



# Prince George's County, Maryland Office of the Sheriff

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1696 **News**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

### Trust and Transparency - Walking the Talk

The essence of the work of the Office of the Sheriff is to serve our community. What you will see in this issue of our newsletter is a thread linking our service to citizens with our continuous effort for excellence in policing. Since our last issue, we completed the critical phases of two enormously important projects. The first is one you will read about in this issue – that we achieved accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for the first time. CALEA is the ‘gold standard’ for law enforcement. The other is the roll-out of our Body-Worn Camera Program which began after an extensive pilot program. We believe



body-worn cameras will be a valuable tool in our work and in strengthening the bonds of trust between law enforcement and the community.

The importance of CALEA and the roll-out of our Body-Worn Camera Program cannot be overstated. Both speak to our commitment to best practice policing and to my personal commitment to

bring the best development opportunities to our members. Neither could have been achieved without the commitment of the members of our agency who worked to assure our success related to CALEA and to other deputies who ...*Cont..p.4*



**Melvin C. High**  
Sheriff



**Colonel Darrin C. Palmer**  
Chief Assistant Sheriff

### CALEA Accreditation

#### What is it? What Does it mean? Why does it matter?

Achieving accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) is to have achieved the ‘gold standard’ in best practice policing. Although the Sheriff’s Office CALEA Team had been notified that the Office of the Sheriff had earned accreditation back in March of 2018, the agency waited to celebrate the award at a ceremony in the Office of the Sheriff headquarters in June when Sheriff High received the official ‘Certificate of Accreditation’ from the Commission’s Executive Director, W. Craig Hartley, Jr.

Of the award Sheriff High said, “This is a demonstration of the professionalism

that should be a great source of pride for us and for the men and women of the agency. It substantiates that our policies and procedures are clear and consistent for how we do our work every day.” *Cont..p.2*



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CALEA Accreditation means that a law enforcement agency - the Sheriff's Office - does what it says it does. Earning the award required completion of a comprehensive agency-wide self-evaluation that culminated in a rigorous outside review by a team of independent assessors. CALEA standards require an established reporting process for monitoring and measuring performance. It is designed to fuel continual growth and improvement by making sure that law enforcement operates according to its policies and procedures. Those policies and procedures should be consistent with current best practices in policing.



“It’s an integrated system of accountability that ultimately helps keep our members and the public safe and to which we train so our members know what’s expected of them and can execute their duties safely and consistent with those guidelines,” said Chief Assistant Sheriff Darrin Palmer.

This is the first time the Sheriff’s Office has achieved accreditation, which has been a goal for many years. Col. Orlando Barnes gives first credit to the agency’s decision to allocate full-time manpower to the work by forming the CALEA team. “The CALEA Team’s focus was on assisting and working with every division in the agency to develop, review, revise and provide proof for every one of 189 CALEA standards that had to be met,” he said.

That work, from the Team and from the members, led the agency to this historic and important designation that came to fruition on Captain Shawn Davenport’s watch with team members Sgt. Mouhamadou Barry and Cpl. Geoffrey Kennedy Nichols and under the leadership of Major Sharon Saunders, Deputy Bureau Chief and Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility. “I agree with Captain Davenport, that this award demonstrates that the Office of the Sheriff has the best interest of citizens and agency members at the forefront of the agency’s mission,” said Barnes.

Citizens depend on and expect law enforcement officers to serve and they deserve good service. That’s what accreditation by CALEA stands for – excellence in service.

**Retirements/ Separations :** Frank Constantino #303

Tameka A. Spragley-Williams #304~Shelia Hunter #C388~Robert Wimbush #289 ~Denise Wiggins#C276 ~Derrick Knight #496 ~ Clarice Bynum #C377~Kirk Mullings #483 ~Tam Cragg #564

**New Hires /Academy Graduates:** Andrew Baines #C396 Alejandra Alonso-Warren #556 ~Tarazzia Maith #C397 Alton Bryant #554~Henry Fullah #C387~Frank King #555 Nicholas Davis #C389~Sherise Johnson #C385~Victoria Kibler #C390~Tameka Smith #C386

**In the Academy:** Edward Brunson Jr. #574 ~ Charles Hyatt #571~Antonio Walker #575 ~Toe Hyatt #572 ~ Albert Bell Jr. #576 ~Matthew Bevard #577

**EPOs:** Carl Johnson #569

**Civilian:** Barbara Reiber #T056 ~Yael Anaya #T051 ~ Sandra Christian #C392 ~ Stacy Avery #C393 ~Ana Hernandez #C394 ~Angela Edwards #C395 ~ Jillian Jones #C391

**Promotions :** Captain Paul Washington #254 ~ Lieutenant Frederick Minor #256

**Sergeant :** Marc D. Elliott #353~Tysha Hackett #424 Terance A. Howell #419 ~Alvin T. Lide #394 Brendan V. McGaffin #387 ~ Micah Y. Sam #390

**Awards/Recognition :**Sgt. Christine Wiseman #399 (Police Chief’s Assoc. Officer of the Year 2017)

Cpl. Thomas Russell #375/DFC Karl Burnett #495 (VFW Officer of the Year Award)

Arelys Rodriguez (Police Chief’s Assoc. Civilian of the Year 2017)

**The Positive D.A.Y Mentoring Program**

*An Investment in our young people and the ‘kid whisperer’ who leads the unit.*

Full disclosure to our readers - the Sheriff’s Positive D.A.Y. Mentoring Program is NOT a school resource officer or school safety program. D.A.Y. in the name of our programs stands for ‘Deputies Assisting Youth’ – through mentoring. Deputies in the Community Partnership Section are mentors to middle school students and trained instructors in the multi-module Positive D.A.Y curriculum that is designed ...*Cont. p.3*





***“Positive D.A.Y Continued from Page 2***

to assist students become the best students and people they can be. Investing in young people is good public safety.

Positive D.A.Y launched in 2011 with just four deputies at six middle schools. Today it's in fourteen schools and is an official program in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Sheriff High hopes to introduce the program to all county middle schools and to share it with other counties.

Cadet instruction encourages students to strive to reach the heights of their academic achievement, to practice positive interaction with others in mutual respect and friendship, personal safety, personal success, good decision-making, living with integrity, being an example to others, and much more. “We take great pride in our investment in young people,” said Sheriff High. “Middle schoolers are at a vulnerable and impressionable age; it's a good time to acknowledge and help them explore their thoughts and feelings about the world in an environment of trust and safety.”

Sergeant Rick Johnson supervises the unit and says his #1 goal is keeping the program content relevant to the lives and experiences of young people. “As a father, I wanted to see my handiwork reflected in the people they became,” says Sgt. Johnson. “I want that for cadets. It's a source of pride to our team to see growth and change and maturity happening right in front of us each day.”



Data on Positive D.A.Y. is encouraging with improvement in measures such as absences, suspensions, tardiness, expulsions, GPA, including among students who enrolled with past disciplinary history.

Cadets enrolled in college or the military have returned to talk to new cadets about how being a cadet changed their lives. Some say the Sgt. Johnson axiom stayed with them – ‘Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do.’

Sgt. Rick Johnson is a trained law enforcement officer but in the Sheriff's Office some of us call him the ‘kid whisperer’.

**On the way to work to a fire on Marlboro Crossing Court**

On April 26th, Cpl. Ricardo Dennis was driving to work when he noticed a huge cloud of black smoke rising to his left but he didn't hear sirens. He went to make sure that everything was ok and came upon a house in flames on Marlboro Crossing Court. And a man driving a vehicle out of the garage. Cpl. Dennis immediately notified dispatch asking them to dispatch county Fire & EMS Department (PGFD).



The man in the vehicle turned out to be the homeowner who was clearly upset and whom Cpl. Dennis had to hold back from trying to run back into the burning house. The man had burns on his arms but Dennis confirmed that no one else was inside since luckily the man's wife was at work and his son was at school – information Dennis quickly relayed to the PGFD.

Cpl. Dennis was joined by Cpl. Anthony Bynum and they recognized that the homeowner might be in shock from watching his home and belongings go up in flames and kept him occupied so PGFD could do their jobs.

Dennis reminded the homeowner that the material things were replaceable and that his family was safe. He coaxed him into letting the emergency medical team (EMT) treat the burns on his arms. When the homeowner calmed he apologized to Dennis and Bynum for his completely understandable behavior. “I gave him a hug and told him that everything would be alright,” says Cpl. Dennis. “He thanked me for being there and for keeping him from doing something foolish.

“How do you explain to people that the best part of your day was maybe saving a life?,” asks Cpl. Dennis. “It's an amazing feeling; I'm glad I was there on that day at that time!”

*SHERIFF, Continued from p. 1*

tested multiple cameras to give valuable and relevant feedback so that we could make the best choice of equipment for our agency to aid us in the work we do.

Other stories in this issue introduce you to several of our members – some going about the work they do to strengthen our community and others who have been recognized for excellence in the performance of their duties. While they are just a few among our agency, they are representative of the men and women of this agency who, with expertise and devotion to duty, contribute to the reputation and growth of this agency.

Many talk about trust and transparency. CALEA, our Body-Worn Camera Program, and the integrity with which our members execute our roles and responsibilities each day are our effort to do things that build trust.

It is my great pleasure to lead and serve the men and women of this agency. On their behalf, you may expect our continued devotion to safety, community, and to service excellence.

*Sheriff Melvin C. High*

**PGSO Awards**

Celebrating members recognized for outstanding performance and skill by community organizations.



Corporal Derrick Robinson and his K9 partner Brody won 2nd Place in the 3rd Annual K9 competition for explosive devices. They were one of only two K9 teams that located all the explosive devices during the competition.



Deputy Sheriff Kiyana Graham received a Medal of Merit from the Metropolitan Police Department for her work in aiding in the capture of a wanted murder suspect.



"Deputy of the Year" awards were awarded by Crime Solvers to Corporal Thomas Russell for responding to a tip that led to a child support apprehension & to DFC Karl Burnett whose investigation led to the return of a missing child from North Carolina.



The 2017 Police Chief's association recognized Sergeant Christine Wiseman with the "Officer of the Year Award" for rendering critical aid when a vehicle crashed into a restaurant where she was having lunch in Upper Marlboro & Ms. Arelys Rodriguez was recognized as "Civilian of the Year" for outstanding skill and service as a Special Victim Assistant serving victims of domestic violence.



On full scholarship, Special Victims Assistant Jami Gambles-Brooks completed the 15th Annual Roper Academy in Marriottsville, MD, which is modeled on the Natl. Victim Assistance Academy, the nation's premier training and education program.