

**Prince William County
Illegal Immigration Enforcement Policy Implementation Program
VACo – 2010 Achievement Awards - OVERVIEW**

In 2007, the Prince William County Police Department faced an issue that tested the boundaries of local police authority. When it was directed to develop and implement a comprehensive illegal immigration enforcement policy, and to take action in what essentially was a new area of local law enforcement, the Police Department was in uncharted territory. There was no precedent or model policy to follow and there was intense pressure, both politically and publicly. A three-phased implementation approach was constructed, approved and ultimately put into practice. This approach can be replicated and provides a process for policy development, training, public education and evaluation.

Phase I: Policy Development and Acquisition of Immigration Authority ~ In order to ensure that the policies and procedures developed were firmly based in legal authority, a comprehensive legal review was embarked upon prior to and during the formulation of the new department policy. All sworn police officers and relevant civilian personnel have been trained, and federal immigration enforcement authority was acquired by a specialized unit that regularly coordinates with ICE.

Phase II: Public Information Campaign ~ Department staff conducted more than 300 meetings with residents and other community groups in order to educate the community regarding the new policy, as well as set and manage community expectations.

Phase III: Evaluation ~ A third-party, objective evaluation has been utilized to determine the long-term effectiveness and demonstrable results of the policy. The final evaluation, due to be complete in the Fall of 2010, will lead to a greater analysis of the effect of police policies and practices on the local community.