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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHARED SERVICES RESPONSE TEAM (SSRT)

Columbia and Greene County- Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett, Greene County Sheriff Greg Seeley and City of Hudson Police Chief Edward Moore announce the formation of the Columbia-Greene Shared Services Response Team. The SSRT is comprised of Deputy Sheriff's and Police Officers who receive specialized training to provide a tactical response to critical incidents and other specialized assignments and emergencies within Columbia and Greene counties.

The SSRT was formed after guidelines adopted by New York State placed more stringent requirements and standards on tactical teams. All 3 agencies had been supporting their own tactical teams for a number of years however Sheriff Bartlett, Sheriff Seeley and Chief Moore realized that they could not meet the new State standards individually. They were in agreement that together a Response Team could be formed that met the standards and would not put additional financial and manpower burdens on their agencies. In July of 2014, representatives from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Greene County Sheriff's Office and Hudson Police Department began the process of forming a multi-jurisdictional unit. In addition, the Agency representatives worked with the Columbia and Greene County Attorney's Office and City Attorney to develop an agreement that allows for the 3 municipalities to share Police services and equipment. This agreement has been approved by all 3 municipalities and the Columbia-Greene Shared Services Response Team is now operational. Although there are many multi-jurisdictional teams within New York State, it is believed that CGSSRT is the first multi-County team in operation.

Sheriff Bartlett states that the formation of the SSRT is a positive for the residents of Columbia County, Greene County and the City of Hudson. By sharing services, each Agency reduces its individual commitment in terms of manpower and equipment, saving residents money. It also

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provides a local resource that residents can depend on to respond quickly to critical incidents and emergencies directly affecting them. Without this unit, we would have to rely on Teams from out of the area which may or may not be available due to other circumstances, such as the search for the prison escapees, and which would take longer to arrive.