

## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

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\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*
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## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The Visalia Police Department is now accepting applications for this year's' "Citizens Police Academy".

The Citizen Police Academy is a ten week course designed to acquaint prospective volunteers with the inner workings of the Visalia Police Department while being trained to become a "Volunteer in Police Service" (VIPS). All instructors are Visalia Police Department personnel trained in various areas such as Police Ethics, Crime Scene Investigation, Homicide & Burglary Investigation, K-9, SWAT, Bomb Unit, Patrol Procedures, Traffic & DUI procedures, Gang & Narcotics Enforcement, and Crime Prevention.

Upon successful completion of this course and a background investigation, members will be sworn in as a VIPS, ready to assist in essential non-hazardous duties. Some of these duties will include administrative and office functions and field operations such as community events, parades, traffic control, and DUI checkpoints.

There will be an informational meeting open to interested community members on Thursday January 15 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall Council Chambers 707 W. Acequia. Classes are scheduled to begin in March 2015. Applications are available through January 30, 2015 at the following locations:

Visalia Police Department (VPD) Headquarters 303 S. Johnson St

VPD District 1 Office 204 N.W. Third

VPD District 2 Office 4100 S. County Center

For more information contact:

Samantha Ferrero Crime Prevention Coordinator (559) 713-4370

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