



# Peoria Police Department Police Administration

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

## **Peoria Police Department Prepares for Re-Accreditation**

On April 16, 2012, a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive to examine all aspects of the Peoria Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. Verification by the team that the Peoria Police Department continues to meet CALEA's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to maintain international accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence. The Peoria Police Department first obtained accreditation on July 26, 1997, and this achievement should continue to provide the community the greatest level of confidence possible in the city's delivery of police services.

As a part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public hearing on Wednesday, April 18 starting at 5 p.m. and lasting until the last person finishes speaking. The hearing will be conducted in the Peoria City Council Chambers at 8401 West Monroe Avenue, Peoria, Arizona. If, for some reason, an individual cannot speak at the public hearing, but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, they may do so by telephone. The public may call 623-773-8095 on Wednesday, April 18, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The public will speak directly with a member of the assessment team.

Telephone comments, as well as appearances at the public hearing, are restricted in time and limited to the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Peoria Police Department, 8351 West Cinnabar Avenue, Peoria, Arizona, by contacting the Accreditation and Compliance Coordinator, Ms. Sharon Roberson at 623-773-8035. Anyone wishing to submit written comments about the Peoria Police Department's ability to comply with the Standards for Accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar, but out-of-state, agencies. The assessors are: Chief Paul Willingham of the University of Houston-Clear Lake PD, Houston, TX, and Lieutenant John DeJarnette of The Dublin Division of Police, Dublin, OH. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be confirmed or witnessed. Once the CALEA assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status at their next scheduled conference in Scottsdale, AZ, July 17-21, 2012.

Accreditation is for a three-year period, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which they were initially accredited. The CALEA Program Manager assigned to the Peoria Police Department is Mr. Stephen W. Mitchell. For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. contact the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Blvd., Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155; or call 1-703-352-4225.

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