



Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEKALB SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT DURING LAW ENFORCEMENT REACCREDITATION PROCESS

Decatur, GA – The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office (DKSO) will undergo an on-site review for reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on April 18 - 22, 2009.

The public is invited to provide comments regarding Sheriff's Office services during a public information session Monday, April 20, 2009, at 7 p.m. The session will be held in the Manuel J. Maloof Building conference room, 1300 Commerce Drive, 6th Floor, Decatur, GA 30030. The CALEA assessment team will also accept comments by telephone on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The number is (404)298-8146. Written comments should be mailed to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030-2215.

Public comments at the information session and by telephone will be limited to 10 minutes per speaker or caller and must address compliance with CALEA standards by the agency's Field, Court, and Administrative Services divisions. Citizens can get a copy of the standards at the Sheriff's Office or by contacting the accreditation manager, Melissa Marrow, at (404) 298-8145.

The **Field Division** is DKSO's law enforcement arm and consists of several sections/units. Uniformed deputy sheriffs in the *Field Services Section* serve felony and misdemeanor warrants and other court orders; and they transport inmates to jails, medical and mental health facilities. The *Criminal Process Section* is comprised of plain clothes deputy sheriffs/investigators and civilian employees who investigate, serve, and process criminal warrants: *the Fugitive Unit* locates, apprehends and extradites fugitives from justice; *the Domestic Violence Unit* deputy sheriffs apprehend persons charged with acts of family violence, serves Temporary Protection Orders (TPOs) issued by the Superior Court, provide emergency transportation to shelters for battered women and their children, and provide safety assists in court-ordered domestic violence spousal evictions; *Sex Offender Registry Unit* deputy sheriffs aggressively maintain the registry in efforts to ensure that offenders comply with the prescribed laws; and the *Warrant Unit* receives and processes criminal warrants and reports of arrests by the Sheriff's Office, which includes entering the information into databases. The ***Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)*** Team supports other sections/units in high-risk situations that present a potential for death or serious injury.

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The **Court Services Division** provides security for the DeKalb County Courthouse complex for Superior, Probate, Juvenile and Records courts. Court Division deputies protect more than thirty judges in the various courts, as well as citizens and employees who enter the buildings. Annually, Court Division employees process and serve more than 8,000 civil processes/documents generated by DeKalb County's courts, U.S. District Courts, and Superior Courts throughout the United States. This division also monitors the activities of bonding companies serving DeKalb County.

The **Administrative Services Division**, serving more than 800 employees, provides five areas of support to the overall operations of the Sheriff's Office, including human resources, fiscal affairs, supply, information systems, and mail processing.

The DeKalb County Sheriff's Office achieved Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation in July 2000 and was reaccredited in 2003 and 2006. A CALEA examination constitutes a stringent peer review. Each accredited agency must undergo a reassessment once every three years to maintain accreditation.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs' Association, and Police Executive Research Forum created the Commission in 1979. Their purpose was to establish and administer an accreditation process through which law enforcement agencies could demonstrate voluntarily that they meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery.

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