



Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County Emergency Communications Center



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

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Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
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ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlottesville, Virginia – Gerald Smith, Interim Executive Director of the Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) announced today that a team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive Monday July 15, 2019 to examine all aspects of the ECC's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services.

Verification by the team that the Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County ECC meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation—a highly prized recognition of emergency communications professional excellence, he said.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session. Individuals that would like to provide comments to the assessment team may do so by phone. The public may call 434-971-1299 on Tuesday, July 16th between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4p.m.

Telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards are available at the ECC. Local contacts are Jeanette Beall, PS Interim Accreditation Supervisor at 434-977-9041 between 7p.m. and 7a.m. and Deborah Wade, PS Training Accreditation Assistant at 434-971-1022 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County ECC's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

The Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County ECC has to comply with 213 standards in order to gain accredited status, Smith said. Smith stated "Accreditation makes us a more professional
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agency and challenges us to excel in our core values of Integrity, Innovation, Stewardship, and Learning. It provides additional credibility to an excellent Emergency Communications System.”

According to Jeanette Beall, the Interim Accreditation Supervisor for Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County ECC the assessment team is comprised of law enforcement and communications practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are team leader John McQueeney, Deputy Chief Oneida Indian Nation Police and Michelle Provencher, Accreditation Manager of Goffstown New Hampshire Police Department. Once the Commissioner’s 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.

Accreditation is for four years, during which the agency must submit annual reports and complete annual reviews 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 Blvd, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia 20155; or call (800) 368-3757 or (703)352-4225.

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