



Waltham Police Department

"Protecting and Serving with Pride"



Kevin E. O'Connell
Chief of Police

Steven R. Champeon
Deputy Chief

NOTICE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SUBJECT: UPCOMING RE-ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT

DATE: 6/2/2023

I am pleased to announce that a team of assessors (to be determined) will be present for three days between June 20th and 23rd of 2023 (specific dates to be determined) to begin the assessment process and peer review. The assessment will last three days. In order to achieve accredited status, we must be able to demonstrate that we are in compliance with all of the Commission's mandatory standards as well as the required percentage of optional standards for our size agency. While here, and as part of the verification process, Assessors will be examining some of our policies, procedures, facilities and equipment.

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.

Participation in the Accreditation Assessment process is the ultimate display of transparency, wherein a team of trained law enforcement assessors appointed by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission visit the Waltham Police Department over the course of three days to painstakingly examine our policies, procedures, and regulations, and make a determination whether we are in compliance with industry standards and best practices.

The Waltham Police Department first undertook this voluntary process in 1999, with reevaluation occurring 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, in 2021, became the first and only department to achieve its 8th overall Accreditation Award. The Community can be proud to know that we remain committed to delivering the highest quality of service and continually strive for organizational excellence.