

**Darlington Police Receive Core Standards Verification Certification  
Becomes only the Seventh Agency in the State to Receive the Award**

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG) recently recognized the City of Darlington Police Department (DPD) with a certificate of Core Standards Verification. The award was given to the department following a 14-month internal review of the department's policies and operations. According to Darlington Police Chief Jason King, he approached WILEAG in 2014 and applied to be part of the Core Standards Verification Program, which provides independent verification that agencies like DPD are meeting expectations in essential areas of operations and management.

"The WILEAG mission is to promote excellence and professionalism in policing, which are certainly values our agency embodies," said Chief King. "That mission became evident in the rigorous process our agency undertook to achieve Core Standards Verification," he added. The Core Standards Verification program is open to all law enforcement agencies in the state of Wisconsin serving a population of less than 10,000 people, which encompasses most police departments in the state. DPD becomes only the seventh agency in the state to receive the certification.

In essence, agencies that volunteer to be part of the WILEAG Core Standards Verification process must provide independent inspectors and the WILEAG Board of Directors with proof of written policies that address 39 core standards surrounding key Federal & State statutory mandates related to law enforcement. The standards focus on requirements arising from case law, inherent issues related to high risk law enforcement operations, and sensitive areas involving community relations. Simply having the policies is not enough, though, as agencies must also provide evidence in the form of reports, photos, recordings, etc. to prove they are following the policies.

Following DPD's successful completion of the Core Standards Verification process, Rick Balistrieri, WILEAG Program Manager, recommended DPD's certification approval to the WILEAG Board of Directors. In so doing, Balistrieri said, "Clearly, and in simple terms, this is a chief and agency that 'gets it.' Not a single file was returned for repairs... all 39 standards were found to be in compliance." On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the WILEAG Board of Directors formally awarded DPD with the Core Standards Verification Certificate thereby acknowledging DPD's "Voluntary commitment to law enforcement excellence by its compliance with a body of 39 core standards deemed essential to the protection of life, safety, and rights of the citizens it serves." DPD will be formally recognized in February at the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association's annual Conference.

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Press Release Prepared by Jason King