

Media Advisory

Date: 9/17/2007

Contact: Corporal Shelhorse (804) 798-1227



Thomas A. Clark, Chief

The Ashland Police Department is scheduled for an on-site assessment as part of a program to earn international accreditation by verifying that it meets professional law enforcement standards.

An assessment team representing the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive in Ashland on September 29, 2007 to begin a five-day intensive inspection of every facet of the Police Department.

Verification by the team that the Police Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to determine the Police Department's status as an internationally accredited law enforcement organization – a highly prized recognition of professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees, citizens and members of the business community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, October 1, 2007 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at Ashland Town Hall.

For those who cannot attend the public information session, the assessors will field comments by phone from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the day before (Sunday, 9/30/2007). The team can be reached on during this time at (804)-412-0609.

To ensure that all interested parties are able to comment, all telephone comments and appearances should be limited to 10 minutes and must be limited to the Police Department's ability to comply with these professional standards. A copy of these standards is available at the Police Department.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments about the Police Department in this respect, may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2215.

Currently, only 24 law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia hold international accreditation status through CALEA. This represents less than 6% of all agencies in the Commonwealth. If accredited, the Ashland Police Department will be the smallest agency in the state to reach that status. For more information on international accreditation, please visit www.calea.org.

If you have questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to call on Capt. Doug Goodman at 412-0605.