



For Immediate Release

Conservation Police Officers Lodge 114  
509 N. Second St.  
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### **CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS REACH CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH GAME COMMISSION**

HARRISBURG (April 23, 2010) – Conservation Police Officers Lodge 114 President Frank Dooley today announced that Wildlife Conservation Police Officers have reached a contract agreement with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

“Wildlife Conservation Police Officers have been working for nearly two and a half years without a contract,” Dooley said. “The starting salary of a Conservation Police Officer has been well below that of conservation agencies in neighboring states, as well as other law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania. This contract is a good first step at leveling the playing field. It will help us maintain the officers that we have and attract new ones to the job.”

The contract is retroactive to 2008 and will end in 2012. As part of the contract, officers will receive a 4 percent wage increase for 2008-2009; a 5.25 percent increase for 2009 to 2010; a 2.25 percent increase for 2010 to 2011, and a one-time lump sum of \$1,250; 4.5 percent for the final year of the contract. Officers also will receive an annual \$250 uniform allowance.

Dooley noted that Waterways Conservation Police Officers continue to work without a contract since July 2007.

Dooley also encouraged the legislature to pass two pieces of legislation, House Bill 1398 and House Bill 1513. HB1398 would allow for binding arbitration for Waterways Conservation Officers and HB1513 would extend the Law Enforcement Severe Injury Legislation, also known as the Heart and Lung Act, to Conservation Officers.

“Improving our compensation alone will not solve the shortages we face in recruiting and maintaining police officers to the job,” Dooley said. “Currently, if a Conservation Police Officer is injured on the job, they’re not afforded the same benefits and protections as other police officers. This is especially critical since fewer officers are required to provide protection to larger areas of state game lands and waterways.

HB1398 and HB 1513 would give Conservation Police Officers the same protection that every other state law enforcement officer is afforded.

Conservation Police Officers Lodge 114 is comprised of Wildlife Conservation Police Officers employed full-time by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Waterways Conservation Police Officers employed full-time by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. The 280 plus officers who embody the Lodge make this Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge one of the largest in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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