

## Autism Awareness for First Responders

The Center for Discovery is pleased to offer *Autism Awareness for First Responders Training* provided through the generous support and funding of the **Lieutenant Gregg Atlas Foundation**. This training is for Law Enforcement, Fire & Rescue Officers, Dispatchers, and Civilian Employees. Individuals with Autism spectrum disorders (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, as is the prevalence of autism. In the United States today, 1 in 36 children will be diagnosed with Autism.

The 4-hour session 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:** **TUESDAY September 16, 2025**

**Time:** **4:15 PM to 8:30 PM**

**Location:** The Children's Specialty Hospital at The Center for Discovery  
195 Lake Louise Marie Road (**Entrance A**, park in **Parking Lot 1**)  
Rock Hill, NY 12775

### Presenters:



**Captain William Cannata, Jr. Retired**, 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 speak 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@tcfd.org](mailto:dbrust@tcfd.org) and [chermann@tcfd.org](mailto:chermann@tcfd.org).

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

Food will be provided at 4:15 PM, catered by El Sombrero.