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**For Immediate Release****The Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance (VLEOA) supports efforts for professionalism in policing**

[ORLANDO, FL July 1, 2020] – The Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance (VLEOA) is deeply saddened by the current polarization of people throughout the world and supports America’s ongoing efforts to continually develop the policing profession. We stand with many other organizations worldwide to condemn violence and racism toward any people, including blacks, indigenous people, all people of color, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Community trust is the backbone of police-community relationships, and the VLEOA applauds police agencies that have worked with their communities as partners, rather than face them as adversaries. A robust volunteer policing program can be the bridge between the police and the community and may encourage citizens to become involved at the most complex levels. Volunteering in policing can “draw back the curtain” that may shroud the transparency that communities need to trust in their government.

The VLEOA mission is to strive to be the leader in the training, support, and service to reserve, auxiliary, and volunteer police throughout the world, and to share information and resources to assist our membership organizations in establishing effective and well-trained volunteer public safety personnel. Through our various training conferences, leadership training, and resource sharing outlets our organization helps volunteer police be better at serving their communities. We support increased training for full-time police personnel, but also for volunteers who work in policing. We encourage states and local governments to consider how to better recruit, hire, and train qualified members of disenfranchised communities for full-time positions, but also to involve these same individuals as police volunteers. VLEOA also acknowledges that better policing may require additional resources and funding, not reductions.

**Resources:**

The VLEOA stands ready as a resource for member organizations, but we are also happy to provide additional resources about volunteer policing to requestors, including links to academic and professional journal articles, books, and more. If you would like information about resources available, please contact us.

**For more information on VLEOA:**

<https://www.policereserve.org/>