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They did it again.

The Burleson Police Department achieved its ninth reaccreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

“CALEA Accreditation serves as the International Gold Standard for Public Safety Agencies and this correspondence serves to acknowledge that the Burleson Police Department has been awarded CALEA Law Enforcement Accreditation effective July 12, 2015, for the ninth time,” according to the letter, signed by Richard W. Myers/CALEA chairperson and W. Craig Hartley, Jr./CALEA executive director, dated July 25, 2015.

Burleson was the first police department in Texas to be accredited by CALEA in 1987.

The process of accreditation begins with a rigorous self-assessment, requiring a review of policies, practices and processes against internationally accepted public safety standards. This is followed with an assessment by independent assessors with significant public safety experience. Additionally, public feedback is received to promote community trust and engagement, and structured interviews are conducted with agency personnel and community members to assess the agency's effectiveness and overall service delivery capacities. The decision to accredit is rendered by a governing body of four commissioners following a public hearing and review of all reporting documentation.

“Obviously, we are very proud of this accomplishment,” Burleson Police Chief Billy Cordell said. “Retired Deputy Chief Cindy Aaron and Officer Jae Berg led the effort for our department and really deserve most of the credit.”

The accreditation program requires agencies to comply with standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services. The assessment team leader for the 2015 reaccreditation was Jay Murphy, retired chief of the Cape Coral Police Department in Florida and the assessment team member was John C. Farrell who is currently the National Justice Database -Project Director for the Center for Policing Equity. Farrell retired with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Every three years, the commission provides a team of trained assessors to conduct an on-site re-assessment of the agency. This is a requirement of the process to maintain the agency's accredited status. The process is similar to the accreditation of hospitals and universities. It provides the agency with an objective account of their service and performance to the community.

The voluntary accreditation program for law enforcement agencies was created through the joint effort of four major law enforcement executive membership associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; National Sheriffs' Association; and the Police Executive Research Forum. The Burleson Police Department provides annual reports to CALEA to prove continued compliance and report changes or difficulties experienced during the year, including actions taken to resolve noncompliance.

CALEA was formed to establish standards to increase law enforcement agency capabilities to prevent and control crime; increase agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services; increase cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and with other agencies of the criminal justice system; and, increase citizen and employee confidence in the goals, objectives, policies, and practices of the agency.