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A team of assessors representing the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) is coming to Burleson on Sunday, March 29, as the Burleson Police Department vies for its ninth reaccreditation.

Burleson was the first police department in Texas to be accredited by CALEA in 1987. The assessors will be in town March 29 - Wednesday, April 1. Comments from the public are welcome at a public hearing slated for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 30, in the Precinct 2 courtroom at the Ron Harmon Sub Courthouse located at 247 Elk Dr.

The accreditation program requires agencies to comply with standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations and support services. Comments should address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards.

The assessment team leader is Chief Bernard Murphy of the Cape Coral Police Department in Florida. The assessment team member is John C. Farrell who is currently the National Justice Database -Project Director for the Center for Policing Equity. Farrell retired with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Every three years, the commission provides a team of trained assessors to conduct an on-site re-assessment of the agency. This is a requirement of the process to maintain the agency's accredited status. The process is similar to the accreditation of hospitals and universities. It provides the agency with an unbiased account of their service and performance to the community.

The voluntary accreditation program for law enforcement agencies was created through the joint effort of four major law enforcement executive membership associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; National Sheriffs' Association; and the Police Executive Research Forum. The Burleson Police Department provides annual reports to the commission to prove continued compliance and report changes or difficulties experienced during the year, including actions taken to resolve noncompliance.

CALEA was formed to establish standards to increase law enforcement agency capabilities to prevent and control crime; increase agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services; increase cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and with other agencies of the criminal justice system; and, increase citizen and employee confidence in the goals, objectives, policies, and practices of the agency.