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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Hartford Police Department and the Special Needs Support Center (SNSC) announce the expansion of the Special Needs Information Program (SNIP), a program to help emergency responders identify and respond to vulnerable residents with special needs.

This is a voluntary program in which special needs community members of any age, or their family members, submit information such as triggers, special accommodations, emergency contacts and a photograph. The information is entered into a database in which the Hartford and Lebanon Police Officers and Dispatch Team have access. This is an expansion of the pilot project launched by SNSC and Lebanon Police Department two years ago.

"SNSC is proud to be assisting with the Special Needs Information Program," said Laura Perez, SNSC Executive Director. "In addition to the challenges facing any parent, parents with children with disabilities have additional concerns such as impaired communication, wandering, tendency to avoid eye contact, or other behaviors that can appear suspicious without prior knowledge. Our vision for this project is to support safe interactions between emergency responders and community members with disabilities."

"By having quick access to such information, the Special Needs information Program will allow our officers to better serve members of our community who may have a disability or other special accommodation," said Hartford Deputy Police Chief Brad Vail. "The expansion of the program to include Hartford along with Lebanon makes perfect sense as residents travel between both communities."

To register for the Hartford Special Needs Information Program:

- Complete the simple one-page form by visiting <https://police.hartford-vt.org/special-needs-information-program> or www.snsc-uv.org;
- Call the Hartford Police Department at 802-295-9425 and request an officer be dispatched to your residence to assist you in completing the form; or
- Call the Special Needs Support Center at 603-448-6311 and a team member will help you complete the form over the phone or in the office.

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