



POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE OF STRATFORD, CT 900 Longbrook Avenue – Stratford, CT 06614

For Immediate Release

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Stratford's Police Engagement Program® Receives Awards on Both Coasts

OXNARD, Calif. HARTFORD, Ct. -The State of California and the California Police Activities League has named Stratford's Police Engagement Program® as Innovators of the Year as part of their Innovations in Policing initiative. California PAL/Stratford PAL created a collaborative partnership and acquired a grant affording Stratford PAL the opportunity to facilitate their nationally acclaimed P.E.P. program to officers and civilians throughout California, to reduce use of force instances and to foster empathy as a tool in rebuilding struggling California communities.

During its annual training conference, California Police Activities League (PAL) honored the revolutionary Connecticut program at California PAL's 50th Anniversary Gala. Lieutenant Curtis Eller and Erin McLaughlin, two of the three P.E.P. creators, were in attendance to receive the award, as well as, teach several conference workshops. Jennifer Lopez, California PAL Executive Director, said of the two-year collaboration, "We are so proud of our partnership with the P.E.P. team. The caliber of training, community engagement and commitment to the health and well-being of the police and the communities they serve, is revolutionary. They were instrumental in facilitating much needed healing to historically contentious communities throughout California." Lt. Eller spoke of how grateful he was to work with California officers and communities. "California's Innovations in Policing has been an amazing opportunity for us to work with officers and civilians committed to building sustainable, healthy partnerships. It's our honor to can contribute to that process any way we can."

Coincidentally, on the same day in Harford Connecticut, the P.E.P. team was being recognized by the Consumer and Family Advisory Council at its yearly conference. P.E.P. received the honor for their outstanding dedication, support and commitment to communities throughout the state of Connecticut. Sergeant James Lofton attended the 7th Annual ICAN award ceremony to represent the P.E.P. team. "It has been our pleasure to work with the ICAN partners, we look forward to our continued alliance and the good work we can accomplish together."

Stratford Police Chief Joseph McNeil, who was awarded the "2021 Distinguished Chief Award" by the Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut, has been implementing the P.E.P. program and its principle tenants for over a decade. "We are very proud to pioneer the changes taking place in community policing and to provide a model for other communities throughout the country."

For more information please contact:

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