



Division of Capitol Police News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 9, 2018

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Capitol Police honored by House, unveil new website

RICHMOND – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police was honored by the Virginia General Assembly on Friday with a resolution commemorating the 400th anniversary of the agency and its rich history of law enforcement.

House Joint Resolution No. 163, offered by House Speaker Kirk Cox, noted that the division has worked hard to earn a reputation for “providing progressive law enforcement to the Commonwealth.”

Tracing its roots to 1618 and the first permanent English settlement in Jamestown, the Guard, as it was then known, was originally formed to protect the governor and new-world colonists.

Now charged with providing police services to state agencies, state employees, elected officials and visitors to the Capitol Complex, the Virginia Capitol Police has also established itself as a leader in modern-day threat response and security planning. That status was a key component in the agency recently earning a federal grant that will enable Capitol Police to help first responders throughout the region better prepare for large-scale public events that present potential threats.

In addition, the Virginia Capitol Police in 2010 became one of less than 20 percent of the eligible law-enforcement agencies in the state to earn accreditation from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, a distinguished status the force continues to maintain.

“The world is constantly changing, and we’re always looking for ways to stay out in front of those changes and keep the Capitol and its grounds a safe haven for those who work and visit there,” said Col. Anthony S. Pike,

chief of the Capitol Police. “I’m proud of the men and women of the Division of Capitol Police for being committed not only to serving with honor, but to being a progressive leader in protecting our constituents.”

The House resolution capped off a busy week for the agency, which has unveiled its new website, <http://dcp.virginia.gov/>, designed to highlight the proud 400-year history of the Virginia Capitol Police. The site, designed by the Virginia Division of Legislative Automated Systems, has several new anniversary-related features, including an interactive timeline tracing key events back to 1618, and a section devoted to weekly capsules about the history of the Capitol Police.

The division will be announcing a number of community events throughout the year aimed at promoting its anniversary.

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