



SOUTHWEST CENTRAL DISPATCH

7611 West College Drive • Palos Heights, IL 60463-2071
Phone (708) 448-6180 Fax (708) 448-9823

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Southwest Central Dispatch is scheduled for an on-site assessment as part of a program to achieve re-accreditation by verifying it meets professional standards.

Administered by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), the accreditation program requires agencies to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling 708-448-9391 on October 25, 2016 between the hours of 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm. Comments will be taken by the Assessment Team.

Telephone comments 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 Southwest Central Dispatch. Local contact is Assistant Director Mary McIlvain, at 708-448-6180.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments about Southwest Central Dispatch's ability to comply with standards for accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA., 20155.

COMMUNITIES SERVED
CHICAGO RIDGE • COUNTRYSIDE • CRESTWOOD • INDIAN HEAD PARK • LEMONT
NORTH PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • PALOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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MEDIA RELEASE ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

(Palos Heights, Illinois/October 4, 2016)---A team of Assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive October 24, 2016 to examine all aspects of Southwest Central Dispatch's policy and procedure, management, operations and support services, Director William Shanley announced today.

Verification by the team that Southwest Central Dispatch meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, he said.

As part of the On-Site assessment, agency employees and the public are invited to offer comments by calling 708-448-9391 on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 between the hours of 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Comments will be taken by the Assessment Team.

Telephone comments are limited to ten (10) minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the CALEA standards. A copy of the standards are available at Southwest Central Dispatch, contact Assistant Director Mary McIlvain, at 708-448-6180. Persons wishing to offer written comments about Southwest Central Dispatch's ability to meet the standards for Accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA., 20155.

Southwest Central Dispatch has to comply with two hundred and eleven (211) standards in order to gain accredited status, Director Shanley said. The Accreditation process provides the structure and sets the standards for law enforcement communications to be recognized as a true profession. Southwest Central Dispatch garnered its initial accredited status in December 2005. Before Communications Centers could receive full accreditation, they were awarded Certification. Southwest Central Dispatch was the first Communications Center in the country to be awarded Certification in 1995. This will be Southwest Central Dispatch's fifth award.

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The Accreditation Program Manager for Southwest Central Dispatch is Assistant Director Mary McIlvain, ENP. She said the Assessment Team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies. The Assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, visit with Communications Center personnel and view other places where compliance can be witnessed. The Assessors are: Richard Barnhart (Team Leader) retired Chief of Police of the West Carrollton, Ohio Police Department and Mary Sue Robey, of Valley Communications in Kent, Washington. Once the Commission's 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 accredited status.

This Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), please write the Commission at Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA., 20155.