



Middlesex Sheriff's Office Hudson Police Department



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Middlesex Sheriff Koutoujian and Hudson Police Chief Stephens Announce SafetyNet Partnership

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Hudson Police Chief David Stephens announced Thursday, November 1, their agencies have partnered with a local Massachusetts company to bring new technology to the town designed to help rescue people with cognitive conditions who are prone to wandering.

The SafetyNet by LoJack service provides public safety agencies with the tools and training to more effectively find and rescue individuals who could or are prone to wandering and becoming lost. It also helps caregivers provide an added layer of protection for loved ones with cognitive conditions from the life-threatening behavior of wandering.

"This is a win, win, win," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "It's a win for individuals because it increases the likelihood that missing persons with cognitive conditions will be found safe and sound. It's a win for caregivers because it provides peace of mind that there's a safety net out there for their loved ones. And it's a win for taxpayers because it cuts down on the high cost of extended searches that require additional manpower."

Nationwide, more than 5.1 million people are estimated to have Alzheimer's. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says Autism now affects 1 in 88 children and in early October a new study on Autism and wandering was released showing 49 percent of respondents had a child, age four or over, with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) attempt to run away at least once. Of those who wandered away, according to the study, more than 50 percent were gone long enough to cause concern for a caregiver. The study was conducted by the Interactive Autism Network in Baltimore.

"The Hudson Police Department is very appreciative to Sheriff Koutoujian for allowing us to partner with his agency in this program," said Chief Stephens. "The SafetyNet program will add another tool for officers to use in locating missing persons who wander and become lost."

Twenty members of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office have been trained by LoJack to operate search and rescue receivers that detect the radio frequencies emitted by a SafetyNet Bracelet worn by those enrolled in the service. The receivers and the training were provided to the Middlesex Sheriff's Office at no cost to taxpayers.

The SafetyNet service supplements traditional search and rescue procedures.

"This allows us to provide a 21st century solution to a 21st century public health issue," said Sheriff Koutoujian.

For more information about the SafetyNet service, please call (877) 4-FIND-THEM (877-434-6384) or visit <http://safetynetbylojack.com/>. A 30-day no obligation trial is available for interested caregivers.