



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2020

ACCREDITATION COMMISSION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT ST. CHARLES COUNTY DISPATCHING SERVICES

ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO – The public is invited to offer comments about St. Charles County Emergency Communications as the department goes through the process of becoming accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., or CALEA®. Emergency Communications provides dispatching services for all fire and EMS agencies in the county, including the St. Charles County Police and Sheriff's departments.

An on-site assessment team will begin examining all aspects of the department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services beginning Monday, Feb. 10, for the agency's Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program. As part of the assessment, both telephone and written comments will be taken.

"Accreditation by CALEA® is verification that public safety communications departments meet the Commission's state-of-the-art standards," says Jeff Smith, director of St. Charles County Emergency Communications. "The process is voluntary and we have chosen to go through it because it is a prestigious, highly prized recognition of public safety professional excellence."

Comments, both written and oral, must address the department's ability to comply with CALEA® standards. A copy of these standards is available for review at the St. Charles County Police Department, 101 Sheriff Dierker Ct., O'Fallon, MO 63366.

Comments by telephone will be taken from agency personnel and members of the community by calling 636-949-3006 from 1 – 3 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 11; they are limited to 10 minutes. Those wishing to offer written comments should send them to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc. (CALEA®), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

"St. Charles County Emergency Communications must comply with 205 standards in order to gain accredited status," says Smith. "Our staff is, and always has been, committed to excellence in providing the best possible service to the St. Charles County citizens and first responders. Achieving this accreditation will validate what we already know -- that our staff is among the best of the best in our profession."

Accreditation is for four years, during which the department must submit annual reports and participate in annual, remote web-based assessments to confirm continued compliance with the standards under which it was initially accredited. In 2018, the St. Charles County Police Department received an Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation from CALEA® and underwent a similar process.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., write to the address above, visit calea.org, call 703-352-4225, or email calea@calea.org. Locally, questions can be addressed by Thomas Percich, St. Charles County's Accreditation Manager, 636-949-3000, ext. 4333.

-end-

Media Contact: Mary Enger, Communications Director, 636-949-1856, or 636-443-1008, menger@sccmo.org

About St. Charles County

Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. It is home to 15 scenic county parks encompassing more than 3,643 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 395,504, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit sccmo.org.