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### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

## **Picente Announces Oneida County Youth Bureau Collaboration With The Utica Police Department, The Boys And Girls Club Of The Mohawk Valley, The City Of Utica Youth Bureau And The Community Foundation To Initiate Youth Summer Basketball League.**

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., today announced that the Oneida County Youth Bureau, the Utica Police Department, the Boys and Girls Club of the Mohawk Valley, the City of Utica Youth Bureau and the Community Foundation have formed a successful partnership to add the first ever Police Athletic (Summer Basketball) League to Oneida County's wide range of high quality summer programming for youth ages 13-18. Utica Police Officers will volunteer and coach the teams. This summer basketball league will be a component of the Boys and Girls Club's exciting **new** Summer Teen Program that includes programs such as Life Skills, Gang Prevention and other social and recreational activities.

"We know the invaluable job the City of Utica Police Department does protecting and serving our community daily and we're honored that these outstanding men and women will continue their commitment outside of their normal working hours to volunteer their time in making a positive difference in the lives of our youth," Picente said. "We want our children to understand that Police Officers are their friends and that their job is to protect the innocent and make their community safer. The summer basketball league and the Summer Teen Program will give our youth a safe and positive venue to occupy their summer hours."

Wayne Baran, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of the Mohawk Valley said, "The Boys and Girls Club is thrilled to partner with various community organizations in order to provide positive summer programming for teens."

The summer basketball league and the Summer Teen Program will operate at the Boys and Girls Club located at 755 Lansing Street, Utica beginning Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>.

For more information regarding the summer basketball league or the Summer Teen Program please contact Wayne Baran or Aaron Graham at (315) 724-2524.