NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, September 21, 2020
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RUTGERS UNIVERSITY POLICE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER SEEKS ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION

Members of the public are invited to offer comments on Monday, October 5

In its continuing effort to enhance its capabilities and improve service to the university community, the Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) is seeking accreditation for the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®). CALEA is a joint effort of law enforcement’s major executive associations including: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) and Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

The purpose of the Commission is to develop standards based on international best practices in public safety, and to establish and administer the accreditation process. The accreditation process is how a public safety agency voluntarily demonstrates how it meets professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery.

Achievement of accreditation demonstrates excellence in the delivery and administration of public safety services. The benefits of accreditation include: greater effectiveness and efficiency in providing services to the university community, augmenting RUPD’s ability to prevent and control crime, extending cooperation with other law enforcement entities, and improving staff and employee confidence in the policies and practices of the department.

"CALEA accreditation is considered to be the gold standard for police performance. In the
pursuit of excellence, we welcome this high level of scrutiny and accountability, and we look forward to be sharpened in the process," said Chief Kenneth Cop; Executive Director of Public Safety and Chief of University Police at Rutgers.

The CALEA assessment team will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices to evaluate compliance. As part of the assessment process, members of the public are invited to provide their input to the assessment team regarding the Rutgers University 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center. Individuals who would like to provide comments may do so by calling 848-932-4949 on Monday, October 5, 2020 between 1 and 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to submit written comments regarding the RUPD’s ability to comply with the standards for accreditation may send them to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155.

Once the assessors complete their review, they report back to the full commission, which will then decide if the Communications Center is to be granted accredited status. If awarded, accreditation is for four years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with the standards under which it was initially accredited.

Only three other Communications Centers in New Jersey are accredited and nationwide only three Communications Centers at Universities or Colleges have achieved accredited status.

The University’s 9-1-1 Emergency Call Center answers 9-1-1 calls, monitors alarms and dispatches Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services for the University’s properties statewide as well as the City of New Brunswick through a shared services agreement. In addition the center hands all SMS Text Messages sent to 9-1-1 within Middlesex County.

The Rutgers University Police Department’s law enforcement operations is the only police department in New Jersey to be simultaneously accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) and International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA).

For more information about this topic, please contact Deputy Chief Michael Rein.

"An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency"