



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police assessors to visit HCPD for re-accreditation process

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will visit the Howard County Police Department next week to examine all aspects of police policy, procedures, management, operations and support services. As part of the on-site assessment, which occurs every three years, members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on April 9.

The police department must comply with more than 400 standards in order to gain re-accreditation status, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

“The Howard County Police Department has been nationally accredited since 1990 and I am proud that we regularly exceed the stringent national standards required to receive re-accreditation,” said Police Chief Gary Gardner. “I’m looking forward to another successful, transparent review of all aspects of our agency.”

The public information session will be conducted Monday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. The session will be held in the Columbia Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City. Members of the public who cannot be present at the public information session, but would like to provide comments to the assessment team may call 410-313-2214 on April 9 from 3-5 p.m. Comments will be taken directly by the Assessment Team.

The assessment team is comprised of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies in other states. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and visit facilities to confirm compliance with all CALEA standards. The assessors are Chief John Bruce of the Frisco (Texas) Police Department, who is the team leader, and Sergeant Cortney Morrison of the Newton County (Ga.) Sheriff’s Office.

Once the Commission’s assessors complete their review of the Howard County Police Department, they will report back to the full Commission, which then decides if the agency is to be granted re-accreditation status. Certification covers three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports to the Commission demonstrating continued compliance with all required standards.

Telephone comments and appearances at the public information session are generally limited to five minutes and must address the Howard County Police Department’s ability to comply with CALEA’s standards. The standards may be reviewed at police headquarters. The local HCPD contact is Tami Bulla, who can be reached at 410-313-3229 or by e-mail to tbulla@howardcountymd.gov.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Howard County Police Department’s ability to meet the standards for Accreditation may write to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Va., 20155. Written comments may also be submitted by email to calea@calea.org, with “Howard County Police” in the subject line.

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