



## City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor

Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY OF BEACON FIRE CHIEF ASSISTS IN STOPPING WRONG-WAY DRIVER ON INTERSTATE 84**

*Beacon, NY*— At approximately 8:15 a.m. this morning, City of Beacon Fire Chief Tom Lucchesi intervened to prevent a potentially catastrophic collision after encountering a wrong-way driver traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of Interstate 84 near Lime Kiln Road in the Town of East Fishkill.

Chief Lucchesi was returning from Hopewell Fire Equipment after picking up a department vehicle when he observed a sedan traveling directly toward oncoming traffic. Multiple vehicles, including several tractor-trailers, were forced to take evasive action to avoid a collision.

“It’s not often that my heart drops and my adrenaline spikes outside of a fire scene,” Chief Lucchesi said. “As I rounded a curve, I suddenly saw a car coming straight at me. Vehicles were swerving everywhere to avoid her.”

Recognizing the imminent danger, Chief Lucchesi activated his emergency lights and siren, turned around, and pursued the wrong-way vehicle to get it stopped safely. After catching up, he was able to position his vehicle ahead of the driver and bring her to a stop without incident near the Lime Kiln Road area.

Upon approaching the vehicle, the driver—an elderly woman—appeared disoriented and stated she had made a wrong turn. Chief Lucchesi immediately contacted Dutchess County 911, who confirmed they had already received multiple calls reporting the wrong-way driver. New York State Police units arrived several minutes later and took over the scene.

“It’s a reminder of how quickly things can go wrong on the road,” Lucchesi added. “Thankfully, no one was injured, and the situation was resolved safely.”

The incident caused brief traffic disruptions on westbound I-84 but was cleared quickly once the driver and vehicle were safely removed from the roadway.

City of Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou publicly thanked Chief Lucchesi noting, “The Chief’s quick thinking and courageous action likely saved one or more lives today, and the City of Beacon is fortunate to have a Fire Chief who always goes above and beyond to help others. Job well, done, Chief Lucchesi.”

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