

## NEWS RELEASE

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### SUFFOLK POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

SUFFOLK, VA (October 29, 2020) The Suffolk Police Department is scheduled for an on-site assessment from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on Monday, November 9, 2020, as part of a program to achieve re-accreditation by verifying it continues to meet professional standards.

The accreditation program requires agencies to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services. The Suffolk Police Department must comply with approximately one hundred and sixty-three standards which, in turn, contain over three hundred bulleted sub-standards in order to gain accredited status.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at the public information session on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This session will be conducted in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 442 West Washington Street. Suffolk City Hall will be accessible to the public for this limited purpose ONLY.

Additionally, in keeping with the Governor's recent Executive Order and CDC recommendations, face coverings will be required and social distancing recommendations will be adhered to for this public indoor setting to help contain the spread of the novel coronavirus. Staff have and will continue to increase sanitizing of common surfaces.

If, for some reason, an individual cannot speak at the public information session, but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, agency employees and the public are also invited to offer comments by calling (757) 514- 4223 on November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to ten minutes and must address agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available for review at the Suffolk Police Department Headquarters located at 111 Henley Place. Contact the Accreditation Manager, Master Police Officer Andrew Fenneman, at 514-7959 for an appointment.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments about the Suffolk Police Department's ability to comply with the standards for re-accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155, or email [calea@celea.org](mailto:calea@celea.org).

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. The Suffolk Police Department is community-oriented, and public trust is an integral part of its function on a day to day basis. This rigorous process offers a transparency to the public which mutually benefits both parties so that the Suffolk Police Department can work together to build and support the most viable community possible. Enrollment in the CALEA Accreditation process is strictly voluntary, as most Departments would not be able to reach compliance with the strict accountability standards that are required. Only a small percentage of all Police Departments in the nation are accredited, as it takes the highest level of commitment to excellence to be able to comply with all of the requirements. By once again voluntarily subscribing to this strategic and comprehensive re-accreditation process, the Suffolk Police Department has once again attested to its commitment to the citizens of Suffolk.

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