

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER – ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

SUFFOLK, VA (September 30, 2019) Chief Thomas E. Bennett announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive October 7, 2019, to examine all aspects of the Suffolk Police Department’s Emergency Communications policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

“The CALEA accreditation process of our Emergency Communications Center has provided us with a vehicle to access and review our critical 911 center operations. It has provided guidance to ensure our center is meeting all industry protocols and standards”, Chief Bennett said. The Suffolk Police Department is seeking initial accreditation.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments during a public access telephone session. The public may call (757) 514-7974 on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

Telephone comments are limited to ten (10) minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Suffolk Police Department. To view these standards, contact Officer Shelly Koziana at telephone (757) 514-7959.

Persons wishing to submit written comments about the Suffolk Police Department's Emergency Communications Center abilities to comply with the standards for accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155, or email calea@calea.org.

The Suffolk Police Department Emergency Communications Center must comply with approximately two hundred and five standards which, in turn, contain over three hundred bulleted sub- standards in order to gain accredited status.

The CALEA Accreditation Manager for the Suffolk Police Department is Officer Shelly Koziana. The assessment team is comprised of public safety practitioners from similar, but out of state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit Officers and other locations where compliance can be witnessed.

The assessors are Deputy Chief Joseph Spera and Ms. Melissa Morgan. Once the CALEA assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report to the full commission, which will then decide whether the agency is to be granted accredited status.

Accreditation is for four years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Field Operations Division at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155, or call (703) 352-4225.

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