

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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"LEADING THE WAY TO A SAFER COMMUNITY"



ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will be conducting a virtual assessment of the Woodbridge Township Police Department starting on Monday, November 9, 2020.

By choosing to be re-accredited through CALEA, The Woodbridge Township Police Department has voluntarily accepted the challenge to meet the most rigorous set of standards designed for law enforcement in the United States.

“Verification by the CALEA assessment team that the Woodbridge Township Police Department meets the Commission’s state-of-the-art standards is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence,” Director Robert Hubner said.

As part of the virtual on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a virtual public information session on Monday, November 9, 2020 starting at 6:00 PM in the Woodbridge Township council Chambers, located on the first floor of the Woodbridge Municipal Building on One Main Street. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the hearing will be conducted virtually via video conferencing with the assessment team. Anyone attending the hearing must adhere to social distancing practices and wear a face mask or face covering at all times with the exception of when they are addressing the assessment team.

If for any reason an individual cannot attend the public information session but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public may call on Monday, November 9, 2020 between the hours of 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM. The number to call is 937-694-5891.

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’s standards.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Woodbridge Township Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155, or e-mail to calea@calea.org, with the subject line "Woodbridge NJ Police Department."

"The Woodbridge Township Police Department has to comply with all applicable CALEA Standards in order to achieve re-accredited status," Director Hubner said. Director Hubner also said "accreditation is very important to the Woodbridge Township Police Department because it is a way of measuring itself against nationally recognized standards and fits perfectly with the Township's commitment to increased professionalism and public safety."

The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from out-of-state agencies who have received specialized assessor training from CALEA. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and virtually observe facilities where compliance can be witnessed.

The team leader for the assessment is Chief Richard Barnhart (Ret.). Chief Barnhart retired from the West Carrollton Police Department in October 2013 after 30 plus years of service. Richard served as the Chief of Police for thirteen years prior to retiring. Richard has an Associate Degree from Clark State College in Law Enforcement Technology. He is a graduate of the 185th Session of the FBI National Academy. Richard graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) and is a Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Richard has been a CALEA Assessor for seventeen years.

Team member for the assessment is Kim Morrow-Lopez. She has been the Grants/Accreditation Manager of the state and CALEA Accredited Miramar Police Department since 2011. Since 2011, she has successfully completed 4 accreditation assessments, with no standards issues or conditions. She is currently responsible for state and national accreditation, department grants, Law Enforcement Trust Funds and much more. Before moving to the police department, she worked for the City Of Miramar in a capacity responsible for accreditation of their senior centers and early child care programs. She has a Masters of Science from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and has been a CALEA Assessor since 2017.

"Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full CALEA Commission, which will then decide if the agency has met all of the requirements for re-accreditation," Director Hubner stated.

Accreditation periods/cycles are four (4) years. In addition to the assessment, during this period the Woodbridge Police Department must undergo a yearly compliance file review of standards conducted by CALEA and submit data and annual reports in order to maintain accredited status. The Woodbridge Police Department was initially accredited on March 20, 1999 and has been re-accredited in 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2011, 2014 and 2017 without any interruption in accredited status.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard Suite 320

Gainesville, Virginia 20155; or call 1-800-368-3757 or (703) 352-4225, or e-mail: calea@calea.org with the subject line "Woodbridge NJ Police Department.