



Press Release
Shelby County Sheriff's Office
Bill Oldham, Sheriff

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Accreditation Assessment Team Seeks Public Comments

(Memphis, Tennessee, December 3, 2013)----- A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive December 9th to examine all aspects of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services through December 12th, **Sheriff Bill Oldham** announced today.

Verification by the team that the **Shelby County Sheriff's Office** meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation—a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, he said.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session **Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 P.M.** The session will be conducted in the Shelby County Sheriff's Office **Training Academy Lecture Hall, located at 993 Dovecrest Memphis, Tennessee.**

If for some reason an individual is unavailable to speak at 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 **(901) 222-2337** on **Tuesday, December 10th** between the hours of 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm to give their comments.

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. Copies of the standards are available at the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for public review. For further information contact the **Accreditation Manager Jim Wilson at 222-5541**

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Shelby County Sheriff's Office ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) 13575 Heathcote, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

Sheriff Bill Oldham stated that the Shelby County Sheriff's Office has to comply with **481** standards in order to gain accredited status, and it is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence for law enforcement agencies.

The Accreditation Manager for the Shelby County Sheriff's Office is Director Jim Wilson. He said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed.

The Assessment Team will be comprised of two experienced CALEA Assessors, namely Mr., Larry Schultz of Roscoe IL and Ms. Melissa Manrow of the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office in Decatur GA.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report to the full Commission, who will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status, Vince Dauro the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Program Manager with CALEA stated.

Accreditation status is valid 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. (CALEA) 13575 Heathcote, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155; or call (703) 352-4225.

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