



PRESS RELEASE

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WINTER PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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WINTER PARK, Fla., a nationally recognized Silver Circle Award and National Merit Award winner (March 14, 2007) – The Winter Park Police Department (WPPD) received its third accreditation status from the Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). Police Chief Douglas Ball and City Manager James Williams accepted the accreditation on February 28, in Ocala, Fla. The CFA is driven by state statute and falls under control of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The WPPD is one of only three municipal agencies in Orange County to receive the accreditation which will last for a three-year period.

The four areas which CFA assessors specifically identified as most impressive included the WPPD facility, range of equipment for an agency of its size, exceptional community service programs, and the level of education and professionalism displayed by the department's employees.

The CFA requests that each agency submit an exemplary project. On behalf of the department, Chief Ball submitted the Rapid Deployment Task Force which outlines plans for deployment teams in the event of natural disasters. This plan has now been adopted statewide.

The department was initially accredited in 2000, and then reaccredited in 2003. It is typically more difficult to become reaccredited than it is to become accredited. To become accredited, the agency must commit to meet to standards set by the CFA. However, in order to become reaccredited, the agency must provide examples from each year that they have followed guidelines and met all requirements worthy of reaccreditation.

The CFA is continually revising standards and raising the bar by forcing agencies to adapt to higher standards in order to maintain compliance. In addition to various changes to practices, WPPD updated almost 45 policies during the three-year period to remain in compliance.

Accreditation is beneficial to the citizens of Winter Park because it professionalizes the agency and assures residents that the department maintains a standard that exceeds the law in many areas. It mandates training for officers which is above-and-beyond minimum state requirements, and helps to reduce liability claims in civil suits by ensuring a higher standard of conduct. Accreditation also forces the agency to remain aware of and respond to law changes, legal trends, and good work practices.

For more information regarding the Winter Park Police Department, please visit the city's official Web site at www.cityofwinterpark.org

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