



## Media Release

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### **ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Joliet Police Chief Brian Benton announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive on April 8, 2018 to examine all aspects of the Department's policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services. Chief Benton noted that verification by the team that the Joliet Police Department 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. The Joliet Police Department attained its original accreditation in 2003.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, April 9, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. The session will be held in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

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 815/724-3215 on Monday, April 9, 2018, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Telephone comments, as well as appearances at the public information session, are limited to ten minutes and must address the Police Department's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Joliet Police Department, 150 West Washington Street, Joliet, Illinois. Local contact is Officer Franklin Coleman, the Department's Accreditation Manager, at 815/724-3221.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments about the Joliet Police Department's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation may send them directly to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc., 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia 20155

The Joliet Police Department must comply with 484 standards in order to gain reaccredited status. Chief Benton said, "Maintaining CALEA accreditation results in greater accountability within our agency, improved efficiency overall and helps to reduce our agency's risk and liability exposure."

According to Deputy Chief Tab Jensen, the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar, out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The CALEA assessors are: City Manager Robert Schommer, Huber Heights, Ohio; and Director Charis Paulson, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Des Moines, Iowa. Once the assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency will be granted reaccredited status at its July 25-28, 2018 Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Accreditation is for three years during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. The Joliet Police Department first became accredited in 2003 and reaccredited in 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015.

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 703/352-4225 or visit [www.calea.org](http://www.calea.org).

*The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 149,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.visitjoliet.org](http://www.visitjoliet.org) or call 815.724.4000.*

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