QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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*****NEWS RELEASE*****
April 9, 2025

Mock Traffic Stop Event at Chesapeake College Helps Drivers Prepare for Safer Interactions with Law Enforcement

Wye Mills, MD – On April 5, 2025, Chesapeake College hosted a community-focused event designed to educate and empower individuals—of all ages and abilities—on how to safely and calmly navigate a traffic stop. The event was proudly sponsored by Pathfinders for Autism, the Special Education Citizen Advisory Committees (SECAC) of Queen Anne's, Caroline, and Talbot County Public Schools, and the Family Support Centers of Queen Anne's, Caroline, and Talbot Counties.

A traffic stop can be a stressful experience for anyone. That moment when the red and blue lights flash in your rearview mirror often leads to a flood of questions: "Am I in trouble?" "What did I do wrong?" "What should I do next?" This can be especially overwhelming for individuals with disabilities, who may process sensory input or communication differently in high-pressure situations.

To help prepare drivers and passengers for these moments, the event featured mock traffic stop demonstrations led by local law enforcement officers. These simulations offered a hands-on, low-stress opportunity for participants to learn what to expect during a traffic stop and how to respond in a way that promotes safety and understanding for everyone involved.

"We want individuals with and without disabilities to feel empowered and prepared," said a representative from Pathfinders for Autism. "The goal is to reduce fear and uncertainty, and to build stronger, more trusting relationships between the community and law enforcement."

Participants had the chance to interact with officers, sit in patrol cars, and practice the step-by-step actions to take during a stop—all in a supportive, educational environment.

Special Thanks

This important event would not have been possible without the collaboration and dedication of our local law enforcement partners. Special thanks to the:

- Maryland State Police
- Centreville Police Department
- Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office
- Denton Police Department
- Caroline County Sheriff's Office
- Talbot County Sheriff's Office

Their participation and sensitivity in engaging with the community helped make the event not only informative but also welcoming and inclusive.

For more information about future training opportunities or family support services, please contact your local SECAC or Family Support Center.