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For Immediate Release

August 6, 2020

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## HPD Teams with PECO for Meet-and-Greet Program

HARRISONBURG, VA – The People's Equality Commission of the Shenandoah Valley (PECO) in partnership with the Harrisonburg Police Department will conduct a press conference in front of the Public Safety Building at 101 N. Main St. on Friday, August 7 at 2 pm. PECO and HPD will announce a new program designed to get police officers and community members together to discuss neighborhood policing opportunities and to foster trust and partnerships in improving the overall quality of life in the City of Harrisonburg.

At the press conference, Stan Maclin, a community activist and member of the commission, along with other members of PECO will officially introduce the program to include identifying future dates and locations for the meetings. Members of the Harrisonburg Police Department will also be present to discuss the program and answer questions.

According to PECO, this travelling "meet-and-greet" program will provide citizens with the opportunity to get to know the officers who patrol their districts and discuss community issues important to them. For the officers, they get the chance to answer questions, discuss current issues and trends, and build relationships with those they serve.

"This outreach will help us focus on community, and provide new opportunities to break down barriers, uncover issues that affect our neighborhoods, and foster long-lasting relationships," said HPD Chief Eric English.

The first district event is tentatively planned for mid-August. The media is welcome to attend the press conference and get to know the people behind this collaborative program. For more information please contact Sgt. Chris Monahan, HPD's Community Resources Unit supervisor at chris.monahan@harrisonburgva.gov.