



HOMER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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GREETINGS AND HELLO:

Allow me to introduce myself and the purpose of this letter. My name is Officer Michael J. Howell. I am a certified patrol officer with the Village of Homer Police Department and also the current Homer Central School District, School Resource Officer. My background includes being a patrol officer with the Homer Police Department since being sworn in 2005, a New York Certified Paramedic since 1998, Certified Juvenile Officer in 2012 and I will be soon completing my first year as a resource officer with the school district of Homer. During my career, I have received numerous awards and citations including: Cortland County Lawman of the Year for 2011, Merit Time Life Saving Achievement and Governor's Citation award for Outstanding Performance as a Paramedic.

Through working in the school district, I have been approached by many students with questions of how you get started, who do you work with, what do you do and what does law enforcement entail. Thinking back to when I was in school, we had a junior deputy program that introduced and explained some of the aspects of law enforcement. I would like to start a junior officer program in the 2013 to 2014 school year. This would be offered afterschool to seventh graders who are interested and meet the requirements. The time will be once a week, tenth period at the Junior High School. This will allow the students to attend and use the provided school busses for transportation home.

The requirements for the student to attend are to be a registered Homer School Student, parents consent, an overall average grade of at least a C+ and completion of a short essay as to why they are interested in law enforcement. Due to being our inaugural year, I will be solo in my efforts, class size will be limited.

Listed below is an outline of the classes and events I wish to present to the Junior Police Cadets.

1st Class. Introduction, signature sheets, greeting overview of program, question and answers, display of vehicles (hoping to have as many different police agencies to display as many patrol vehicles as possible.)

2nd Class. Role of the police officer (village/city/sheriff/state), how community involvement is helpful, neighborhood watch, being alert to area around. Overview of Village of Homer local laws, V&T laws and penal laws.

3rd Class. Introduction to other aspects of law enforcement, such as K-9 unit, drug task force, criminal investigation department, swat/rapid deployment team. Would like to invite Cortland Sheriff CPO Officer Kemp and his K9 dog along with Cortland City Officer/SRT Officer Chad Hines with tactical gear.

4th Class. Discuss what happens when the law is broken, incident/investigation/arrest/court arraignment/booking procedures go over Miranda rights, DWI rights, chemical refusal and finger printing demo if time. Teach this by having the Junior Officers witness a DWI Traffic Stop Demonstration.

5th Class. Introduction to the court system by touring the court house and meet the judge.

6th Class. Officers are expected to help out in a time of need; most officers are familiar with first aid and CPR. Go over CPR and basic first aid. Discuss how an officer can help and ambulance interaction. We also work together with fire and rescue personal. Police officers help provide care for citizens that we watch over and protect. Extend and invitation to the Homer Fire Department to see if they could bring down #542, their small rescue truck and TLC to bring an ambulance over.

7th Class. I am working on gaining access to the Cortland County Jail, to discuss the processing and procedures that occur once inside the building and to meet with Corrections Officers.

I am also planning to meet with the Homer Foundation and ask for a small amount of monetary support to purchase supplies, T-shirts and help cover any unforeseen cost. Prior to the end of the school year, I would like to send detailed letters home to the students and family. Those that complete and return application and essay are invited to join our First Homer Junior Police Program.

I look forward to teaching and sharing my experience and knowledge with the bright young minds of our school district. I wish to thank you in advance for your support and encouragement. My hope it to provide an afterschool event that will be of no cost to the parents, students and school, while educating and introducing the students to possible futures careers. I encourage any comments and concerns, please contact me by the numbers listed below. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



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School Resource Officer.
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