



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 13, 2017

## FIPD S.A.F.E. PROGRAM LAUNCHES FEBRUARY 1ST

**FOUNTAIN INN, SC:** The Fountain Inn Police Department's "**SAFETY AWARENESS FOR EVERYONE**", or S.A.F.E., program will be launched February 1, 2017. This program is the newest program offered by the Community Patrol Division. It will allow family members or guardians to register their loved one with the Fountain Inn Police Department by filling out a simple questionnaire either online or by coming into the police department and completing the questionnaire. Unlike similar programs in the area, the S.A.F.E program's questionnaire form was created from a collaboration of veterans, special needs parents, and professional behavior counselors who all understand the challenges of what this specific group of citizens and their families face daily.

All of the questions have been tailored to provide as much information to first responders as possible. The information provided will **only** be used in the event of an emergency involving an individual registered with in S.A.F.E program. All of the information provided by the families or guardians will be kept confidential and filed at the police department. No personal information will be broadcast over the radio, but rather the officer or firefighter will be told to call the dispatch office and the dispatcher will provide the information via telephone for S.A.F.E program members. All information provided by the family or guardian will not only ensure the safety of the citizen, but also help the responders with much needed information that could be crucial to de-escalating a situation or assisting that individual. The form provides the option of attaching a photograph of the individual. Photographs can be a valuable asset in assist in locating the missing individual in a shorter period of time.

In preparation for the program's launch, the FIPD Community Patrol division has organized several training sessions with organizations such as the South Carolina Autism Society and with experts in recognizing and caring for Dementia patients for all Fountain Inn city employees. Emphasis will be placed on safety aspects for the police and fire departments. All of these training meetings have been well received by every department who has attended.

The Fountain Inn Police Department invites and encourages all Fountain Inn families and guardians' of special needs citizens, senior citizens, and Veterans to register as always our mission is to serve and protect every citizen of Fountain Inn. This will only increase their ability to do so more effectively.

### **ABOUT FOUNTAIN INN:**

The City of Fountain Inn, SC is located in southern Greenville County with the southern tip of the city limits in Laurens County in the upstate of the Palmetto State. Fountain Inn was home to one-legged tap dancer Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates, and the adopted home of journalist and humorist Robert Quillen. NFL Veteran offensive lineman Travelle Wharton is a native of Fountain Inn. The city took its name from an Inn and fountain that were along the old stage coach route. The stage coach drivers called the stop Fountain Inn and it stuck. A small garden fountain is installed at City Hall and there is a marker on the north side of town showing the former location of the old inn.

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