



NEWAYGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Accreditation Assessment Team Invites Public Comment

(Newaygo, MI) A team of assessors from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) will arrive on Thursday, November 14th, to examine all aspects of the Newaygo Police Department policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services Chief Georgia Andres announced today.

“Verification by the team that the Newaygo Police Department continues to meet the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission’s “best practice” standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence”, Chief Georgia Andres said.

As part of this final On-Site Assessment, employees and members of the general public are invited to provide comments to the Assessment Team. They may do so by telephone or email. The public may call **231-452-6418** on Thursday, November 14th, between the hours of 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Email comments can be sent to **MLEAC@newaygocity.org**.

Telephone comments are limited to five (5) minutes and must address the agency’s ability to comply with the Commission’s standards. A copy of the standards are available for inspection at the Newaygo Police Department at 28 State Road. Please contact Sgt. Lloyd Walerczyk at 231-652-1655 ext. *217#.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Newaygo Police Department ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to email the Accreditation Program manager at rwiles@michiganpolicechiefs.org or write the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 3474 Alaiedon Pkwy, Suite 600, Okemos, MI 48864.

The Newaygo Police Department must comply with 108 standards in order to achieve accredited status. Chief Georgia Andres indicated, *“Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy, and more confidence in the agency’s ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs.”*

The Accreditation Program Director for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police is Chief Ron Wiles (Ret.). *“The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar Michigan law enforcement agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview agency members, and visit offices and other places where compliance with the standards can be observed. Once the assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status”*, Ron Wiles stated.

Accreditation is valid for a three-year period during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. This is Newaygo Police Departments second assessment.

The MACP, through its Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the state of Michigan. For more information regarding the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, please write the Commission at: MACP, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 3474 Alaiedon Pkwy, Suite 600, Okemos, MI 48864 or email at rwiles@michiganpolicechiefs.org

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