



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: November 22, 2016
Contact: Captain Kimberly Usry
(843)886-6522

Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comments

(Isle of Palms Police Department, SC) - Chief Thomas E. Buckhannon, III, announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive on November 28, 2016, to examine all aspects of the Isle of Palms Police Department's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

Verification by the team that the Isle of Palms Police Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to maintain accreditation—a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence. "The Isle of Palms Police Department has to comply with standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services in order to maintain accredited status", Chief Buckhannon states.

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, November 30, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. or by calling (843)256-5560 on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The public information session will be conducted in the City of Isle of Palms Public Safety Building Training Room, 30 JC Long Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451.

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 standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Police Department Accreditation Office. The local contact is Captain Kimberly Usry (843)886-6522.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Isle of Palms 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, VA 20155 or www.calea.org.

Captain Kimberly Usry administers the Accreditation Program for the Police Department. 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 assessors are Sergeant Richard Haake from Montgomery, Illinois and Richard Bens of Lebanon, Ohio. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to maintain its accredited status.

Accreditation is valid for four years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited and re-accredited.