

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK POLICE ACHIEVES FORENSIC ACCREDITATION

SUFFOLK, VA (September 29, 2016) Suffolk Police's Forensic Unit, led by Lurena Huffman, achieved ANSI-ASQ accreditation, the first accreditation of a forensic unit in Hampton Roads. ANSI-ASQ stands for American National Standards Institute /American Society of Quality Control. Huffman spent months preparing, rewriting policies, establishing updated procedures, implementing annual proficiency testing of her staff, all culminating in an assessor review that occurred on August 23rd and 24th by an accreditation team that specializes in Crime Scene Investigation. They received the letter on September 29th confirming that they had obtained the accreditation.

The on-site accreditation consisted of a review of the unit's policies and procedures, and examination of all of the areas where the CSI unit operates. They inspected the unit's equipment and interviewed all of the unit staff. They reviewed case logs, reports, several major cases, training records, personnel files, and equipment manuals. Each CSI unit member was asked a series of questions to demonstrate proficiency in the field, as well as to demonstrate their ability to use assigned equipment.

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 is 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. There were approximately 170 standards across five different sections that include documentation, evidence collection, chemical screening tests, latent print development and general laboratory procedures.

Huffman served as a Police Officer for 8 years and Forensic Investigator for 6 years with the Norfolk Police Department before coming to Suffolk in March 2014.

“Lurena has brought a great deal of enthusiasm, skill and expertise to the Department. Her hard work and that of her staff, as well as Shelly Koziara, our Accreditation Manager, is what allowed us to achieve this honor.” said Chief Bennett.

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