



City of Bristol

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bristol, CT, August 4, 2006** – In prepared comments released today, Mayor William T. Stortz announced the signing of the diversity contract with Positive Approaches, Inc. “This contract with Positive Approaches, a well-known diversity training organization is the culmination of months of research, planning and interviews with numerous firms. We feel confident that Positive Approaches, Inc. has a thorough grasp on what we are trying to accomplish, as well as having a good understanding of the Bristol community.” Stortz said.

Various members and groups within the city will be contacted to provide input as Positive Approaches modifies their overall program to reflect the needs of this community.

All members of the police department will undertake this training, from the Chief and other high-ranking officers and include all sworn officers and staff. The program will start in early September and under the current schedule will continue through the balance of the year. Experience gained through this initial effort will help us determine how much further we will expand this program in the future.

Stortz went on to say, “Members of the Police Department are very committed to serving the overall Bristol community in every way possible. Feedback is that they welcome the opportunity to increase their awareness and reinforce their original exposure to diversity training in their positions as police officers. This positive attitude bodes well for the success of the program.

I will continue to support this professional group of women and men that make up our Police Department. As Mayor, and in conjunction with Police Department leadership, I will sit in on as many sessions as possible. Together, we look forward to positive results and enhanced community relations, and to make Bristol an even more attractive and desirable city.

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