



On July 25, 2023, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) awarded the **Mahoning Township Police Department** “Accreditation Status”. Aside from the Pennsylvania State Police and the Bloomsburg University Police Department, Mahoning Township is the only “accredited” municipal department in the entire central Susquehanna Valley to include Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union, Snyder, Lycoming, and Clinton Counties.

What is Accreditation?

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to the Commonwealth in July 2001. Since then, over 375 agencies have enrolled and 172 agencies currently maintain accredited status.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

The Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designed and developed by professional law enforcement executives to provide a reasonable and cost-effective plan for the professionalization of law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. The underlying philosophy of the program is to have a user-friendly undertaking for the departments that will result in a “success” oriented outcome.

The Benefits?

- Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures
- Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits
- Decreases some liability insurance expenditures
- Improves law enforcement – community relations
- Increases employee input, interaction and confidence in the agency

Enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of managers, officers and employees  
Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency  
Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress  
Provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures  
Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials  
Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel  
Develops improved methods for providing services to the community  
Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency



Sgt. Matthew Gerst, Chief Frederick Dyroff, Cpl. Jason Bedisky, and Mahoning Township Supervisor Chair, Bill Lynn.