



# Law Enforcement Accreditation

## THE CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF BEST PRACTICES



### What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is the recognition from an accrediting entity that an organization voluntarily complies with professional standards. The professional standards are set forth by the accrediting entity through which the agency pursues its accreditation status. In Law Enforcement, there is a National Accrediting entity, The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), and several states have adopted their in-state accreditation program. In Rhode Island, many police agencies are now accredited through the Rhode Island Police Accreditation Association (RIPAC). Newport Police achieved its initial accreditation status in June 2019 and was reaccredited in June 2022.



### What are the Goals of Accreditation?

- ✓ Improve citizen confidence in the agency
- ✓ Recognition for excellence
- ✓ Formalize management procedures
- ✓ Greater accountability
- ✓ Fair, non-discriminatory personnel practices
- ✓ Improve service delivery



### Accreditation Process

#### SELF-ASSESSMENT



Internal analysis of an agency's operations, management, and practices to determine if it complies with applicable standards.

#### ASSESSMENT



Combination of remote, web-based file review(s) and site-based assessment to verify standards compliance. Includes interviews with various individuals associated with the respective agency and community feedback.

#### REVIEW & DECISION



A final assessment report is submitted to the Executive Director for a formal review by the Commission Accreditation Committee, if approved the agency is awarded accredited or accredited status.

#### MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE



The Accreditation process is not an endeavor occurring once. The agency must demonstrate how the agency is following best practices continuously.

#### RE-ACCREDITATION



Accreditation status is valid for three years. New assessments occur every three years to determine if the agency maintained proofs of compliance for all applicable standards and is eligible for reaccreditation.



### Benefits of Accreditation

- CONTINUAL SELF ASSESSMENT
- DECREASED LITIGATION
- REDUCED LIABILITY INSURANCE COST
- ENHANCED COMPREHENSION OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES
- BROADENED EMPLOYEE PERSPECTIVE
- INCREASED PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
- ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
- CREDITABILITY IN GOVERNMENT
- RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE BY PEERS

RIPAC <https://ripoliceaccred.net/>

CALEA <https://calea.org/>

RIPCA <https://ripolicechiefs.org/>

## MORE ABOUT RIPAC

The development of an accreditation program for law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island was seen as a way of providing the tools necessary for agencies to evaluate and improve their overall performance that is reasonable and cost effective. Was formally established through the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Associations (RIPCA) in 2012 and is overseen RIPAC.

The RIPAC accreditation program is a department-initiated process by which police departments in Rhode Island voluntarily strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the police profession, by the police profession.

## RIPAC Commission

The Commission, which is appointed by the Board of Directors, consists of the following positions:

- Six (6) members from the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, (Police chiefs, life members, federal agents);
- One (1) member recommended by the International Brotherhood of Police Officers;
- One (1) member recommended by the Fraternal Order of Police;
- One (1) member recommended by the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns;
- One (1) member of academia from a college or university that offers a Criminal Justice Program; and
- One (1) member recommended by the Rhode Police Accreditation Coalition.
- One (1) member of the Rhode Island State Police recommended by the Superintendent.