



## CHIEF'S PREFACE

The Albany Police Department serves and protects the citizens of Albany. We draw our authority from the will and consent of the people. The police are the instrument of the people to achieve and maintain order. Our efforts are grounded in the tenants of public service. We are accountable to the people we serve and to each other.

We are entrusted by the community to provide the highest quality public safety service and this Policy Manual defines the manner in which we do that. It provides the framework that supports our mission of "Excellence through Service".

There must be certain rules and guidelines in place so that we can maintain a consistent, efficient and professional organization. All employees of this Department are expected to follow the directives contained in this manual so that we can consistently provide the most reliable, effective, professional and committed level of service to our community.

Public confidence in the criminal justice system depends greatly on the trust that the people have in their police. The fundamental purpose and role of the police in a free society is the protection of constitutional guarantees, maintenance of public order, crime prevention and suppression, and response to the needs of the community.

The Albany Police Department is proud to be accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). CALEA Accreditation is an international award recognizing professional excellence in law enforcement and is considered the "Gold Standard in Public Safety." CALEA began in 1979 to improve the delivery of law enforcement services by incorporating a range of standards, developed by law enforcement practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date law enforcement best practices as an attempt to raise professionalism in law enforcement to a standard of high excellence.

As the Chief of Police, I am proud of the members of our agency. This manual gives us our structure and highlights what we value in Albany. Each and every day our employees act with the professionalism and dedication that often results in a safe and livable city.

Chief of Police Marcia Harnden