



# Media Alert

## Three New Commissioners Appointed

**Gainesville, Virginia, September 30, 2020** — CALEA®, the Gold Standard in Public Safety, is pleased to announce the appointment of three new Commissioners. They are **Sheriff John Samaniego**, Shelby County (AL) Sheriff's Office, **City Manager Kirk Bednar**, City of Brentwood, Tennessee, and **Director Renee Gordon**, Alexandria (VA) Department of Emergency Communications. Additionally, four current CALEA Commissioners have been reappointed. All appointments are effective January 1, 2021.

**John Samaniego** was elected Sheriff of Shelby County in 2014 and began his second term in January 2019. He currently serves on the Board of Directors as the Alabama representative for the Regional Organized Crime Information Center (RISS), District Vice-President for the Alabama Peace Officers Association, and is a Shelby County Community Corrections Board Member. Sheriff Samaniego holds a Juris Doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law and a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He is a graduate of the 176th Session of the FBI National Academy and is a 2017 graduate of the FBI - National Executive Institute.

City Manager **Kirk Bednar** has held his current position since 2013, and prior to that he served as the Assistant City Manager for Brentwood. He also has professional experience as a municipal management consultant for more than 50 cities within Tennessee. He holds a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University and is a graduate of Augustana College, where he attained a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration.

**Renee Gordon** has served as the Director for the Alexandria Department of Emergency Communications since 2015. Previously, she was the Director of 911 and Emergency Communications in Baltimore, Maryland. She began her public safety career as a member of the Prince George's County (MD) Police Department and transitioned to public safety communications in 2008. Director Gordon holds a Master of Business Administration from Trinity University and is a graduate of the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center, Public Safety Senior Executive Institute. Director Gordon is also a graduate of the University of Richmond Professional Executive Leadership School and is an industry leader empowering her organization as a certified professional in the *Society for Human Resource Management* (SHRM). In addition she holds several international public safety certifications.

The reappointed Commissioners include Councilperson Stavros Anthony, City of Las Vegas, Nevada; Chief Anthony Purcell, Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham; Chief Jeffrey Smythe, Burlington (NC) Police Department; Colonel Rick Arroyo, Delaware River and Bay Authority.

The knowledge and experience these individuals bring to CALEA ensures the organization continues to meet its mission of promoting professionalism within the field of public safety. CALEA congratulates and welcomes our new and returning Commissioners.

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### **About CALEA**

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA®) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); National Sheriffs' Association (NSA); and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Programs is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

Specifically, 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.

The CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model; once implemented, it presents the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), on a continuing basis, with a blueprint that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery—regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency. This accreditation program provides public safety agencies an opportunity to voluntarily demonstrate that they meet an established set of professional standards based on industry best practices and approved by an all-volunteer board of commissioners.

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