



The City of
Colonial Heights, Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2013

For more information contact:

Sgt. Robert L. Ruxer, CHPD Public Information Officer - (804) 520-9306

Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission to Honor the Colonial Heights Police Department for Achieving Accredited Status

The City of Colonial Heights Police Department has achieved full accreditation status from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) for its commitment to law enforcement excellence and the successful completion of the 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.”

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Mr. Gary M. Dillon, VLEPSC Program Manager, will formally present the Certification of Accreditation to Chief Faries and the City of Colonial Heights Police Department as part of the February 12 meeting of the City Council.

“The VLEPSC accreditation process ensures that the police department's policies are of the highest standard and the men and women of the department are adhering to these policies,” said Colonial Heights Mayor C. Scott Davis. “I congratulate Chief Faries and the men and women of Colonial Heights Police Department on this high achievement and their continued professionalism in law enforcement.”

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.

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“This great achievement by the CHPD is not only a credit to Chief Faries’ leadership, but the professionalism of our entire department,” said City Manager Tom Mattis. “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.

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