



## PRESS RELEASE

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE STRATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: ANTHONY KING, CHIEF OF POLICE, 603-778-9691, 76 PORTSMOUTH AVENUE, STRATHAM NH, 03885.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 24, 2021

### STRATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES CALEA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION AWARD

On November 19<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Stratham Police Department received accreditation status by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). In May 2021, assigned assessors from CALEA spent nine days conducting a web-based assessment reviewing all of the police department's policies and procedures. In June of 2021, a second assessment team spent two days virtually at the Stratham Police Department reviewing the agency's compliance with those nationally accepted CALEA standards. The assessors inspected the police department, interviewed employees, members of the community, and held a public information session to determine that the department met the requirements of a highly regarded body of law enforcement. The assessors found that indeed the agency was in compliance with all of these standards, and was successfully accredited for the first time in the department's history.

The purpose of the CALEA accreditation process is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of professional standards, developed by public safety practitioners which cover a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence. Accreditation is a voluntary process with approximately only 5% of police departments achieving accredited status.

Specifically, CALEA's goals are to:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities;
- Formalize essential management procedures;
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices;
- Improve service delivery;
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and,
- Increase community and employee confidence in the agency.

The CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model which, once implemented, presents the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with an on-going blueprint that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery—regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency.

Attaining an accredited status is a significant accomplishment for the members of the department, but more importantly, it denotes the quality of service this agency provides the community. Currently, only 19 police departments in the State of New Hampshire have been accredited through CALEA, an international commission founded to establish standards of professional excellence for public safety agencies.

In order to receive accreditation, candidate agencies must maintain policies that are consistent with nearly 500 standards of CALEA. During an assessment, the agencies present “proofs of compliance” which demonstrate the agency practices in accordance with these policies.

Chief King states, “This award signifies the competence and professionalism that is fundamental to this organization. I am very proud of the effort everyone put forward in achieving this award, and I want to thank the Town for its support through this long process.”

Although the accreditation process is arduous, the benefits of accreditation are well-known. The chief benefits are: greater accountability within the agency, liability reduction and stronger defense against civil lawsuits, support from government officials, and an increased community advocacy. The results of this process proves to the community that the Stratham Police Department is committed to serving in the most professional, compassionate and competent manner. The department will maintain an accredited status until November of 2025 at which time it will again be assessed to ensure compliance and to seek re-accreditation.