



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE HINSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: MARK WODKA, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE, 630-789-7086, 121 SYMONDS DRIVE, HINSDALE, ILLINOIS, 60521.**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 22, 2015**

## **HINSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT RE-ACCREDITED FOR 6<sup>th</sup> TIME**

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Hinsdale Police was re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in Schaumburg, Illinois.

In April of 2014, an assessment team from CALEA spent four days at the Hinsdale Police Department reviewing the agency's compliance with CALEA standards. The department participated in a "Gold Standard Assessment," which is available only to agencies which have an established history of successful re-accreditation. The assessors inspected the police department, interviewed employees, members of the community, and held a public information session to determine that the department met the requirements of a highly regarded body of law enforcement. The assessors found that indeed the agency was in compliance with all of these standards, and was successfully re-accredited for the sixth time since 1996.

The purpose of the CALEA accreditation process is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence. Accreditation is a voluntary process with only 5% of police department achieving accredited status.

Specifically, CALEA's goals are to:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities;
- Formalize essential management procedures;
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices;
- Improve service delivery;
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency.

The CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model which, once implemented, presents the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with an on-going blueprint that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery—regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency.

Maintaining an accredited status is a significant accomplishment for the members of the department, but more importantly, it denotes the quality of service this agency provides the community. Currently, approximately 50 police departments in the State of Illinois have been accredited through CALEA, an international Commission founded to establish standards of professional excellence for public safety agencies. In order to receive accreditation, candidate agencies must maintain policies that are consistent with nearly 500 standards of CALEA. During an assessment, the agencies present “proofs of compliance” which demonstrate the agency practices in accordance with these policies.

Chief Bloom states, “This award signifies the competence and professionalism that is intrinsic to this organization. I am very proud of the effort everyone put forward in achieving this award.”

Although the accreditation process is arduous, the benefits of accreditation are eminent. The chief benefits are: greater accountability within the agency, liability reduction and stronger defense against civil lawsuits, support from government officials, and an increased community advocacy. The results of this process tender an outside stamp of approval towards the Professionalism and Excellence of the Hinsdale Police Department.

The department will maintain an accredited status until April of 2017.