



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission Honors the Colonial Heights Police Department for Re-Achieving Accredited Status**

The City of Colonial Heights Police Department has re-accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) for its commitment to law enforcement excellence and the successful completion of the re-certification process through the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

The VLEA accreditation program is designed to measure and confirm compliance of the participating agency with established professional standards. It is one of the only means by which citizens and government leaders can be assured that an agency is maintaining the high performance marks to which the community has a right.

“I am honored to accept this recognition on behalf of the men and women of the police department. Their commitment to their profession and to the City of Colonial Heights is undeniable,” said CHPD Chief Col. Jeffrey W. Faries. “Our team has demonstrated a clear devotion to their profession and a willingness to be measured by and compared to their peers.”

VLEPSC formally presented the Certification of Re-Accreditation to Chief Faries and the City of Colonial Heights Police Department as part of the February 14 meeting of the City Council.

The VLEA program was started in the early 1990's, with the creation of a 12- member Commission of representatives from the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) provides law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth with an avenue for demonstrating that they meet nearly 200 accepted standards for efficient and effective agency operation. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) administers the program for VLEPSC.

To obtain accreditation, a law enforcement agency must meet all applicable program standards, maintain their accreditation files on an on-going basis, and provide annual verifications of compliance as required by the Commission. On-site assessments by specially trained program assessors assure consistency and full compliance of all accredited agencies.

“This great achievement by the CHPD is not only a credit to Chief Faries' leadership, but the professionalism of our entire department,” said Acting City Manager Hugh Fisher. “This recognition is independent confirmation of the high quality of police services we have here in Colonial Heights.”

A listing of the program criteria is available on the DCJS website at [www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov).