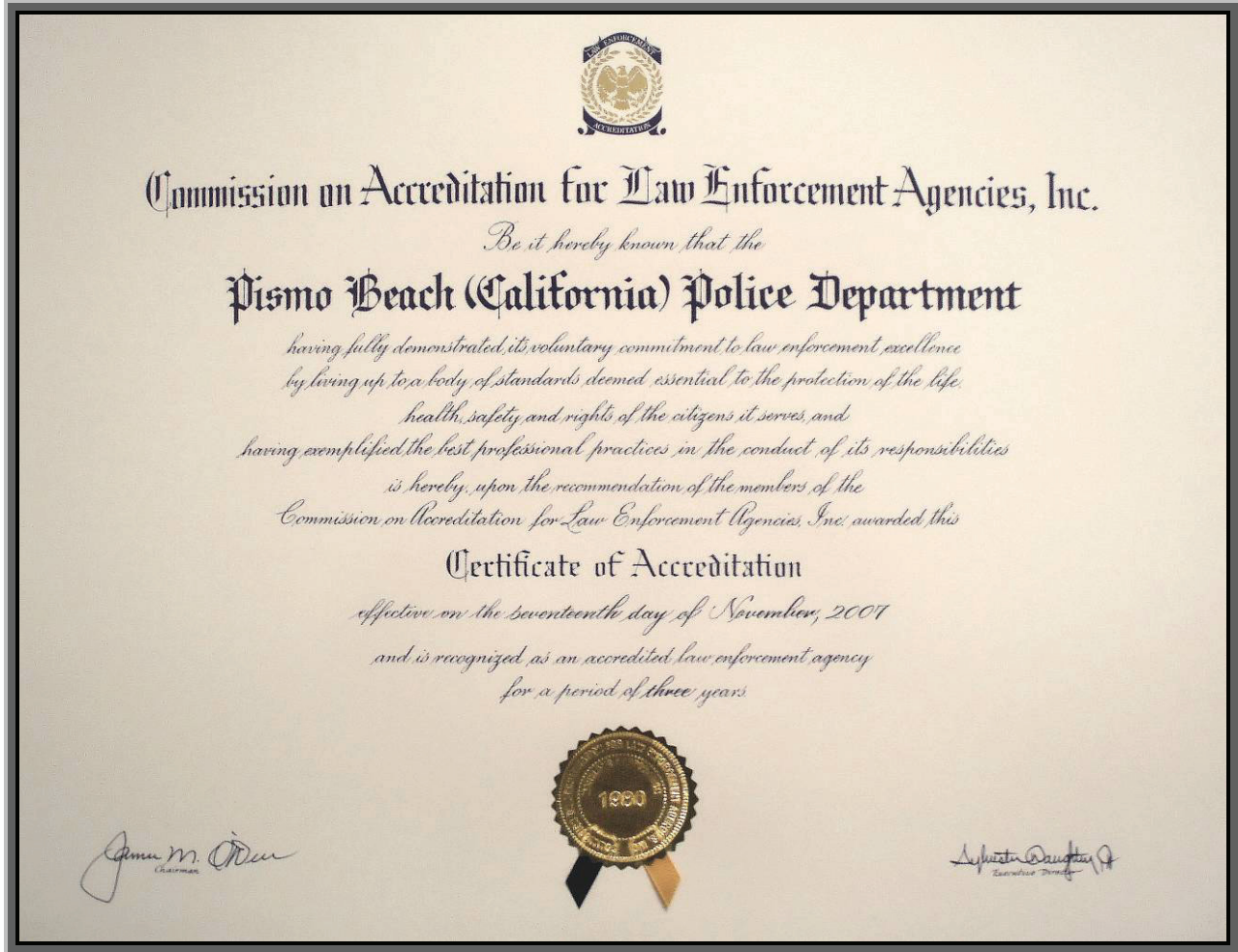


PISMO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Grand Jury Report is to inform the public of the City of Pismo Beach Police Department's accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Doing what was necessary to get the accreditation is a statement by the Pismo Police Department of its commitment to provide law enforcement services of the highest possible quality.



AUTHORITY

Penal Code Section 925 (a) states: The Grand Jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county. In addition to any investigatory powers granted by this chapter, the Grand Jury may investigate and report upon the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, functions, and the method or system of performing the duties of any such city or joint powers agency and make such recommendations as it may deem proper and fit.

Penal Code Section 919 (b) states: The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.

METHOD

The Grand Jury Law Enforcement Committee performed the required inspection of the City of Pismo Beach Police Department holding cells, as per Penal Code Section 919 (b). The inspection included a meeting with department staff and a facility tour. The meeting gave the Grand Jury members the opportunity to ask questions and receive information relating to the department's operations. During the meeting the Grand Jury was made aware of the recent accreditation of the Pismo Beach City Police Department by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies "CALEA".

The Pismo Beach Chief of Police was contacted by the Grand Jury and supplied additional information relating to the CALEA Accreditation.

The Grand Jury did additional research on the CALEA Accreditation from the official web page www.calea.org.

NARRATIVE

The Commission on the Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations.

The Commission includes the following agencies:

- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Sheriff's Association
- Police Executive Research Forum

The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Program is to improve the delivery of public safety services. This is accomplished primarily by maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, reflecting a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives and by establishing and administering an accreditation process and recognizing professional excellence.

The goals of CALEA are:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices
- Improve service delivery
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency

The Pismo Beach Police Department began the process of accreditation in 2004 by signing a contract with CALEA. Once the contract was signed the Department had 3 years to achieve the accreditation. CALEA has 446 standards that the Police Department had to meet continuously over the three year accreditation period. An independent team of assessors from CALEA confirmed completion of the program and accreditation compliance.

The Pismo Beach Police Department developed an accreditation team of ten members. The team consisted of staff personnel, officers and managers. Each team member was given the responsibility of verifying that the assigned standards were in place and operating as intended. The members of the team were encouraged to solicit input and assistance from others within the organization. Nearly every member of the Police Department played a role in validating the standards.

The accreditation standards cover every aspect of the department operations. They set the professional standard from the officer's conduct and procedures on the street to shift staffing and budget preparations. This process was a large undertaking for such a small department both in terms of time and manpower. The City of Pismo Beach Police Department is only the 5th municipal law enforcement agency in the State of California to achieve the CALEA Accreditation. The accreditation is for a three year period. Maintaining the accreditation is an ongoing process that requires the department to submit ongoing proof demonstrating that the department is staying current with the changing CALEA. Recognized benefits of Accreditation include:

- Support from government officials
 - ▣ Recognition provides objective evidence of an agency's commitment to improve resource management and service delivery. Thus, government officials are more confident in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and meet community needs.¹

- Stronger defense against civil lawsuits
 - ▣ Recognized agencies are better able to defend themselves against allegations of misconduct and lawsuits.
 - ▣ Recognized agencies show their professional accomplishments by reducing risk and high liability exposure. In doing so they may be eligible for reduction in costs for liability insurance.¹

¹ From CALEA web site: www.calea.org

In the words of the Police Chief of Pismo Beach:

“We feel that achievement in our quest for accreditation has built confidence among the employees in our organization, and instilled greater trust and confidence in the police department by our citizens and the city leaders.”

COMMENDATION

The Jury commends the City of Pismo Beach Police Department for obtaining the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. It is a testimony to the department’s commitment to provide the highest quality law enforcement services to the community it serves.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

No responses to this report are necessary.