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Media Release

For Immediate Release:

December 7, 2010

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Sex Crime Prevention Seminar Gives Parents, Teens Vital Knowledge *Safety Tips, Insights from NJ State Parole Board's Sex Offender Management Unit*

COLTS NECK – Know the people your children spend time with. Listen to your children; pay attention if they don't want to be with someone, or if there is a subtle change in your child's behavior. Monitor their Internet use, and educate yourself about cell phones, gaming consoles and other avenues to use the Internet.

Two of New Jersey's lead law enforcement officers for sex offender supervision provided these and other tips at a free, public Sexual Predator Awareness Seminar for an audience of about 100 parents, teens, teachers, police officers and others, held at Colts Neck High School.

The seminar was the third in a statewide series led by the NJ State Parole Board and NJ Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO) to educate parents, teachers and teens on the dangers predators pose online and in other venues, and how to spot and avoid risk. Today's event was made possible through the State Parole Board's and NJASRO's partnership with the Freehold Regional High School District and the Colts Neck Township Police Department.

The two speakers, Captain Anne McGrath and Captain Steven Tallard, are co-founders and leaders of the State Parole Board's Sex Offender Management Unit. This statewide body of sworn parole officers uses national best practices in the oversight of thousands of sex offenders subject to lifetime supervision.

Their presentation included awareness gained through the experience of New Jersey's parole officers and other law enforcement agencies nationwide. It also included tips available to parents, teens and the general public through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. NCMEC resources available for free download include:

- **KNOW THE RULES: General Tips** For Parents and Guardians To Help Keep Their Children Safer – http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC60.pdf
- **KNOW THE RULES: Internet Safety Quiz** for Adults – http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz.pdf
- For detailed tips on **Internet safety**, members of the public can **ask questions** and receive guidance customized to their situation at www.NetSmartz411.org

"These seminars provide a frank, compelling discussion to dispel popular myths about sexual predators, and provide sobering facts about safety on the Internet, with relatives and in social settings," State Parole Board Chairman James T. Plousis said. "We are proud to make it possible for parents and young people to

benefit from the expertise of New Jersey's law enforcement leaders on the containment of sexual predators."

"Technology pervades every aspect of our students' lives, from the utilization of computers in the classroom to the ubiquitous use of smart phones and social media," said Dr. Suzanne Kogler, Acting Superintendent of the Freehold Regional High School District. "Because teens today live so much of their lives online, and often don't think twice about divulging personal information, it's important for all involved – parents, teachers and teens themselves – to understand how online predators operate. Our hope is that parents and others will learn important safety guidelines from this seminar."

NJASRO President and Saddle River Detective Sergeant Tim Gerity said, "From leadership on homeland security, street gang awareness and the dangers of sexual predators, the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers is committed to the safety of schools and children. We are proud to help raise awareness of this important topic throughout New Jersey."

Today's presentation included:

- Actual case studies that illustrate the ways sexual predators seek victims. This includes the unexpected ways some offenders have succeeded in tracking and luring victims via the Internet, as well as the dangers of sexual abuse by the relatives of young children, and the use of date rape drugs and other forms of sexual coercion to which teenagers may fall victim.
- Statistics and clinical data to dispel myths about sex offenders, and provide a real picture of the risks, sexual predators' typical offense cycle, the most common relationships of abusers to children, and the ways abusers groom children.
- Important advice for parents and teens related to Internet safety, safety at parties, safety with strangers and safety with family members.

The New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO) is a membership network of law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security/safety professionals throughout the great state of New Jersey. With more and more focus on homeland security, school resource officers are an important element to school safety, and are role models for our children. NJASRO is rapidly growing as school based policing has become the fastest growing area of law enforcement.

The Freehold Regional High School District is located in western Monmouth County. Its sending schools cover an area of over 200 square miles. The District educates nearly 12,000 students in its six high schools. The mission of the Freehold Regional High School District is to develop global lifelong learners through a comprehensive educational program aligned to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and offering diverse and enriching opportunities within a supportive environment. The district's educational community fosters the development of character, initiative, creativity and excellence while maximizing the unique potential of each individual.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct nearly 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

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NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

SEXUAL PREDATOR AWARENESS: Parents, Teens, Teachers, Law Enforcement

These **free, downloadable resources** include useful **safety tips, fact sheets** and **helpful information** from the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**:

- **KNOW THE RULES: General Tips** for Parents and Guardians to Help Keep Children Safer: http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC60.pdf
- **KNOW THE RULES: Internet Safety Quiz** for Parents: http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz.pdf
- Basic **Internet Safety Tips**, including clear and simple **rules** parents can provide for their kids: www.NetSmartz.org
- For **Detailed Internet Tips**, parents can **ask questions** and receive **customized guidance** for their situation at the “**NetSmartz Helpdesk**,” www.NetSmartz411.org

Recursos en Español

- **CONOSCA LAS REGLAS: Consejos Generales** Para Los Padres, Abuelos Y Guardianes Para Ayudar A Sus Hijos: http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC138.pdf
- **CONOSCA LAS REGLAS: Cuestionario Para Adultos** Sobre Seguridad En Internet: http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/InternetSafetyQuiz_S.pdf
- **Sometala preguntas** sobre **seguridad en Internet** a expertos quien hablan Español: www.NetSmartz411.org

