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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

April 11, 2016

Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comments

Department is seeking re-accreditation for St. Louis Police Communications Division

St. Louis, Mo – Police Commissioner Sam Dotson announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®) will arrive Monday, April 11, 2016 to examine all aspects of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department's 9-1-1 Communications Center policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

Verification by the team that the 9-1-1 Communications Center meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain CALEA re-accreditation, which recognizes departments with professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling (314) 444-1275 on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Comments will be received by the assessment team.

Telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's Public Safety Communications Accreditation Standards. A copy of the standards is available for review at the Public Information Office.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Academy's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write to CALEA at 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

In order to gain accredited status, the Communications Division must comply with 211 standards.

"We welcome the on-site assessment team, as we are excited to be one step closer to achieving re-accreditation. The Metropolitan Police Department's Communications Division is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and an outstanding staff who work hard to provide the best possible services to the citizens of St. Louis. It is important to our department that we continue to comply with CALEA's accreditation standards and be recognized as one of the best 9-1-1 Communications Center in the country," said Police Commissioner Sam Dotson. "Our Communications Division staff has worked together to prepare for the assessment and their

diligence in doing so is just another example of the outstanding work they do to provide the citizens and our Department with the highest level of service possible.”

The assessment team is composed of public safety officials from similar departments around the country. The assessors for the on-site visit are Ms. Susan Wales, a retired Director of Planning and Research from the Salisbury, North Carolina Police Department and Ms. Debbie Gailbreath, a Program Manager from the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office Communications Center. The assessors will review written material, interview staff and visit areas of the Department where compliance can be witnessed.

The assessors will report their findings to the full commission and a decision will be made to grant or deny accreditation. Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department received its initial CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation award in 2007 and was re-accredited in 2010 and 2013. The Department’s Training Academy was accredited in 2012 and re-accredited in 2015 and its Communications Division was accredited in 2013. The Department received the CALEA Tri-Arc Award in August of 2013, reflecting the holding of three concurrent CALEA accreditations and is one of only fifteen agencies internationally with that distinction.

Aimee Hoins serves as CALEA Accreditation Manager for the Department.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Blvd, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia, 20155; or call (703) 352-4225 or visit the CALEA website at www.calea.org.

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