

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office Attains Civil Accreditation

Sheriff David P. Bartlett is pleased to announce that his office has received Civil Accreditation from the New York State Sheriff's Association. The award was presented in front of the Full Supervisory Board meeting at 401 State Street in Hudson on September 9th, 2015. Peter Keough was present from the New York State Sheriff's Association (NYSSA) to present the plaque to Sheriff Bartlett and his staff.

The Sheriff's Civil Enforcement Division earned this distinction after a two- day full inspection of the Division's operational procedures and policies in direct correlation with over 120 professional standards set forth by NYS Sheriff's Association. The assessment team comprised of Civil Law Enforcement officers from departments around New York State who inspected the Civil Division on June 17th and 18th, 2015.

The Sheriff's Civil Division serves and executes civil court process, such as summons, evictions, Family Court orders, executions, orders of attachment, orders of seizure, and many more civil process items. Additionally, this division must collect and account for nearly a million dollars received by the Sheriff in enforcing civil judgments. To help Sheriffs assure that these divisions operate efficiently and properly, NYSSA developed a civil accreditation program that contains 120 civil accreditation standards. The standards contain detailed requirements regarding the handling and accounting of money collected for judgments and money collected by Sheriffs on behalf of the county.

The assessment report reads as follows:

"The Columbia County Sheriff's Department Civil Unit has done a fine job in its efforts to implement the program standards. The office functions efficiently due to the command staff leadership and the employees hard work complying with policies and mission of the

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department..... Department personnel were knowledgeable, cordial, cooperative and well prepared. This assessment team unanimously recommends that the department be favorably considered for accreditation at this time.”

After the New York State Sheriffs Association’s accreditation committee reviewed the final report, The Columbia County Sheriff’s Civil Enforcement Division was granted accreditation and is now one of only a distinct number of Sheriff’s Offices in New York State to achieve this prestigious award. This honor confirms that the Civil Enforcement Division exceeds the highest standards of professionalism and operational effectiveness. Of the fifty-eight Sheriff’s Offices in New York State (excluding the 5 NYC Boroughs), Columbia County is one of twenty-six Sheriff’s Offices that has earned Civil Accreditation honors.

The Columbia County Sheriff’s Office has previously achieved Law Enforcement under the Command of Sheriff Bartlett in his Capacity as Law Enforcement Captain in 2007.

The Sheriff’s Corrections Division had received accreditation in 2008 under the command of Undersheriff Davi in his previous capacity as Captain of the Corrections Division.

“My goal is to have every division of my office accredited after my first term in office,” said Sheriff Bartlett. He continued, “This helps to protect the County from frivolous lawsuits, and displays that the men and women of the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office are performing at the highest level of professionalism and operational effectiveness in all divisions of my office. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Civil Staff for their dedication and hard work in enabling this great task to be achieved.”

Civil Clerks Jeanette Shumsky and Stephanie Rochler received a special acknowledgement from Sheriff Bartlett, as did Civil Division Commander and Project Manager First Sergeant John Rivero.

The next division to seek accreditation will be the Security Services Division, which is responsible for maintaining security at designated county buildings such as the Columbia County Courthouse, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Social Services, Human Services Building and the Probation/Public Defender Building.

Beyond building and property security, the Division is also responsible for the individual security of Supreme Court Judges, County Court and Family Court Judges and certain Town Court Justices, as well as all persons using those buildings when court is in session.

Picture provided shown from left to right;
John Porecca-Town of Greenport supervisor, Peter Keough- NYSSA Executive Director, Sheriff Bartlett, Undersheriff Davi, Patrick Gratten- Board of Supervisors Chairman, Stephanie Rochler- Sheriff’s Civil Clerk, First Sergeant John Rivero- Sheriff’s Civil Division Commander.