

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AWARDED
FULL ACCREDITATION FROM CALEA

Colonel Joseph J. Mokwa, Chief of Police, announced today that the Metropolitan Police Department has successfully completed a multi-year process designed to attain internationally acknowledged law enforcement accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®). The Department was officially awarded full accreditation at CALEA's Fall Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado early in November.

“This is important for the Department and for the St. Louis Community,” stated Chief Mokwa. “The Department now joins a large number of agencies around the country whose policies and procedures have been recognized as best practices and for our citizens it means an even higher level of police service.”

CALEA was established as a private, non-profit accrediting authority in 1979 by the four major law enforcement executive associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); National Sheriffs' Association (NSA); and Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). The Commission has 21 members; 11 of whom are law enforcement practitioners, with the remaining 10 from the public and private sectors.

President of the Board of Police Commissioners, Colonel Chris Goodson, is excited about the accreditation and the benefits to the entire region. “The effort that the

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Chief and his staff put into getting this accreditation was monumental. This Board will strive to make sure it is more than just an accreditation on paper,” said Colonel Goodson. “As a Board we expect and will ensure that the standards and procedures of CALEA are followed by every member of this Department.”

The Department received its accreditation after participating in the lengthy process that involved a commitment of personnel and valuable resources. During that period, all aspects of the agency’s policies, procedures, management, operations and support services were examined in great detail. In addition, the Department conducted a detailed self-assessment and participated in an on-site review by a team of outside CALEA Assessors. The community also had the opportunity to participate in the process by providing their comments and observations. The Department received its on-site visit in August of this year. The Department’s accreditation is for three years.

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