



## TAMAQUA POLICE TO PARTNER ON INITIATIVE TO REDUCE SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[February 21, 2023] – The Tamaqua Police Department is pleased to announce it received a \$150,000 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (RVCRI) grant. The funding will support a two-year program for training and education to prevent and respond to sexual violence and sexual assault in the community.

“We are partnering with the Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center (SARCC) and the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership on an intense two-year initiative,” announced Police Chief Michael Hobbs. “We will provide training to increase the knowledge of our officers, sexual assault counselors, and community leaders so we can appropriately respond to and prevent sexual violence.”

“We see entirely too much sexual violence in the headlines and in our community,” continued Hobbs, “It is important for rural communities like ours with limited resources to have the tools and knowledge to prevent and respond to sexual violence.”

The RVCRI is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice’s (USDOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and administered by the National Policing Institute and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), with support from the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SREELA). RVCRI provides funding and training and technical (TTA) assistance to rural law enforcement agencies seeking to reduce violent crime and address problems associated with violent crime. Agencies may use funding and support to implement violent crime reduction strategies, improve investigations, enhance services to victims, increase collaboration between local stakeholders, and for other areas that support violent crime reduction in rural communities.

“With the right skills, we can prevent sexual assault, sexual harassment, and other sexual violence in a community,” added Ali Perrotto, Executive Director of SARCC, “This funding is a great opportunity for SARCC to learn with and work with Tamaqua Police to help survivors of sexual violence and hold perpetrators accountable in the Tamaqua community.”

“Tamaqua has been an active LISC partner addressing housing, crime and fear of crime, arts & culture, economic development and other community issues,” concluded John Connelly, Senior Program Officer for the LISC Safety & Justice Program. “We are pleased to partner with Tamaqua to help reduce rural violent crime.”

More information about the RVCRI can be found at [www.RuralVCRI.org](http://www.RuralVCRI.org).