Press Release

11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY (845) 638-5100 Fax: (845) 638-5675 e-mail legclerk@co.rockland.ny.us.

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Hon. Ed Day** **(845) 638-5752**
Betsy Saetre, Media Contact **(845) 638-5184**

Legislator Day Recognizes Clarkstown PD Detective Bureau for Successful Investigation Leading to the Arrest of a Suspect in Mall Abuse Case

New City, NY (February 18, 2010) – Rockland County Legislator Ed Day recognized the Clarkstown Police Detective Bureau and its lead investigators for their investigative skills that resulted in the arrest of a man suspected of a child molestation incident which reportedly occurred in a movie theatre restroom at the Palisades Center Mall on January 1, 2010.

Legislator Day, a security consultant and former law enforcement executive, acknowledged a clear understanding of the intricacies involved when conducting a criminal investigation. "This was not a scripted, one-hour crime drama where all the pieces fall into place. This was real life, a crime with scant information, and therefore, a need to search out the facts. The members of the team worked around the clock to identify and locate the suspect."

Day added that the police are also charged with re-establishing a sense of calm within our community after a crime occurs. "We truly are all victims of a crime such as this," explained Day, "Crime disrupts our comfort, our sense of safety and freedom to move about our community with little fear of being victimized. Think about how you reacted after you read of this crime. How many of us held onto our child or our grandchild just a little bit tighter; followed their movements just a little bit longer? A sense of safety largely returns when a suspect is identified."

Legislator Day presented the Bureau, its Commander, Lt. Charles Delo and the lead investigator, Detective Stephen Cole-Hatchard with Distinguished Service Awards.

Day also thanked two area women, who wish to remain anonymous for providing a crucial piece of information which led to the identification of the suspect. The women recognized the similarity of this incident with one that occurred in New Jersey. "Public safety is a partnership," Day said, "Vigilance and awareness are key factors."

(Photo Available Upon Request)

###