



## Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance, Inc.

Helping to keep volunteer officers and their communities safe, worldwide

November 6, 2018

Executive Director Craig Hartley  
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.  
13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320  
Gainesville, VA 20155

Dear Mr. Hartley:

The Volunteer Law Enforcement Officer Alliance (VLEOA) is a tax-exempt 501-C (3) public charity organization that has quickly become the leader in the training and support of volunteer, reserve, and auxiliary law enforcement officers world-wide. Our mission is to assist in the formation, expansion and training of volunteer law enforcement units and to promote awareness of the role of the volunteer officer in providing for the safety of the citizens of their communities. The VLEOA serves as an international leader in support of volunteer, reserve, and auxiliary law enforcement officers by providing a network for the exchange of ideas and information.

We have recently been made aware of the change in CALEA standards regarding the training and use of officers whose academy training is less than that of a full-time paid officer (rule 16.1.4 LE1). While we strongly agree that standards for volunteer officers should be addressed in a more systematic and rigorous manner (see our article in *Police Chief* magazine, October 2015, "Reserve Policing in the United States: Citizens Volunteering for Public Service," that identifies 5 levels of training), a "one size fits all" model of eliminating all but those trained to the exact same standards as full-time paid officers is not the ideal approach. We hold that this change will have a detrimental effect on the ability of many agencies to carry out their missions, for both CALEA accredited agencies and ones that strive to follow the rigorous standards that your commission champions.

As a representative organization of volunteer policing in the United States and around the world, we would welcome the opportunity to be involved in this discussion. Our members include volunteer officers from across the US who would be affected by this change, so we clearly have an interest in this process. Our leadership and members include command personnel and leaders in volunteer police organizations, the top researchers in the academic field of volunteer policing, and who serve on committees for major policing organizations, including International Association of Chiefs of Police and National Sheriffs' Association committees.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ross Wolf, EdD  
President

Adam Dobrin, PhD  
Member, Board of Directors

-On behalf of the Board of Directors, VLEOA