

## *CALEA Accreditation (In Progress)*

In 2020, the Marysville Police Department (MPD) started the process of becoming a nationally accredited police department through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). By becoming accredited, the department is committing to law enforcement excellence by meeting national standards that have been deemed essential to the protection of the life, health, safety, and rights of the citizens we serve, and having exemplified the best professional practices in the conduct of its responsibilities.

The accreditation process can take several years as the department works through a five-step process:

- Enrollment
- Self-Assessment
- Assessment
- Commission Review and Decision
- Maintaining Compliance and Reaccreditation

Self-assessment, the step MPD is currently in, is the longest of the five steps and requires that the department compares its policies and programs against CALEA standards. If deficiencies are identified, adjustments are made to existing policies or new policies are developed. Once the department documents that they meet the standards and have collected a year of data for proof of compliance, the virtual and onsite assessment is scheduled.

Once accreditation is awarded, it is valid for four years. During that time, MPD will continue to measure their performance against CALEA standards, submitting annual reports demonstrating compliance to ensure that the accreditation is renewed.

We seek your input on the CALEA accreditation process. If we can answer any questions, please contact our accreditation manager, Assistant Chief Matt Simpson at 785-562-2343 or [m.simpson@bluevalley.net](mailto:m.simpson@bluevalley.net).