



TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Information Release

10/07/2020

Commander Freeman Carney
(480) 948-7418

Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comment

In Paradise Valley, AZ, a team of assessors from the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ALEAP) will arrive **on October 13th, 2020**, to examine all aspects of the Paradise Valley Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services Chief Wingert announced today. The assessors will be inspecting the department for two days; October 13th, 2020 & October 14th, 2020.

"The assessment team will be verifying that the Paradise Valley Police Department meets the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission's "best practice" standards as part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence," Chief Wingert said.

As part of this final On-Site Assessment, employees and members of the general public are invited to provide comments to the Assessment Team. They may do so by telephone or email. The public may call **480-948-7418** on **October 14th**, between the hours of 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Email comments can be sent to Commander Freeman Carney at fcarney@paradisevalleyaz.gov.

Telephone comments are limited to five (5) minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the Commission's standards. A copy of the standards are available for inspection at the Paradise Valley Police Department, located at 6433 E. Lincoln Dr. Our assigned ALEAP assessors are set to take calls from the public during this time.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Paradise Valley Police Department's ability to comply with accreditation standards is requested to email the Accreditation Program Manager at kevin.rhea@azchiefsofpolice.org or write the Arizona Law Enforcement Accreditation Program at 75 E. Civic Center Drive, Gilbert, AZ 48296.

The Paradise Valley Police Department must comply with 175 standards to achieve accredited status. Chief Wingert indicated, *"Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs."*

The Accreditation Program Manager for ALEAP is Kevin E. Rhea. *“The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar Arizona law enforcement agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview agency members, visit offices, and other places where compliance with the standards can be observed. Once the assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status,”* Rhea stated.

Accreditation is valid for a four-year period, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP) is the accrediting agency in Arizona. For more information regarding the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police, please visit www.azchiefsopolice.org.

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