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1915 Olive St.
St. Louis, Missouri 63103
(314) 444-5603

NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

December 11, 2014

Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comments

Department seeking re- accreditation for St. Louis Police Academy

St. Louis, Mo - Chief Sam Dotson announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) will arrive Monday, December 15, 2014, to examine all aspects of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department's ("the Department) Police Academy ("the Academy") policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

Verification by the team that the Academy meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain CALEA re-accreditation, which recognizes departments with professional excellence.

As part of the on-site re-assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling (314) 444-1275 on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, between 2-4 p.m. Comments will be taken by the assessment team.

Telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation Standards. Copies of the standards are available for review in the Public Information Office.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Academy's ability to meet the standards for re-accreditation are requested to write to CALEA at 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

In order to gain re-accredited status, the Academy must comply with 159 standards.

"Our staff and I welcome the arrival of the on-site assessment team. This assessment exemplifies our commitment to excellence and recognizes the efforts of our Academy staff to provide state-of-the art training to our officers," said Chief Dotson. "Our Academy staff has worked together to prepare for the re-assessment and their diligence in doing so is just another example of the outstanding work they do to provide our department with the best training possible."

The assessment team is composed of public safety officials from similar departments around the country. The assessors for the on-site visit are Chief John Letteney from the Apex NC Police Department and Chief Louis Moreto a retiree from the Manalapan Township NJ Police Department. The assessors will review written material, interview staffers and visit areas of the Academy where compliance can be witnessed.

The assessors will report their findings to the full commission and a decision will be made to grant or deny re-accreditation. Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department received its initial CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation award in 2007 and was re-accredited in 2010 and 2013. The Department's Communications Division was accredited in 2013 and its Training Academy was accredited in 2012. The Department received the CALEA Tri-Arc Award in August of 2013, reflecting the holding of three concurrent CALEA accreditations and is one of only twelve agencies internationally with that distinction.

Lt. Thomas Percich serves as CALEA Accreditation Manager for the Department.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia, 20155; or call (703) 352-4225 or visit the CALEA website at www.calea.org.

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