



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

50 Jesup Road

Westport, Connecticut 06880-4385

Telephone: 203-341-6000 Fax: 203-341-6092

Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

News Release

WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROMOTE AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH IN APRIL

(Westport, CT) – April is Autism Acceptance Month, and the Westport Police Department is once again greatly looking forward to celebrating this opportunity to promote both education and a greater understanding of autism.

In a 2021 study, the Center for Disease Control stated that one in every forty-four U.S. children is on the autism spectrum. It is referred to as a spectrum because autism manifests itself differently from person to person. The rates of autism have grown steadily in Westport and nationally, as early diagnosis has become more accessible.

These statistics certainly suggest that autism touches most of our lives in some way and is a part of our community. As such, Westport Police are committed to supporting those with autism as well as their family members, year-round.

To honor the autistic community, many Westport officers have purchased Autism Acceptance Badges which they will be wearing on their uniforms throughout April.

Police Chief Foti Koskinas stated that, “this month is so important because it is vital that this community as well as all others continue to promote autism acceptance. As always, the Westport Police Department is proud to be a part of that effort.”

Autism Acceptance Month is also an opportune time to remind the community about Westport’s Disability Registry. Its creation was a combined effort of the Westport Disability Commission, Human Services, and the Police Department. The confidential registry is used to provide essential information that will assist the police and other emergency workers to address the needs of residents of all abilities. Please see the following link for more information about how to sign up for the registry: <https://www.westportct.gov/home/showdocument?id=22465>

END

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 4, 2023

Lieutenant Eric Woods
ewoods@westportct.gov