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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

January 5, 2012

Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comments

Department is seeking accreditation for St. Louis Police Academy

Chief Dan Isom announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) will arrive January 7, 2012 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 accreditation, which recognizes departments with professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling (314) 444-1275 on Monday, January 9, 2012 between 1-3 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. A copy of the standards is available for review in the Public Information Office.

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

In order to gain accredited status, the Academy must comply with 158 standards.

"Our staff and I welcome the arrival of the on-site assessment team. This assessment brings us one step closer to being recognized for the efforts of our Academy staff to provide state-of-the art training to our officers," said Chief Isom. "Our Academy staff has worked together to prepare for the 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 David Hornyak from the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Lt. Cynthia Armour Coyne a retiree from the Rhode Island State Police. The assessors will review written material, interview staffers and visit areas of the department 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 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.

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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