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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Manhunt Underway in Franklin County

BRIGHTON (FRANKLIN COUNTY), N.Y.—Today the Police Benevolent Association of New York State released the following statement, attributable to President James McCartney:

"The PBA of New York State is proud to report that New York State Forest Rangers are working in cooperation with the New York State Police, City of Cohoes Police and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in the search for homicide suspect Anthony G. Bechand of Cohoes, New York.

State Police report that a pickup truck which had been operated by Bechand was found unoccupied in the town of Brighton, Franklin County on Sunday, September 14. Brighton is located in the heart of NYSDEC Region 5 and is at the intersection of numerous NYSDEC-protected wilderness areas within Adirondack Park, including Debar Mountain Wild Forest, Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, the Paul Smiths College Conservation Easement and the Kushaqua Conservation Easement, as well as numerous hiking, biking and horse trails, boat and canoe launches, campsites and lean-tos.

The Forest Rangers of Region 5 are the most knowledgeable individuals in the world regarding the challenging hills and mountainous terrain of these wilderness areas. Forest Rangers are intimately familiar with the intertwined network of public and private lands in this portion of Adirondack Park. In the present search, Forest Rangers have assisted with coordination of search grids in and around the town of Brighton and are contributing to their on-the-ground experience, knowledge of search theory and incident command structure training.

The PBA of New York State looks forward to a hopeful peaceful resolution to this search and commends all New York State Forest Rangers for their bravery and dedication to upholding the laws of New York state in difficult and dangerous circumstances."

About PBA of New York State: *Established in 2011, the Police Benevolent Association of New York State (PBA of New York State) is a law enforcement labor union representing the interests of approximately 1,200 members of the New York State Agency Police Services Unit (APSU). The PBA of New York State is the exclusive bargaining agent for the New York State University Police, the New York State Environmental Conservation Police (ECO), the New York State Park Police and the New York State Forest Rangers. Our members patrol and protect New York State's public universities and colleges, state parks and historic sites, and enforce all state laws and regulations protecting New York's lands, forests, waterways, environment and citizens. Learn more at pbanys.org.*

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