**City of Beacon, New York** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** April 1, 2021

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**CITY OF BEACON WELCOMES MENTAL HEALTH CASE WORKER TO ASSIST POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Beacon, NY:** As part of its ongoing Police Reform and Modernization Initiative, the City of Beacon today welcomed the addition of a full-time Mental Health Intensive Case Manager who will accompany police officers on calls for service and provide mental health services to those in crisis. Lashaveous Dicker will begin working today with the Beacon Police Department under a contract with Mental Health America of Dutchess County (“MHA”).

As part of efforts to reform and modernize public safety services, the Beacon City Council approved funding in late 2020 for a mental health intensive case worker to assist the Police Department in responding to people in crisis requiring professional mental health services and follow-up support. The program is modeled on a similar initiative in the City of Poughkeepsie, which has helped to provide alternatives to the criminal justice system for those experiencing mental health crises.

Lashaveous Dicker is a lifelong resident of the City of Poughkeepsie who has 17 years of experience as a mental health professional and attended Poughkeepsie High School and Dutchess Community College. Dicker was selected by MHA based on his skills in communication, crisis intervention, de-escalation, and case referral as well as his demonstrated compassion and empathy for those struggling through mental illness and addiction. Dicker noted, “I have always enjoyed going out into the community to work with people in need, and I look forward to working with the City of Beacon Police Department and the Beacon community to make this program a success.”

Chief Sands Frost said, “We’re really looking forward to working closely with Lashaveous and the team at Mental Health America. It’s important for us to develop alternatives to the criminal justice system, and we’re confident that this program will help us better serve the community and, more importantly, the people we interact with every day who have mental health needs that aren’t being addressed.”

Mayor Lee Kyriacou commented, “I am pleased to welcome Mr. Dicker to Beacon, and am confident he will make a positive difference for our community. I want to thank Chief Frost and his team for helping to set up this program and coordinate with MHA to make these critical mental health services available to those in crisis.”

The addition of a Mental Health Intensive Case Manager was highlighted as one of the initiatives called for in the City of Beacon’s recently adopted [Police Reform and Modernization Collaborative Plan](https://www.beaconny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/City-of-Beacon-Police-Reform-and-Modernization-Collaborative-Plan-Adopted.pdf), which was unanimously adopted by the City Council on March 29, 2021. The Beacon City Council will be discussing implementation of the Plan at upcoming meetings and will be monitoring data on the success of the Mental Health Worker program.

Attached: Photo of Lashaveous Dicker with Chief of Police Sands Frost and Lieutenant Tom Figlia

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