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**SENECA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE COMPLETES ALL  
NECESSARY WORK FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION –  
SUBMITS REQUEST TO NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE FOR  
ON-SITE ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Sheriff Stenberg**  
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Seneca County Sheriff Jack S. Stenberg announced today that his Office has completed all of the necessary pre-requisite work required for New York State Accreditation for its' Law Enforcement Division and has submitted a formal request to the Council on NYS Law Enforcement Accreditation for an on-site accreditation assessment.

“Since taking Office we have made achieving State-wide accreditation priority number one. Not only did a Grand Jury recommend State-wide accreditation for this Office, but, in today's modern day policing - accreditation is a must. Today, we take the final step of the process by making a formal request to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Council on Law Enforcement Accreditation for an on-site assessment of our operations” said Sheriff Stenberg.

The New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation program is comprised of one hundred thirty two (132) standards divided into three categories. Standards in the administration section have provisions for such topics as agency organization, fiscal management, personnel and records. Training standards encompass basic and in-service instruction, as well as training for supervisors and specialized or technical assignments. Operations standards deal with such critical and litigious topics such as use of force, roadblocks, patrol and unusual occurrences.

We have been advised by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services that we can expect the intense three day on site accreditation assessment to occur during the first quarter of 2011. “Three senior level law enforcement managers will spend three days at the Sheriff's Office and give us a top to bottom review of our policies and operations. They will leave no stone unturned to ensure we are in total compliance of these professional standards of excellence” commented Sheriff Stenberg.

Once we receive State-wide accreditation in our Law Enforcement and Civil Divisions we will be only the second Sheriff's Office state-wide to hold all four New York State accreditations, and besides the New York State Police we will be the only other accredited law enforcement agency in Seneca County.

“Without a doubt, accreditation has had a positive impact on this Office. We have had to comply with over 450 comprehensive best practice standards Department wide. This Office has come a long way from where it has been. As a result of accreditation, we have refined our hiring, promotion and disciplinary systems, fine tuned and established checks and balances of our fiscal management practices, developed and instituted an on-going in-service training program for all our staff, and updated and modified how we deliver police services to the people of Seneca County. The residents of Seneca County can rest assured that this Office is operated in a manner consistent with best practice standards developed by Nation-wide experts in the law enforcement field” continued Sheriff Stenberg.

Sheriff Stenberg credited Undersheriff Sullivan who served as program manager for all four accreditation programs. “The work Gary has put into managing all four accreditation processes has been phenomenal. One can’t appreciate the complexity of managing all the nuances of these different accreditation programs. He did it with the utmost professionalism and without question, the Seneca County Sheriff’s Office is better today than it was before” commented the Sheriff. “Every employee in this Office has had a role in the accreditation process and I am thankful that I’ve been able to play a role in managing the process so they could earn the professional recognition they solely deserve and the residents of Seneca County expect from their Sheriff’s Office” said Sullivan.

“Change in an organization is difficult process, one that is often met with resistance. While we have the best policies and procedures in place to ensure the delivery of services, it still comes down to our employees and the choices they make every day. We now have a solid foundation of which to build upon for the future. It has taken three years to overcome the status quo and now is the time to make this Office one of the most progressive, technically advanced Sheriff’s Offices in the State of New York” said Sheriff Stenberg.

Earlier this year, the Corrections and Court Security Divisions were awarded State-wide accreditation. The Sheriff’s Office is expecting an on-site assessment of its Civil Division to occur before years end.