

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID W. HARRISON JR.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lieutenant James E. Andrews
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DATE: September 20, 2012

Columbia County, NY Sheriff David Harrison, Jr. announces that on September 13, 2012, the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council voted to award the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Reaccreditation as a law enforcement agency. The Sheriff's Office was initially awarded law enforcement accreditation in 2007 and must re-apply every five years. As part of the reaccreditation process, the Sheriff's Office must meet 133 professional standards including standards in administration, training and operations. An extensive three day on-site inspection of policies, files and practices was conducted by Accreditation Council assessors, who then report back to the council with their recommendation.

According to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State accreditation program became operational in 1989 and has four principle goals:

1. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies utilizing existing personnel, equipment and facilities to the extent possible;
2. To promote increased cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and other agencies of the criminal justice services;
3. To ensure the appropriate training of law enforcement personnel; and
4. To promote public confidence

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is one of only 143 accredited agencies, from the more than 500 law enforcement agencies in New York State. Sheriff Harrison said, "it's the men and women of the Sheriff's Office who should be commended for their dedication to duty and professionalism while serving to protect the residents of Columbia County." He also thanked Law Enforcement Division Commander, Captain David Bartlett, who is the accreditation manager and has the responsibility to ensure that the standards are met every day.

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During the September 13th Accreditation Council meeting in Albany, Sheriff Harrison was presented with the Reaccreditation Certificate and Captain Bartlett was presented with the John Kimball O'Neil Certificate of Achievement for his work managing accreditation for the Sheriff's Office.

For more information about the NYS Law ENROCEMENT Accreditation Program visit <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/accred/index.htm>

Contributed Photo: L-R Captain David Bartlett, Skaneateles Police Chief and Accreditation Council Chairman H. Lloyd Perkins III, Sheriff David Harrison, Jr. and Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services Tony Perez.