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A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Christopher Daniel, CHIEF

MEDIA RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FIRST-EVER EXCELSIOR REACCREDITATION STATUS

Tampa, Fla.: The University of South Florida Police Department (UPD) has received Excelsior reaccreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) for the first time in the history of the agency. The Excelsior Recognition program is the highest level of achievement in Florida accreditation a criminal justice agency can receive.

UPD is now one of only two agencies out of 12 in the State University System to hold Excelsior Status and this achievement places UPD in the top 33 percent of all accredited, law enforcement agencies within the State of Florida.

“One of my commitments when taking on this leadership role was to make the USF Police Department one of the best University Police Departments in the state,” said Police Chief Chris Daniel. “This is one incredible step toward meeting that goal. I’m very proud of the dedicated members of this department, and the professional work they do every single day.”

In August, a team of assessors reviewed 236 accreditation standards to determine if UPD was within compliance of policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. During the review, assessors completed a

comprehensive examination of policies and correlating proof documents, as well as conducted random interviews with members from all areas of UPD.

Aside from the policy analysis and interviews, a significant element of the assessment was the static presentation of patrol and specialty vehicles and other equipment critical to the agency's operations. The purpose of this display was to prove compliance as it relates to vehicle standards and condition, safety and emergency equipment and applicability to the work of police personnel.

Specifically, Daniel highlighted UPD accreditation manager Lt. Charlotte Domingo and the excellent work of her team to prepare the agency for this on-site assessment. Daniel said this is a win for the university, and he is grateful for the ongoing support of the USF administration. According to Daniel, the USF Police Department achieving Excelsior accreditation at a time when the University has recently attained Preeminent status further demonstrates the institution's forward momentum. Providing a safe campus environment is essential to the success of USF students, faculty and staff.

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L to R: Commission Chair Police Chief A. Holloway; Audrey Clarke, USF Public Information Officer; John Long, USF COO; USF Police Chief C. Daniel; Lt. C. Domingo, Accreditation Manager; Officer D. Sacher-Brown, Accreditation Specialist; Capt. M. Ross; Asst. Chief, S. Simonetti; CFA Executive Director, Lori Mizell