WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE
*Office of the Chief of Police*
1 McClure Drive • Sewell, NJ 08080 • (856) 589-6664

*Chief Patrick M. Gurcsik*

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT**

Washington Township, Gloucester County, NJ. A team of assessors from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) will arrive on Tuesday February 22, 2022, to examine all aspects of the Washington Township Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Chief Patrick Gurcsik announced today.

*"Verification by the team that the Washington Township Police Department meets the Commission's "best practice" standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence"*, Chief Patrick Gurcsik 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 856-589-7705 on Tuesday February 22, 2022, between the hours of 10:00am & 11:00am. Email comments can be sent to Lieutenant Dante Spataro at dcspataro@pd.twp.washington.nj.us during the above date and time.

Telephone comments are limited to 5 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the NJSACOP standards. Please contact Lieutenant Dante Spataro, Accreditation Manager, at 856-589-6650 ext 1104 for information about the standards.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the Washington Township Police Departments ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to email the Accreditation Program Director at hdelgado@njsacop.org or write New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 751 Route 73 North, Suite 12 Marlton, N.J. 08053.

The Washington Township Police Department must comply with NJSACOP LEAP standards in order to achieve accredited status. Chief Patrick Gurcsik 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 New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police is Mr. Harry J. Delgado, ED.S. *"The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar New Jersey 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 Commission's assessors complete their review of the*

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*agency, they will report to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status"*, Harry J Delgado 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.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police through its New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the state of New Jersey. For more information regarding the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission please write the Commission at New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission at 751 Route 73 North, Suite 12 Marlton, N.J. 08053 or email hdelgado@njsacop.org

Media Contact:

Gloucester County Times

NJ.com

Washington Township Sun