

Waltham Police Department is Awarded a record eighth Accreditation

On May 20, 2021 the Waltham Police Department received state accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. The Department was assessed on March 2, 3, and 4th of 2021 by a team of Commission appointed assessors. This voluntary process was first undertaken in 1999 and is reevaluated on a three-year cycle. The Waltham Police Department, as a leader in the industry, was the first police department in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to achieve this prestigious initial award and is now the only department to achieve its 8th overall Accreditation Award

Accreditation is a self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established *for* the profession, *by* the profession. These carefully selected standards cover areas such as policy development, training, communications, property and evidence handling, use of force, vehicular pursuit, prisoner transportation and holding facilities. The program not only sets standards for the law enforcement profession, but also for the delivery of police *services* to residents of the Commonwealth.

“Achieving Accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission is a very significant accomplishment” said Donna Taylor Mooers, the Commission’s Executive Director. “Going through the process requires intense self-scrutiny, and ultimately provides a quality assurance review of the agency and serves to reassure the general public that the law enforcement profession is trained, prepared and ready to handle anything from routine calls for service to large scale emergencies.

Officer Danelle Hart, Accreditation Manager, under the leadership of Retired Chief Keith MacPherson, Chief Kevin O’Connell and Administration Division Captain Donald Feeney, prepared for the 382 standards set forth by the Commission. The Assessment Team found the Department to be in compliance with all applicable standards. This achievement was due in part to a department wide effort across all divisions said Officer Hart. “This joint effort was responsible for the success of this highly regarded, prestigious award.”

The Accreditation process is an arduous, time consuming endeavor which is not easily attained. To have accomplished an 8th Accreditation is a feat not replicated by any other Police Department throughout the Commonwealth. Adding to this feat, yet not deterring a successful outcome, was a nationwide pandemic that brought a host of new challenges. This speaks to the dedication, professionalism and commitment of the men and women of this Organization and is something that the Community and every member of this Agency can be proud of.