



Commission on Accreditation for
Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.
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SLED OFFICE OF CHIEF

March 21, 2020

Mr. Mark Keel
Chief
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division
P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-1398

Chief Keel:

CALEA® Accreditation serves as the *International Gold Standard for Public Safety Agencies*. This correspondence serves to recognize the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has been awarded Law Enforcement Accreditation effective March 21, 2020 for the third time. This award remains in effect for four years and the agency retains all privileges associated with this status during that period.

The process of CALEA Accreditation begins with a rigorous self-assessment, requiring a review of policies, practices and processes against internationally accepted public safety standards. This is followed with an assessment by independent assessors with significant public safety experience. Additionally, public feedback is received to promote community trust and engagement, and structured interviews are conducted with select agency personnel and others with knowledge to assess the agency's effectiveness and overall service delivery capacities. The decision to accredit is rendered by a governing body of twenty-one Commissioners following a public hearing and review of all reporting documentation.

CALEA Accreditation is a continuous process and serves as the foundation for a successful, well managed, transparent, community-focused public safety agency. To this end, an agency must maintain its accredited status by remaining in compliance with CALEA standards at all times.

CALEA congratulates the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division for demonstrating a commitment to professional excellence through accreditation. The CALEA Accreditation indices are the *Marks of Professional Excellence* and should be displayed proudly by those that have earned them.

Sincerely,

W. Craig Hartley, Jr.
Executive Director



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March 21, 2020

Mr. Mark Keel
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Chief Keel:

The *Accreditation with Excellence Award* was created by CALEA as a symbolic incentive for agencies to employ CALEA Accreditation in a manner that sets the benchmark for public safety professionalism. To that end, the award has been structured for the recognition of agencies that have met the following criteria:

- Excellence in the development and implementation of contemporary policies and procedures.
- Excellence in the ability to use the CALEA Accreditation process as a tool for continuous organizational improvement.
- Excellence in the collection, review and analysis of organizational data for the purpose of public safety service improvement.
- Advocacy for CALEA Accreditation as a strategy for enhancing the professional standing of public safety.
- Excellence in addressing the intent of CALEA standards, beyond compliance.
- Organizational culture supportive of CALEA Accreditation.
- Standards compliance and accreditation process success.

It is our pleasure to inform you that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has been selected by the Commissioners of CALEA to receive the Accreditation with Excellence Award, and that title shall attach to the agency's CALEA Accreditation status for a period of four years. Your agency has clearly demonstrated a commitment to professionalism and CALEA Accreditation has undoubtedly become an institutionalized management model for the organization.

As the Gold Standard for Public Safety, CALEA is proud of your agency's accomplishment and commends you for your leadership.

Again, Congratulations on this most prestigious award.

Sincerely,

W. Craig Hartley, Jr.
Executive Director