



Ft. Pierce Police Department News Release



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R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police

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Chief announces Police Department receives accreditation

FORT PIERCE – It has been a long journey, but it was all worth it when Chief R. Sean Baldwin and the staff of Professional Standards were on hand to accept the department's accreditation certificate earlier this week.

“Attaining accreditation is critical to the development of our agency,” said Chief Baldwin. “It will not only help us to meet our operation objectives, but it will help us constantly improve our agency for both our citizens and employees.”

Chief Baldwin, Lieutenant Katherine England, commander of Professionals Standards; Lieutenant Christopher Bender, supervisor of Accreditation; Officer Kathleen Murphy, on special assignment to assist with the process; and Linda Blanning, accreditation manager, attended a special meeting of The Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation on Wednesday in Clearwater to accept the coveted designation. The department was among several agencies that either received accreditation or were being reaccredited.

To be accredited, the Department underwent a three-day detailed review of its' policies, procedures, management, operations and support services in December 2007 to determine its compliance with 250 state standards of best practices. When an agency initiates the self-motivated, voluntary approach, the process assures the community, employees and government leaders that the entity is committed to maintaining excellence in law enforcement, Blanning said.

“Becoming accredited by the commission is considered a significant accomplishment,” Blanning said. “This status is held in high esteem by the criminal justice community.”

Accredited status is granted for a period of three years once compliance has been achieved. At the end of the three years, agencies are required to become re-accredited which achieves several things:

- Forcing accredited agencies to establish and maintain standards that represent current professional law enforcement practices
- Encouraging agencies to strive to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services,
- Instituting practices that reduce liability for the agency and its personnel, and to update systems that make the agency and its personnel accountable to the community they serve.

“Accreditation is an independent auditing process that systematically improves our management practices, promotes professionalism, and increases accountability,” said Chief Baldwin. “This is quite an achievement for the department.”

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