

John G. Testa
Legislator, 1st District



NEWS RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR TESTA ANNOUNCES IMA WITH THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL FOR STOP/DWI/DATAMASTER PROGRAM

Continues Successful Stop-DWI Program and Funds to City

White Plains, NY - June 10, 2010 - Westchester County Legislator John G. Testa announced today that Westchester County will enter in an IMA agreement with the City of Peekskill for Westchester County's STOP-DWI/Datamaster Program. This program, aimed at bolstering DWI enforcement has been important to Peekskill's efforts to curb DWI activity. Testa said, "While Mayor of Peekskill I remember how important this program was to the Police Department's enforcement while sending a clear message that we are serious about DWI enforcement and committed to protecting our citizens. Now as County Legislator I am happy to be able to ensure this important program continues."

STOP-DWI Patrol/Datamaster Project (STOP-DWI stands for Special Traffic Options Program – Driving While Intoxicated). The program is administered through the County's Department of Public Safety through an inter-municipal agreement (IMA). It also implements the use of the latest state-of-the-art Datamaster instrument for testing and instant and direct reporting to the NY State system.

Westchester's IMA with Peekskill will bring additional funding of \$8,400 to cover the specialized DWI enforcement effort which will be undertaken in addition to routine patrol. Testa noted that "No tax levy monies support the STOP-DWI Program," said Testa. "Funding comes from fines paid by DWI offenders, and returned to this successful program to protect the public and elevate enforcement in a critical area of public safety."

Peekskill Lt. Eric Johansen said "The Stop DWI program is an extremely important initiative as we all know the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and the often times tragic consequences that result. The program will allow us to dedicate specialized patrols whose sole task will be to identify and arrest intoxicated drivers which will undoubtedly save lives."

Peekskill's inclusion in the STOP-DWI program will run through December 31, 2010.

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