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City of Newburgh Police Department Earns Accreditation



(l-r) Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo, Mayor Nicholas Valentine, Councilwoman Mary Ann Leo-Dickinson, Senator Bill Larkin, Assemblyman Frank Skartados, Debra Bourque, Chief of Administrative Services for the NYS DCJS Office of Public Safety, Chief Eric Paolilli, Deputy Chief Michael Ferrara, and Sgt. Dan Cameron.

ALBANY – The City of Newburgh Police Department has joined a select group of police agencies statewide in receiving accreditation from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Commissioner Denise E. O’Donnell announced today. Only about half of law enforcement agencies in the State of New York have achieved this distinction.

In 1989, New York became the first state to establish a formal law enforcement accreditation program to help police agencies evaluate and improve their overall

performance. Accreditation provides formal recognition that an organization meets or exceeds general expectations of quality in the field, and acknowledges the implementation of policies that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

The City of Newburgh Police Department began the process in 2007, with City Council approval, and received notice of accreditation in December, 2008.

Debra Bourque, Chief of Administrative Services for the NYS DCJS Office of Public Safety, presented the award to Police Chief Eric A. Paolilli at a press conference in City Council Chambers. Sgt. Daniel Cameron was also recognized for his service as accreditation manager.

“As with any major accomplishment, accreditation does not come easily,” Ms. Bourque said. “In order to earn that distinction, the City of Newburgh Police Department was required to implement a total of 132 demanding and complex standards impacting nearly every area of the agency – from administration to training to operations.”

Program standards in the administrative section cover topics such as agency organization, fiscal management, personnel practices, and records. Training standards encompass basic and in-service instruction, as well as training for supervisors and specialized or technical assignments. Operations standards deal with such critical and litigious topics as high-speed pursuits, roadblocks, patrol, and unusual occurrences.

“The process was very labor-intensive, but well worth the effort,” said Chief Paolilli. “The accreditation not only recognizes our professionalism, it helps ensure our compliance with state and federal statutes governing law enforcement, and that we are following best practices as established by the NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation Council.”

Mayor Nicholas J. Valentine commented, “The Police Department’s participation in this accreditation process brought them not only well-deserved recognition, but the opportunity to increase the effectiveness of their already outstanding agency.”