



**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

David D. Belmonte, Chief of Police
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(847) 234-2153 FAX (847) 234-2166
Over 100 Years of Community Service & Protection



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Lake Bluff, Illinois, October 27, 2016) A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive December 11, 2016 to examine all aspects of the Lake Bluff Police Department's policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services, announced Chief Belmonte. These include areas such as: Communications, traffic enforcement, investigations, disaster plans, in-custody procedures, and even internal human resources.

Verification by the team that the Lake Bluff Police Department meets the Commissioner's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process for reaccreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, he said. The commission initially accredited the department in 1999.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Monday December 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

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The session will be conducted in the Community Room at the Lake Bluff Police Department located at 45 E. Center Ave. in Lake Bluff.

If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session but would like to provide comments to the assessment team, he/she may do so by telephone. The public may call and speak with a CALEA assessor on Monday December 12, 2016 between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The public may call (847)234-8760 and request the CALEA assessor.

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 standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Lake Bluff Police Department at 45 E. Center Avenue, Lake Bluff.

The Accreditation Manager and contact is Sergeant Matthew Smizinski at (847)234-2153. Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Lake Bluff Police Department'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 Lake Bluff Police Department has to comply with over 350 standards to remain an accredited agency, according to Chief Belmonte. By voluntarily submitting ourselves to the accreditation process, we are assuring the community and ourselves that we are providing these services while meeting accepted practices. Roughly, only a quarter of all law enforcement agencies are accredited, so this step assures the community that our officers are providing top of the line services.

The Lake Bluff Police Department Accreditation Manager, Sergeant Smizinski, will act as the liaison with the CALEA assessors and the Department while the team is on location. The team is comprised of two individuals who both have had long careers in law enforcement including extensive knowledge of the accreditation process. The team members will consist of:

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Gary Vest, Chief of Powell Police Department, Powell, Ohio

Leonard “Len” Hatcher, Lieutenant (Retired) of the Garner Police Department, Garner North Carolina

Once the 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 re-accredited status at the next scheduled CALEA conference, in March 2017 in Mobile, Alabama

Accreditation has been a three year process, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. However, the accreditation process will be undergoing a revision whereby agencies will be following a four year cycle. The Lake Bluff Police Department will be on a four year cycle post this accreditation cycle.

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. The commission can also be found on the Internet at www.calea.org.

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