



*Pride in Service with Integrity*

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## *You're Invited to Participate!*

**How can the Broward Sheriff's Office ensure its standards of operation are the best?  
You are invited to participate in that discussion by providing comments as  
the Broward Sheriff's Office pursues re-accreditation.**

### **What is Accreditation?**

Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an organization has met the specific requirements of an established set of professional standards. Schools, universities, and hospitals are some of the most well known organizations that maintain accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) is the body that has set certain professional standards for law enforcement. The Broward Sheriff's Office is the nation's largest fully accredited sheriff's office.

### **How Does Accreditation Work?**

CALEA has established a comprehensive set of 464 standards that pertain to all facets of law enforcement. The standards cover everything from law enforcement operations to relationships with other agencies to administration and support services. The agency's goal is to ensure existing practices, policies, and procedures comply with CALEA standards. The Broward Sheriff's Office met this goal when we received initial accreditation in 1999 and subsequent re-accreditations in 2002, 2005 and 2008. Since certificates of accreditation are awarded for three-year cycles, we are now under review once again.

### **Why Pursue Accreditation?**

In pursuing accreditation and adhering to a set of standards that are internationally recognized as the best in law enforcement, the Broward Sheriff's Office acknowledges the need for public accountability for its actions. By consistently measuring those actions against the accreditation standards, the public has a way of objectively judging the performance of the Broward Sheriff's Office. This will increase confidence within the agency and among the public.

### **Getting Your Input**

CALEA is sending an assessment team to complete a report on the state of the Broward Sheriff's Office compliance with the accreditation standards. This report will then determine the agency's candidacy status for re-accreditation. As part of the assessment, members of the community and law enforcement personnel are invited to comment on our ability to comply with the accreditation standards. There are three ways to do this:

**In Person:** A public information session will be held on Monday, August 15, 2011 at 6:00 PM, at the Ron Cochran Public Safety Building, 2601 West Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**By Telephone:** Call (954) 321-4607 on Monday, August 15, 2011, between the hours of 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

**By Mail:** Write to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia 20155.

A copy of the CALEA standards is available for viewing at the Broward Sheriff's Office, 2601 West Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312.

**Note:** Telephone comments and appearances at the public information session are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA standards.

For more information on accreditation, please contact Lieutenant Lisa Baker at (954) 765-5106.

