



Newport News Sheriff's Office

224 26th Street; Newport News, VA 23607 • 757.926.8535 • fax: 757.926.8429



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:
Kathleen Carey, PIO
Newport News Sheriff's Office
Office: 757.926.8747
Cell: 757.813.6139
E-mail: kcarey@nngov.com

FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **June 6, 2013**

The Newport News Sheriff's Office Earns Re-Accreditaion from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission

On Thursday, June 6, 2013, the Newport News Sheriff's Office earned re-accreditation from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, or VLEPSC. Seeking VLEPSC accreditation is strictly voluntary. An independent evaluation of the agency ensures best practices are exercised by the Newport News Sheriff's Office. Accreditation standards provide norms against which an agency's performance can be measured and monitored, boosting public confidence in how their community is being served in crime prevention and control.

In April, 2013, VLEPSC certified assessors spent three days going through files, randomly interviewing deputies to test their knowledge, touring the facilities, riding along with civil enforcement deputies, and conducting other functions for their audit. There were zero deficiencies noted. The Newport News Sheriff's Office complied with all 180 standards set forth by VLEPSC. With a 100% score, the Newport News Sheriff's Office went before the VLEPSC accreditation board on June 6, 2013 where it was announced the office earned the seal of approval as an accredited Virginia law enforcement agency. The executive board consists of representatives selected by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA), and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP). The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provides oversight.

VLEPSC accreditation indicates that participating Virginia agencies are systematically measured and evaluated on policy and procedure. Law enforcement professionalism is advanced through the establishment of professional standards. There is a formal mechanism by which all accredited agencies across the Commonwealth of Virginia are measured. Delivery of services is more effective and efficient. Cooperation and coordination among all components of the criminal justice system is promoted. The appropriate level of training for law enforcement personnel is ensured. Ultimately, public confidence in law enforcement is enhanced.

VLEPSC accreditation remains in effect for four years. It is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence.

###

Attached is a photo from the Commission meeting: (see following page)



Chief Timothy Longo, VLEPSC Chairman, presented Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan and representatives of the NNSO with the Certificate of Accreditation. Pictured left to right: Major Betty Thomas, NNSO Professional Standards Bureau Chief; Chief Longo; NNSO Deputy Nathan Jones; NNSO Lt. Gerald Grogan; and Sheriff Morgan. (photo courtesy: NNSO Dep. M. Bolden)