



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

September 4, 2020
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**MAYOR KYRIACOU AND BEACON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCE
HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS INITIATIVE TO HELP THOSE ADDICTED TO DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

BEACON, NY- Starting September 9, 2020 people seeking treatment for addiction can turn to the Beacon Police Department for help. The department is now working with the non-profit, Hope Not Handcuffs for those struggling with drug or alcohol addiction. The City will be announcing the programs' launch on September 9th at 12 pm at 1 Municipal Plaza, Beacon, NY 12508 in front of the Police Department. Media are invited to attend.

If someone comes into the Beacon Police Department between the hours of 10 AM and 10 PM and asks to go to rehabilitation for substance addiction, they will be treated with compassion and respect. A call will be made to an "Angel" volunteer from the Hope Not Handcuffs team who will come and actively seek out a treatment plan. Individuals suffering from addiction will instantly gain an advocate and a network of resources designed to lead them to success. Hope Not Handcuffs, is a proactive approach to reach out to people struggling with drug addiction to encourage them to seek recovery and regain control of their lives. In addition to the department's successful Narcan program, which has saved many lives already, this innovative program will facilitate people into treatment and recovery before they end up in the criminal justice system.

Hope Not Handcuffs-Hudson Valley, a program of the Tri-County Community Partnership Inc., is aimed at bringing law enforcement, community organizations and volunteers together to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce dependency with any substance including heroin, prescription drugs, and alcohol. HNH-HV started in Orange County, NY in January of 2019, since then the program has rapidly grown to include 25 police departments across 4 counties, incorporating approximately 900 police officers. The program has a volunteer force of over 500 Angels. The City of Beacon joins Wappingers Falls as the second municipality in Dutchess County to partner with Hope Not Handcuffs. Learn more at www.tricountycommunitypartnership.org

Mayor Kyriacou said "We should be making it easier, not harder for those who suffer from harmful addictions to make positive changes in their lives. Seeking help for an addiction can be a daunting challenge. I'd like to thank our Police Department and Hope Not Handcuffs for making the process to recovery a little less intimidating."

Councilmember Grant said "I'm thrilled this program is now available in Beacon. This important partnership creates a safe space for individuals seeking help, providing a guided pathway to treatment options. I thank our Police Department for exploring this and getting the program running, and Hope not Handcuffs for their work in the region."

Acting Chief of Police Sands Frost said "We're very enthusiastic about the program. The nature of our profession puts us in contact with many people who are going through tough times in their lives. It would bring us a great sense of satisfaction to know that we would be able to assist someone in not only bettering their lives but also the lives of loved ones around them and the community as a whole."

Tri-County Community Partnership president Annette Kahrs said “We’re excited at the opportunity to expand our program in Dutchess County and are grateful to the City of Beacon Police Department for taking a proactive community approach to help anyone struggling with a substance use disorder.”

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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