

Oakland Housing Authority

1619 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA 94612 • Tel: 510.874.1563 • Fax: 510.874.1674 • www.oakha.org

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Lieutenant Paul Malech, Administration and Support
CALEA Accreditation Manager
(510) 535-3154 • pmalech@oakha.org

October 21, 2020

OHA Schedules Public Hearing for the Reaccreditation of Housing Authority Police Department

OAKLAND, CA—Members of the community are invited to attend a public hearing Tuesday, November 10, 2020 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 PM to offer comments regarding the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) Police Department. This forum is part of an on-site assessment by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®).

During this assessment, both the OHA Law Enforcement and Communication Section will be candidates for reaccreditation.

“The public hearing is a component of a voluntary process to gain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence,” according to OHA Chief of Police, Carel Duplessis. Accreditation is awarded for four years during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited. The OHA Police Department’s law enforcement section was originally accredited in 1999; again in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2017 following a similar procedure. The Communications Sections was initially accredited in November 2017 and is a candidate for its first reaccreditation.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and established safety protocols, the Public Hearing will be held via Zoom Video Conference on November 10, 2020, beginning at 4:00 PM and ending at 6:00 PM.

Individuals wishing to provide commentary may call (510) 535-3154 to be provided a Zoom meeting link for video and/or audio commentary. Video and audio comments at the public hearing are limited to five (5) minutes and must address the agency’s ability to comply with CALEA® standards. To review a copy of the CALEA standards for Law Enforcement, please call Sergeant Casey Mooningham at (510) 535-3124. For a copy

of the CALEA standards for Communications please call Jackie Mesterhazy, Communications Manager at (510) 535-3129. To review the OHA Police Department's policies and procedures, the following link is available:

<https://powerdms.com/public/OHAPD/tree/documents/274003>.

Those who wish to offer written comments about the OHA Police Department may write to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155. They may also email CALEA at calea@calea.org, placing "Oakland Housing Authority Police Department" in the subject line.

The Law Enforcement assessment team members are:

- Team Leader is (Ret.) Chief Mark Brooks, of the Marion Police, North Carolina
- Team Member Sergeant Megan Freeman of the Addison Police Department.

The Communications Assessment Team Leader is:

- Deputy Chief (Ret.) John McQueeney of the Oneida Indian Nation Police.

The assessment teams will be examining all aspects of the department's policy and procedures, management, operations and support services to verify that the police department meets the commission's standards. Once the CALEA Assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted reaccreditation status.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, Virginia, 20155 or www.calea.org.

About Oakland Housing Authority

Oakland Housing Authority is the largest provider of affordable housing in the City of Oakland and proudly delivers diverse housing choices to over 16,400 households in a service-oriented environment, while improving and expanding the housing options for future generations. For more information about the Oakland Housing Authority, please contact us by email at info@oakha.org, visit our website at www.oakha.org, or call 510-874-1653.

###