



Division of Capitol Police

News Release

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Division of Capitol Police Earns VLEPSC Reaccreditation

RICHMOND – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police has been reaccredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, earning the division’s latest four-year accreditation.

The division received the reaccreditation Thursday morning at the VLEPSC board meeting held at Pocahontas State Park, following a multi-day assessment conducted in March. During the assessment, the division was found to be in full compliance with nearly 200 applicable standards related to administration, operations, personnel and training.

As part of the overall assessment, the VLEPSC assessment team described the Division of Capitol Police as a “highly professional, skillfully managed and deeply impassioned law enforcement agency.” Assessors also noted that agency personnel were knowledgeable, attentive and engaged throughout the process, with those qualities evident in both public interactions and internal collaboration.

“This process requires us to open our policies, procedures and operations to a thorough outside review,” said Col. John McKee, chief of Capitol Police. “Accreditation is an important way for us to show our commitment to professional standards, accountability and the trust placed in us by the people we serve.”

The Division of Capitol Police is among fewer than 20% of law enforcement agencies in Virginia accredited by either state or national assessment bodies. The division first earned accreditation through VLEPSC in 2010 and has since been reaccredited in 2014, 2018, 2022 and 2026.

The Division of Capitol Police serves as the primary law enforcement agency for the Virginia State Capitol, Capitol Square, the Capitol District and other designated state properties in the Richmond metropolitan area. Recognized as the oldest police agency in the United States, with origins dating to 1618 in Jamestown, the division provides a broad range of public safety services, including patrol, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, crime prevention, emergency communications, protective services and security operations for state government facilities, employees, stakeholders, elected officials and visitors.

The assessment team noted that the process was conducted with full transparency, with assessors granted discretion to conduct interviews and request additional documentation as needed. According to the report, all requests were met with a proactive, cooperative approach and a strong commitment to the accreditation process.

“Maintaining accreditation is not just about meeting standards every four years,” McKee said. “It reflects the daily work of our employees to ensure we are following best practices and continuing to serve with professionalism. That attention to detail helps strengthen both our agency and public trust.”

The report also recognized the division’s personnel as its greatest strength, citing their dedication, integrity and service-driven commitment to the citizens they serve and to the law enforcement profession.

VLEPSC was established to promote professional law enforcement standards across Virginia. The program provides agencies with a framework for policies and practices that support accountability, operational effectiveness and continued improvement.



About the Division of Capitol Police

The Division of Capitol Police has been leading the nation since 1618 in securing, protecting and serving the seat of government and its people. Our mission is to provide progressive law enforcement and security services to Virginia's government officials, employees, citizens of the Commonwealth and its visitors.

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