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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

CONTACT:

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Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comments

Department is Seeking Re-accreditation

St. Louis, Mo. – Today, Police Chief Sam Dotson announced that the Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis will host a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) on April 27, 2014. A team from CALEA® will examine all aspects of the Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

“Verification by the team that the Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain re-accreditation – a highly prized recognition of public safety professional excellence,” Chief Dotson said.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer public comments at a public information session Monday, April 28th, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The session will be held in sixth floor Board Room of Police Headquarters located at 1200 Clark Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session but would like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public may call (314) 444-1275 on Monday, April 28th, 2014 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA Standards. A copy of the standards is available for review at the Public Information Office (314) 444-5603.

Individuals wishing to offer written comments about the Metropolitan Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

The Metropolitan Police Department has to comply with 188 standards in order to maintain accreditation. The Department was awarded its initial CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation award in 2007 and was re-accredited in 2010. The Department's Training Academy was accredited in 2012 and its Communications Division was accredited in 2013. 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.

"The assessment team is composed of public safety practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies," said Lt. Thomas Percich, CALEA Accreditation Manager for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. "The assessors will review written material, interview individuals, and visit offices and other locations where compliance can be witnessed."

The assessors for the on-site visit are Colonel Douglas Middleton, Chief of Police, Henrico County Police Division, Henrico, VA and Commissioner Gerald Bailey, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL

"Once the CALEA Assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be awarded re-accredited," Lt. Percich stated.

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.

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 e-mail calea@calea.org.

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