

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE ACHIEVE FORENSIC REACCREDITATION

SUFFOLK, VA (December 5, 2019) Suffolk Police's Forensic Unit, led by Julissa Armstrong, Forensic Supervisor, achieved ANSI-ASQ reaccreditation. In September 2016, they received the first accreditation of a forensic unit in Hampton Roads. ANSI-ASQ stands for American National Standards Institute /American Society of Quality Control. Armstrong spent months preparing, rewriting policies, establishing updated procedures, implementing annual proficiency testing of her staff, all culminating in an assessor review that occurred earlier this fall by an accreditation team that specializes in Crime Scene Investigation. They received the letter on October 20th confirming that they had obtained the reaccreditation.

There were approximately 170 standards across five different sections that include documentation, evidence collection, chemical screening tests, latent print development and general laboratory procedures that were reviewed as part of the process.

There are limited accreditation bodies in the United States for forensics, and this particular body was chosen for accreditation because it has an outstanding reputation

and is responsible for the Department of Forensic Science Lab accreditations. Suffolk initially was only the second forensic unit in the Commonwealth of Virginia to achieve the ISO 17020 accreditation, joining Prince William County Police forensics services in this prestigious designation.

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