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**Chief Katherine A. Perez Elected to Lead  
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives**

At its 15<sup>th</sup> annual convention last week, Bowie Police Chief Katherine A. Perez was installed as president of the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives.

NAWLEE is a non-profit organization sponsored and administered directly by law enforcement practitioners. Its mission is to serve and further the interests of women executives and those who aspire to be executives in law enforcement. The National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE) is the first organization established to address the unique needs of women holding senior management positions in law enforcement. NAWLEE has approximately 400 members, including law enforcement executives from agencies nationally and internationally.

Chief Perez, who was hired by the City of Bowie to establish a municipal police department, began her tenure in Bowie in September 2006 as the police department's first employee. She built the department from the ground up, and has overseen all aspects of the department, from designing the officers' uniforms, cruisers and badges, to writing the operating procedures of the department, to putting the first six officers on the street in February of 2007. Since that time the department has grown to a current force of 48 sworn officers. At full strength the department is expected to have 57 officers.

Prior to beginning her work with the Bowie Police, Ms. Perez was the Director of the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit of the Maryland Attorney General's Office and before that was Chief of the District Heights Police Department.

Ms. Perez, a resident of Bowie, moved to Prince George's County in 2004 following a distinguished 21-year career in the Hartford, Connecticut Police Department. She began her professional career in Hartford as a patrol officer in 1983. She advanced through the department, holding a variety of positions.

As President of NAWLEE, Chief Perez hopes to continue and expand upon the organization's mission of reaching out to women both nationally and internationally to share ideas, tools and strategies for increasing the opportunities for women in executive law enforcement positions. For more information about the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, please visit <http://www.nawlee.com>.

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