Day Automation, Marist College, CERA Software, Inc., Rapid Responder, National Child Safety Council, Guest Communication Corp., LINSTAR, Flock Safety, Buffalo Armory, LLC, Mobiletech Communications Corp., Blauer.

About C-PASS

The Committee on Policing and Safeguarding Schools (C-PASS) understands that protecting students is an ever-changing task and one of the upmost importance. The committee constantly strives to identify new issues and develop training to meet those needs faced not only by school resources officers but all those involved in the school community.

Since the committee is not bound by a single state agency, or under any state mandate, C-PASS can be flexible and swift in tackling new school issues. We have been successful thus far in all of our endeavors by understanding the importance of collaboration, because in the end we are always BETTER TOGETHER.

For more information about C-PASS and the first annual School Safety Conference, visit www.c-pass.org. For more information about the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office, please visit www.saratogacountysheriff.org.

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Note to Editor:

Media is invited and welcome to attend this conference. For the full conference schedule, visit <https://www.c-pass.org/conf21>.

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