

For Immediate Release

East Haven CT – August 12, 2008

Mayor April Capone Almon is pleased to announce the assignment of Officer Monique Colbert to East Haven High School starting this September. Officer Colbert, a native of Bridgeport, CT, has been with the East Haven Police Department for over seven years and in that time has had a tremendous amount of interaction with the youth of East Haven. She sighted her interest in early intervention as what attracted her to the assignment, “I am looking forward to taking a proactive approach in this position. So many times kids in town just see us (EHPD) as there to make arrests. I want to show them that we are also here to help before it gets to that point.” In addition to her experience with the East Haven Police Department Officer Colbert has also served eighteen years with the United States Military and is a mother of four. All of these experiences have taught her to de-escalate difficult situations, one of the qualities that make her a great fit for EHHS.

Parents and educators alike had been calling for the appointment of a School Resource Officer for several years and Mayor Capone Almon is delighted that this school year it will become a reality. “This was a priority for my administration. An SRO serves three main functions; of course law enforcement, but also education and mentoring. It was high time we brought that to East Haven High School.” Principal Vanessa Real, who was involved in the selection process along with members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent, noted that an SRO not only helps to keep order but is a valuable resource as well. “Parents should encourage students to seek out Officer Colbert with their questions and concerns about their school, their town and their lives. I know she will be a wonderful role model for our students.” Principal Real commented.

Officer Colbert will be introduced to faculty, staff and students at a school-wide assembly and parents can meet her at the school’s open house. She will also have phone number and office at the high school so that parents can contact her directly if needed. Officer Colbert added that she is looking forward to creating a better rapport with the youth of East Haven. The Mayor stated that if this position lives up to her expectations she will be considering adding another SRO at Mellio Middle School sometime in the years to come.