



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Howard County Police Exceed Standards for National Accreditation** *Department Receives Coveted “Flagship Agency” Designation*

The Howard County Police Department will be recognized in Virginia this week as a “Flagship Agency” for meeting strict standards set by the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Police Chief William McMahon will be formally presented with the Commission’s accreditation certification, which recognizes professional excellence in law enforcement agencies, at the group’s national conference.

CALEA’s law enforcement accreditation represents the successful completion of an internal self-evaluation and a detailed outside review by a team of independent assessors. These examiners analyzed all areas of the Howard County Police Department, including policies, procedures and operations, as well as input from county residents. The department had to comply with more than 400 standards to maintain accredited status.

Flagship agencies are those recognized by CALEA as “model” organizations in law enforcement. According to the Commission, this designation was introduced in 2004 “to acknowledge the achievement and expertise of some of the most successful accredited public safety agencies, and to provide ‘flagship examples’ to assist other agencies.”

“We are committed to exceeding national law enforcement standards of quality,” said Chief McMahon. “This accreditation sends a message to our citizens that we are serious about maintaining the highest possible level of service. I couldn’t be more proud of the outstanding work performed by our employees during this accreditation process.”

Chief McMahon and other members of the Howard County police accreditation team will serve as panelists at the conference to discuss the department’s successful process.

“I am both proud and pleased that a nationally recognized group like CALEA sees in our police department exactly what those of who live in Howard County see every day—a model organization with one overriding goal, the safety of its citizens,” said County executive Ken Ulman.

To maintain accreditation, the police department must submit yearly reports of its continuing compliance with CALEA standards. Formal on-site reviews are conducted by a team of assessors every three years. The Howard County Police Department has been nationally accredited since 1990.

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