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## PRESS RELEASE

**RELEASE: Immediate**  
**DATE: March 24, 2009**  
**TIME: 1:00pm**  
**CONTACT: Chief Frank Williamson**  
**SUBJECT: Lower Allen Township Police Re-Accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)**

Several members of the Lower Allen Township Police and Public Safety Departments just returned from the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) conference in Raliegh, North Carolina. At this conference, the Department received its 5<sup>th</sup> accreditation award and was given “Flagship Status” by the Commission.

Originally accredited in 1995 by the Commission, Lower Allen Police were re-accredited in 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009. The Commission has 460 standards a law enforcement agency must be in compliance with. These range from general administration, hiring and recruiting, and operational issues such as use of force and pursuit, evidence handling and prisoner transporting.

Lower Allen's on-site assessment was December 13-17, 2008. The assessment team was comprised of Captain Brian Harr of Norcross, GA, Chief Brenda Smith (Ret) Piccyune, Mississippi, and Lt. Dennis Baker of Grand Blanc, Michigan. The assessment team reviewed the Department's files against the Commission's standards to ensure compliance. They also participated in ride alongs with the officers, conducted a public meeting and took phone calls from the public.

The assessment went very well, which is a compliment to Lt. Leon Crone, the department's Accreditation Manager. As a result of the smooth on-site assessment, Lower Allen Police were awarded “Flagship Status.” This status is awarded to the top 1% of the agencies during each assessment period. In part, the Flagship certificate reads, “...for having continually demonstrated excellence in commitment to the CALEA Accreditation process and a willingness to share with others its accreditation success.” There were 103 agencies, Law Enforcement, Communications and Training Academies accredited or re-accredited at the Raliegh conference.

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According to Chief Frank E. Williamson, Jr., accreditation is a statement to the professionalism of the men and women, both sworn and civilian of the Lower Allen Police Department. The officers and staff perform their duties in compliance with national standards on a daily basis. Accreditation is not easy to obtain or maintain, nor should it be, or the system would not be worth the effort. Very few departments have obtained CALEA accreditation.

In Pennsylvania, there are only nine (9) police departments that have achieved CALEA accreditation. In central Pennsylvania, Derry Township (re-accredited at Raliegh), Harrisburg Cioty Bureau of Police, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Capitol Police. In eastern Pennsylvania, Abington Township Police, Bethlehem City Police and the University of Pennsylvania Police. And, in Western Pennsylvania, the Findlay Township Police. Additionally, the Allentown Police Department achieved CALEA Recognition and the Northeast Counter Drug Training Center (Ft. Indiantown Gap) is accredited as a Training Academy (re-accredited at the Raliegh conference).

Lower Allen Township Police are also accredited through the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC). This organization has a similar set of standards addressing high liability areas in law enforcement, while addressing state specific compliance issues. Lower Allen was initially accredited by in 2006. Our state re-accreditation on-site is scheduled for late March.

Accreditation of the police department is consistent with the mission and vision set forth by the Lower Allen Township Board of Commissioners. “Lower Allen Township is dedicated with providing the best services consistent with our community’s needs.”