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CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Kearney Police Hosting “Be Safe” Training Event

The Kearney Police Department is partnering with The Kids and Dream Foundation and Autism Action Partnership of Omaha for a “Be Safe” training event in Kearney. The training will be held **Wednesday, July 20**, at the Younes Conference Center. The interactive training will focus on helping participants and police officers learn how to safely cooperate, build skills, and form relationships with one another that can be potentially lifesaving in future situations for all involved.

Objectives of the presentation will be to explore safety concepts, expectations of the police in various encounters, help prepare individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and similar disabilities to interact safely, learn and practice skills for interacting safely with police, and improve mutual understanding and comfort levels between the police and individuals with special needs.

The training event will involve three separate blocks to include Intro to Autism for First Responders from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., followed by a Community Luncheon from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. where first responders and members of the autism community can relax and get to know each other. The event will conclude with a Be Safe Interactive movie screening.

“This training is such a valuable opportunity for our police officers to get to know members of the community with special needs, building relationships and skills needed to respond in a safe manner for all involved. I’m thankful Autism Action Partnership and The Kids and Dream Foundation selected Kearney for this very important training. We will all benefit from the content toward a common goal of safety for all involved”. – Chief Bryan D. Waugh

Local media are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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