



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gene F. McGee

Phone: (601) 856-7113

### **RIDGELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT EARNS ACCREDITATION**

(Ridgeland, MS – March 8, 2010) The Ridgeland Police Department is now accredited with the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. The police department is required to demonstrate compliance with 123 professional standards in order to become accredited. The Certificate is dated February 10, 2010 and lasts for 3 years. It was presented at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayor and Board of Aldermen Meeting.

An assessment team reviewed the department's policies and practices, interviewed personnel and closely examined files. Comments from department employees and members of the community were also taken during the assessment.

Standards cover topics such as use of force, training, disciplinary procedures, selection process, promotions, career development, patrol, criminal investigation, pursuits and traffic. Adherence to accreditation standards prompts a police department to strengthen its crime prevention and control capabilities, establish written procedures for essential management functions, maintain fair personnel practices, improve delivery of police services, solidify inter-agency cooperation and coordination, and to boost citizen and staff confidence in the department.

According to Jimmy Houston, Chief, "There are two things that accreditation does for Law Enforcement Agencies. The first thing is that it raises the bar for excellence in our field. It mandates subscribed ways of accomplishing tasks and documenting those tasks in a tried and proven manner. The second thing that it does is raise the professionalism that we in the Law Enforcement community have sought for so long. It gives us all that "Seal" of professionalism we have long looked for."

Gene F. McGee, Mayor, said of the Ridgeland Police Department's accreditation, "Ridgeland has always prided itself in having the best possible police department. This Certificate of Accreditation further verifies our commitment to providing our citizens with police protection that is second to none."

###

mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158  
street address: 304 highway 51 • ridgeland, ms 39157  
ph: 601.856.7113 • [www.ridgelandms.org](http://www.ridgelandms.org)

Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • David W. Overby, cpa - director of finance & administration, city clerk

board of aldermen: Gerald Steen - at - large • Ken Heard, cmo - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier - ward 2 • Kevin Holder - ward 3  
Brian P. Ramsey - ward 4 • Scott Jones, mayor pro tempore - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin - ward 6