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## **NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY**

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# **THE OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICE DEPARTMENT INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT**

(Oakland, CA) -- A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), will arrive in Oakland on December 4th, 2010 to examine all aspects of the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department's Policies and Procedures, Management, Operations and Support Services, Chief Carel Duplessis announced today.

Verification by the team that the OHAPD Police Department meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, Duplessis stated.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments at a public information session at 5:00 PM., Monday, December 6th, 2010 in Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Room located at 1619 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA .

If for some reason an individual cannot speak at the public information session, but would still like to provide comments to the assessment team, he or she may do so by telephone. The public may call (510) 535-3164 between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 5th, 2010.

Telephone comments, as well as appearances at the public information session, are limited to 5 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department, located at 1180 25<sup>th</sup> Ave, Oakland, CA 94601. For more information contact Lieutenant James Williams at (510) 535-3103.

Persons wishing to offer written comments about the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department's ability to meet the standards for accreditation are requested to write: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030-2215..

The CALEA Program Manager for the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department is Dennis Hyater. He said, "The assessment team is composed of public safety practitioners from similar, but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other locations where compliance can be witnessed."

The assessors are police practioners from Edmonton (Canada) Police Services, and Sugar Land (Texas) Police Department.

Once the CALEA Assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted re-accredited status, Dennis Hyater stated.

Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. please write the Commission at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320 Gainesville, VA 20155; or call (800) 368-3757 or (703) 352-4225 or email [calea@calea.org](mailto:calea@calea.org)

Long recognized as one of the leading housing authorities in the nation, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) continues to be an innovator in the field of public housing. Currently, OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, operating 3,160 public housing and project based section 8 units. Presently, 10,958 Oakland families, elderly and disabled rent with Section 8 vouchers. The average annual income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

For more information on the Oakland Housing Authority call 510-874-1512 or visit [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org)