



City of Beacon, New York
Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEACON POLICE OFFICERS TO HAND OUT BUSINESS CARDS, FURTHERING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

BEACON, NY: Acting Chief of Police William Cornett – in another step in Beacon’s broader process of increasing transparency and accountability – has ordered all City of Beacon police officers to carry and distribute business cards with the officer’s name and badge number.

Under the Chief’s new order, officers will identify themselves to individuals upon initiation of certain enforcement activities, including questioning or searches in traffic and checkpoint stops, searches and other non-custodial questioning. Identification will include officer name, rank and an explanation of the reason for the activity. At the conclusion of the activity, if it does not result in an arrest or summons, officers will offer their business card.

Chief Cornett said, “The cities of Poughkeepsie and Newburgh recently passed laws requiring their officers to identify themselves with business cards. This is the right thing to do, and we don’t need a law to tell us that. We are simply requiring all our officers to carry and provide business cards, which will increase transparency and build trust in our community.”

Mayor Kyriacou said, “I approved the Chief’s order. Like cameras – where the City of Beacon was an early local adopter – transparency helps everyone and builds trust. Our officers work tirelessly every day to protect Beacon and people should know who they are. If a resident has a concern, they should know who is involved and how to proceed.”

The Mayor continued: “Chief Cornett and I are working through changes that can be implemented quickly and will help increase trust, transparency and accountability. Last week, the City began posting the daily police blotter online, and now officers will be carrying and distributing business cards. More to come. Plus, we are at the beginning of a comprehensive review of policing, consistent with the Governor’s executive order.

About the City of Beacon:

Beacon, New York is located on the eastern shore of the Hudson River 60 miles north of New York City, with a population of 15,000. Originally a Native American settlement, the area was purchased from the Wappinger Tribe in 1683 and settled by Dutch and other Europeans, leading to the riverfront community of Fishkill Landing on the Hudson, and the mill community of Matteawan on Fishkill Creek. The two communities were incorporated together as the City of Beacon in 1913, named for the Revolutionary War signal fires on Mount Beacon. Beacon thrived as a 19th and 20th Century factory city, but as factories closed after WWII and the local economy declined, the city went through a period of hard times. Today, Beacon has successfully reinvented itself as a 21st Century river community centered around tourism, the arts and access to the scenic Hudson River heritage area. A diverse and thriving small city, it is now home to DIA:Beacon (one of the largest exhibition spaces in the country for modern and contemporary art), a network of Hudson River parks connecting to Fishkill

Creek and Mount Beacon trails, and a vibrant historic Main Street of art galleries, shops, cultural venues and restaurants.

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