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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Closter Police Awarded State Accreditation

Princeton, New Jersey – The Closter Police Department received the coveted law enforcement status of New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Accreditation. The New Jersey State Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (NJLEAC) bestowed the honor at a meeting of their commissioners on April 15, 2010 in Princeton.

The award is the culmination of a process that began in September 2008 when select members of the Department and Mayor Heymann attended a presentation outlining the benefits of being an Accredited police agency. It was immediately recognized that Accreditation would be paramount to the Closter Police Department and in March 2009 the Borough of Closter signed a contract with *The Rodgers Group*, a consulting firm hired to guide the Department through the arduous Accreditation process. Chief of Police David Berrian assigned Sergeant Dennis Kaine to be the Accreditation Manager and ultimately responsible for coordinating the dissemination, review and final approval of 112 policies and procedures. The process concluded January 31 and February 1, 2010 with a team of inspectors from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation Team conducting a comprehensive on-site inspection including, but not limited to, examining files for compliance, training, Rules and Regulations, policies and procedures, interviewing staff members, inspection of facilities, and ride-a-longs with officers.

“The honor and prestige of being an Accredited agency will unquestionably benefit the Borough of Closter; the Closter Police Department and every individual member and employee through the higher level of professionalism Accreditation carries by adherence to the *Best Practices* in law enforcement.”

There are a total of only 45 accredited police agencies in New Jersey with many more currently in the process to gain that honor.

In 2003, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police became the fourth state to partner and enter into an Alliance Agreement with the Commission On Accreditation For Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®) establishing the NJLEAC/CALEA® Recognition Program. CALEA was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), National Sheriff's Association (NSA), and Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

Accreditation brings several significant benefits. Primarily, it improves public safety services by comparing the Closter Police to, and ensuring their adherence with, the national recognized best practices in law enforcement. Additionally, it creates accountability to a respected benchmarking group that specializes in law enforcement oversight. Public trust is bolstered by way of the transparency involved in the whole accreditation process.

For additional information on the program please visit the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police website at <http://www.njsacop.org/content.asp?pl=17&contentid=39>