



# SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

*Incorporated March 11, 1929*

PO Box 47 • Camden, New Jersey 08101

(856) 968-0100 • Fax (856) 968-0104

[www.njsheriff.org](http://www.njsheriff.org)



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**May 28, 2008** -Morristown, NJ-**Tomorrow, Thursday, May 28, 2008**, along with fellow Sheriffs, Sheriff Edward V. Rochford, President of the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey will announce that through the efforts of Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Congressman Steve Rothman, the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey will be receiving \$75,125.00 in federal funding for our statewide accreditation program. We will be the first state association in the nation to have all sheriffs' offices accredited. The public and press are welcome at the announcement which will take place at **9:30 a.m. at Congressman Frelinghuysen's office located at 30 Schuyler Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Morristown, NJ.**

The New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Program is a voluntary statewide law enforcement accreditation program specifically designed for New Jersey law enforcement agencies and is conducted by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Two counties are fully accredited through CALEA, Monmouth and Morris, and Bergen County is in the process of obtaining CALEA accreditation. Somerset County is currently in the process of obtaining state accreditation.

The Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey was the first state association in the United States to provide *Project Lifesaver* on a statewide basis. We will now be the first state association to have all sheriffs offices accredited. Funding for our program has been provided to us by a grant from the Federal Government and is designated to go to any Sheriff's Office which is not already accredited or has started the accreditation process. Accreditation has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. It is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an agency has met specific requirements and prescribed standards.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping Sheriffs' Offices and law enforcement agencies calculate and improve their overall performance. It increases the ability to prevent and control crime through a more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the county residents. Citizen confidence in policies and procedures is increased. Accreditation provides objective measures to justify decisions related to budget requests and personnel policies. Accreditation policies address officer safety issues and provide for adequate training and equipment for officers. Officers and employees take pride in our agencies knowing that it represents the very best in law enforcement.

The development of department policy is the most significant duty of a Sheriff. The "Standards Manual" for the accreditation program contains no mandatory policies and procedures. The New Jersey Public Safety Accreditation Coalition, along with President Rochford, Monmouth County Sheriff Kim Guadagno and Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire will provide officers to help the other Sheriffs' Offices with this process. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence and competence. The Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey is proud of its members and their staffs and congratulates them in this great achievement and thanks Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, and Congressman Steve Rothman for their assistance in obtaining these funds.

*The Sheriff is the highest and only law enforcement official elected by you, the people of New Jersey*