

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

April 9, 2007

CALL TO PODIUM:

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

David B. Humpton

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment (Reappointments)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: From the City Manager

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) visit to Gaithersburg April 14 to April 18, 2007

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:
Please see the attached Press Release regarding CALEA's visit to Gaithersburg to examine all aspects of the Police Department's operation for their 2007 reaccreditation. Accreditations are every three years and this will be the City's fourth accreditation since 1998. CALEA will hold a public information session on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting has been well advertised. You are certainly welcome to attend.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Receive information.

For Immediate Release:

April 2, 2007

Police Accreditation Team Invites Public Comment

Gaithersburg, MD. A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive in Gaithersburg on April 14, 2007 to examine all aspects of the Gaithersburg Police Department's policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services.

According to Chief Mary Ann Viverette, verification by the team that the Gaithersburg Police Department meets the Commission's high standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation or reaccreditation – a highly-coveted recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

As part of the on-site assessment, City employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session on Tuesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 31 South Summit Avenue. Public comment will also be accepted via telephone between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. on Monday, April 16. The special call-in number is 301-258-6406 x3221.

Telephone comments and appearances at the public information session are limited to five minutes and must address the Department's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available for review at the Gaithersburg Police Department, 14 Fulks Corner Avenue. Local contact is Accreditation Program Manager Sergeant Mary Whalen at 301-258-6400 or mwhalen@gaitersburgmd.gov.

The public may also provide comments in writing to: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030-2215.

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Council Vice President
Stanley J. Alster

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

City Manager
David B. Humpton

Council Members
Geri Edens Henry F. Marraffa, Jr. John B. Schlichting Michael A. Sesma

2 – 2 – 2 / Gaithersburg Police Accreditation

The Gaithersburg Police Department must comply with more than 300 standards in order to maintain its accredited status. “Accreditation is very important to the Gaithersburg Police Department because it is a way of measuring ourselves against nationally-recognized standards, and fits perfectly with the City’s commitment to continuous improvement,” said Chief Viverette.

The accreditation assessment team is comprised of law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies, including: Team Leader Carel Duplessis, Chief of Police, Oakland Housing Authority Police Department, Oakland, California; Team Member Janelle A. Crowley, Commissioner, McHenry County Sheriff’s Department, Woodstock, Illinois; and Team Member Michael J. Bussiere, Deputy Chief, Lewiston Police Department, Lewiston, Maine. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. Once the Commission’s assessors complete their review they will report back to the full Commission, which then will decide if the agency is to maintain its accredited status.

Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. For more information regarding CALEA please call 1-800-368-3757 or 703-352-4225.

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