

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                      def#                      1/23/2020**  
**OCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UNDERGOES**  
**ACCREDITATION PROCESS; ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES COMMENTS**

**TOMS RIVER** – Noting the significance of undergoing a successful accreditation process, the Ocean County Sheriff's Department will host a team of assessors from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police starting in early February as it moves through the process.

The assessors will examine all aspects of the Ocean County Sheriff's Department policies and procedures, management, operations and support services, according to Ocean County Sheriff Michael G. Mastronardy.

“Verification by the team that the Ocean County Sheriff's Department meets the Commission's ‘best practice’ standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation, a highly prized recognition of professional excellence in law enforcement,” Mastronardy said. “Working toward accreditation is far more than working for a certificate. It clearly indicates our commitment to perform at a high level of excellence in our field as assessed by our peers nationwide.”

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 732-929-4748 on Feb. 2 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. or email comments to [Rwoardell@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:Rwoardell@co.ocean.nj.us).

Telephone comments are limited to 5 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the NJSACOP standards. A copy of the standards is available for inspection at the Ocean County Sheriff's Department, 120 Hooper Ave., here, or by contacting Capt. Robert Woardell, accreditation manager at 732-288-7630.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Ocean County Sheriff's Department's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to write: New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, 11000 Lincoln Drive West, Suite 12, Marlton, N.J. 08053.

The department must comply with 112 standards in order to achieve accredited status.

“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,” Mastronardy said.

Accreditation Program Manager for the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Harry J. Delgado noted the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar New Jersey law enforcement agencies.

“The assessors will review written materials, interview agency members, and visit offices and other places where compliance with the standards can be observed,” he said. “Once the Commission's 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.”

Accreditation is valid for a three-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 Ocean County Sheriff’s Department did an outstanding job last time it received accreditation,” said Ocean County Freeholder John P. Kelly, who serves as Director of Law and Public Safety. “We are very proud of the professionalism and dedication of all the men and women who work in this department under the leadership of Sheriff Mastronardy.”

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police through its New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the state of New Jersey.

For more information regarding the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission please write the Commission at New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 11000 Lincoln Drive West, Suite 12 Marlton, N.J. 08053.