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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARATOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NOMINATED FOR 2022 RISE AWARD; CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO VOTE

RISE Awards Honors Those Who Rise Above the Call of Duty to Serve Their Community

BALLSTON SPA, NY – The Saratoga County Sheriff's Office today announced that it has been nominated for a 2022 RISE Award for the Agency category for its "Second Chance" program to fight the opioid epidemic. This unique awards program is designed to recognize a department for making great strides in building up their community.

Community members, friends and family may each vote once per day until March 18, 2022, by clicking on the link below. The top 10 finalists with the most votes in each category will then be reviewed by a panel of judges. Winners will receive \$7,500 for the police foundation, police nonprofit or community program.

To vote click here: <https://riseawards.us.launchpad6.com/agency2022/entry/209>

The "Second Chance" program is a unique strategy to combat the opioid epidemic. Recognizing the practical and moral need for a new operationalized approach to build (and in some cases repair) the relationship between police and people suffering from addiction, the "Second Chance" program was implemented on August 9, 2017. In 2018, the program was expanded when the Office received New York State Department of Health certification as an Opioid Overdose Prevention Provider. This designation allowed the Sheriff's Office to train law enforcement and civilians in the use of Naloxone.

To date, the "Second Chance" program has followed-up with 565 persons. Of those follow-ups, Sheriff's Deputies were able to make referrals to other resources 401 times or 70% of the time. As a result of these follow-ups, Naloxone training was conducted and dispensed 55 times.

Saratoga County Sheriff Michael Zurlo said, "The Second Chance program has been beneficial for so many in our community and it wouldn't be possible without the dedicated men and women of the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office. I'm proud of our deputies for being nominated for Axon's RISE Award for this important program and I encourage our community members to show their support by voting."

"Axon's RISE Awards showcase the extraordinary courage, compassion and dedication to community demonstrated by officers and agencies across the country," said Axon CEO and founder Rick Smith. "Our hope is that the stories of heroism and valor highlighted through these awards will inspire others as much as they inspire us."

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