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News Release

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Airport Authority Police Awarded CALEA Accreditation

-- Demonstrated Compliance with 372 Performance Standards

The Wayne County Airport Authority's (WCAA) Police Division has earned official accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), as was presented today to the Authority's Board by CALEA commissioner Curtis Holt. Today's recognition was the culmination of the Authority's two-year process to attain this prestigious, international law enforcement distinction. Accreditation was officially conferred upon the Airport Authority at a ceremony last month in Tulsa.

"Public safety and security are always the Airport Authority's top priority, and we are very proud of our Public Safety team for achieving this international distinction," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "Our CALEA-accredited law enforcement team is truly an asset to our airports and our continued Authority-wide commitment to safety."

Attaining CALEA accreditation, a process WCAA initiated in late 2007, requires that airport law enforcement be in compliance with 372 performance standards. Airport Police successfully passed an on-site assessment in August 2008, where a CALEA team verified the Authority's compliance with those standards. The assessors reviewed reports, observed the Division's operation, interviewed personnel and inspected WCAA buildings and equipment. Additionally, the assessors held a public hearing and call-in availability for members of the public to provide comment on airport law enforcement.

CALEA accreditation signifies that a law enforcement agency is committed to excellence through compliance with internationally recognized standards. Of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide, only 600 have achieved CALEA accreditation. The Airport Police is the largest of the nine Michigan agencies that are officially recognized for demonstrating a commitment to excellence in law enforcement. Currently, WCAA is the largest airport operator in the U.S. with its own police force to attain this distinction.

"Attaining accreditation is challenging," Holt said. "Maintaining accreditation is even more difficult and requires a continued commitment to the process."

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CALEA's goals are to strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities, formalize essential management procedures, establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices, improve service delivery, solidify interagency cooperation and coordination, and increase community and staff confidence in the agency. CALEA is a combined effort of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum. For more information about CALEA and the accreditation process, visit www.calea.org.

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