



August 16, 2007
Media Contact:
Carmen Palmer
253-299-5503
carmenp@ci.sumner.wa.us

PRESS RELEASE

International Association of Police Chiefs Selects Sumner as One of Eight Test Sites for New Victim Service Program

Sumner, WA—The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) selected the Sumner Police Department as one of eight sites nationwide to test a new national strategy to enhance law enforcement's response and assistance to crime victims. The IACP selected Sumner and seven other sites based on their progressive approach to victim response. These agencies will focus their efforts on validating the usefulness of the draft documents accompanying the strategy—*The Implementation Guide* and *The Resource Toolkit*—in their respective jurisdictions.

Sumner Police Chief Colleen Wilson said, "This is an exciting opportunity for Sumner to further improve our efforts to make sure all victims are served with respect and integrity. We are already known for our innovative approaches and collaborative efforts, and this opportunity gets us working with agencies from all over the country on best practices and creative responses."

This strategy was initially pilot-tested over the past year in the police departments of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; Beaverton, OR; and Mundelein, IL. A joint statement from the chiefs of these three original pilot sites confirms the value and impact of this new approach to assisting victims. They said, "Incorporating the strategy concepts into all aspects of our organizations has taken leadership, vision, commitment, perseverance, and creativity. Nonetheless, in just a little over 12 months, we were able to achieve measurable changes in our agencies in the areas of leadership, partnering, training, and performance monitoring, the core elements of the strategy."

In October 2007, Sumner will join representatives from each department associated with the project at the 114th Annual IACP Conference in New Orleans, LA, for kick-off of this test phase. Representatives from the newly selected sites will have an opportunity to discuss and finalize their implementation plans. Once tested, the complete strategy package will be released nationally. The ultimate goal of this IACP initiative is to create a cultural change within America's law enforcement community, moving toward enhanced response to victims of crime.

This national strategy was developed by the IACP and funded by the Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice. Along with Sumner Police, the other sites representing a diverse mix of law enforcement agencies chosen for testing are New York State Police (NY), Denver Police Department (CO), Flint Police Department (MI), Hastings Police Department (NE), Loudoun County Sheriff's Office (VA), Broken Arrow Police Department (OK), University of California San Bernardino Police Department (CA).

###