

## Autism Awareness for First Responders

The Center for Discovery is pleased to offer an Autism Awareness training funded by the Lieutenant Gregg Atlas Foundation. This training is for Law Enforcement, Fire & Rescue Officers, Dispatchers, and Civilian Employees. People with ASD are seven times more likely to have a 911 encounter than a neurotypical person. The number of responses is increasing nationwide at an alarming rate. Current data for the United States indicates that, 1 in 36 children will be diagnosed with ASD.

The 4-hour session for First Responders will focus on tools for agencies to address autism-related field contacts, communication and behavior, sensory issues, de-escalation techniques, arrest, restraint, and custody issues.

**Date:** **Friday, June 12, 2026**

**Time:** **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Location:** The Children's Specialty Hospital at The Center for Discovery  
195 Lake Louise Marie Road (**Entrance C**, park in **Parking Lot 2**) Rock Hill, NY 12775

### Presenters:



**(Retired) Captain William Cannata, Jr.**, has been a member of the fire service for more than 30 years, and is the Program Director of “*Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC)*”, formed in 2003. He is also the parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder.



**Lt. Jimmy Donohoe** is the creator of the “*Take Me Home Program*”, a database where participants who are unable to verbally communicate or properly identify themselves to police officers, register with a photo, physical description and contact information, so First Responders can provide special assistance.

To **Register** please contact Devin Brust at 845-807-3786 or email [dbrust@tcfcd.org](mailto:dbrust@tcfcd.org) and [chermann@tcfcd.org](mailto:chermann@tcfcd.org).

-----Limited seating available-----

Lunch, coffee, and tea will be served.