



## Community Awareness

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

**Wheat Ridge, CO** ~ A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive in early April to examine all aspects of the Wheat Ridge Police Department's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Chief of Police Dan Brennan announced today.

Verification by the team that the Wheat Ridge Police Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of public safety professional excellence, he said.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency personnel and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. The session will be conducted in the Wheat Ridge Municipal Building, located at 7500 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the City Council Chambers.

If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public may call (303) 235-2970 on Sunday April 6, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agencies ability to comply with CALEA Standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Wheat Ridge Police Department. Local contact is Cheryl Keller at (303) 235-2913.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Wheat Ridge Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation/recognition are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155.

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The Wheat Ridge Police Department has to comply with 482 standards in order to gain accredited status, Chief Brennan said. “The Wheat Ridge Police Department is proud of our accomplishments and participation with the accreditation process. On behalf of our entire staff, I appreciate the support of the community as we continue to strive to meet our vision statement of ‘exceptional people providing exceptional service,’ by maintaining the highest level of professionalism and accountability to our community.”

The CALEA Program Manager for the Wheat Ridge Police Department is Maya Mitchell. She stated that the assessment team is composed of public safety practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other locations where compliance can be witnessed.

The assessors are Captain Jason Cassalia of the Manlius (New York) Police Department and First Sergeant Drew Hunter of the Prince William County (Virginia) Police Department.

Once the CALEA assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will decide if the agency is to be granted accredited/recognition status, Program Manager Mitchell said.

The Wheat Ridge Police Department received its first accreditation status in 2011. Accreditation/Recognition is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155, or call (703) 352-4225 or email [calea@calea.org](mailto:calea@calea.org).

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*“Exceptional People Providing Exceptional Service”  
Wheat Ridge Police*