



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Accreditation Assessment Team invites public comment in person, by phone or mail.

Pinecrest, FL – A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), is scheduled to examine all aspects of the Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and administrative services from March 2 to March 5, 2020.

Verification by the team that the 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 law enforcement professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are encouraged to offer comments at a public information session on Monday March 2, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. at the Pinecrest Municipal Center, 12645 Pinecrest Parkway.

If an individual cannot attend the public information session but would like to provide comments to the assessment team, they may do so by telephone. The public may call 305.234.2109 on Monday, March 2, 2020 between 3:15 and 5:15 p.m.

Telephone comments as well as appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes, and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. The accreditation manager is Merlin Baglin. Her contact information is 305.234.2100 or mbaglin@pinecrest-fl.gov.

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Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are encouraged to write to the following address: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA. 20155-6693.

The Pinecrest Police Department has to comply with 480 standards in order to gain accredited status. "Our ability to meet a set of nationally-recognized law enforcement standards ensures our citizens are receiving professional, caring police services," said Police Chief Samuel Ceballos, Jr.

The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from out-of-state agencies. The assessors will interview individuals, visit offices and other places where compliance with CALEA standards can be confirmed. The assessors are Team Leader William Benson, Retired Chief of Police at Wheeling Police Department, Illinois and Megan Styron, Greenville Police Department, North Carolina. The Commission's assessors will complete their review of the agency and report to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency will receive accredited status.

Accreditation is for four years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting to 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 visit www.calea.org, call 703.352.4225, or write to the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA. 20155-6693.

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