



MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Billy Peppers, City Manager
From: Mark J. Mitchell, Chief of Police
Date: January 11, 2016
Ref: Council Agenda

State Law Enforcement Certification Renewal

On November 4 – 5, 2015, an assessment team from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) conducted an in-depth audit of the department's State Certification standards and proofs to ensure that we are in compliance with the process for certification renewal. The agency received its initial Certification in 1999. This past Friday, January 8, 2016, we received a plaque from the GACP that is in recognition for successfully completing our 4th State Re-Certification.

The department's Certification Officer is Mark Gavala. The Team Leader for the Assessment Team was extremely complimentary of Officer Gavala due to his attention to detail, assistance and cooperation he provided the team during the assessment.

With that said, please accept this as an official request to have our GACP State Re-Certification Plaque presented during the next Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2016. In addition, I also would like to recognize Officer Gavala for his hard work that was vital to this agency in obtaining this very high achievement for an organization in the Law Enforcement profession.

Furthermore, I have directed Public Information Officer Pacer Cordry to prepare and distribute a Press Release for recognition of the department's efforts in maintaining State Certification.

In the event that Mayor and Council have any questions about State Certification, I have included a number of benefits associated with this Official recognition:

To the Community:

- Certification increases the law enforcement agency's ability to prevent crime and social disorder through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the public.
- Certification enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives.
- Certification, in conjunction with the philosophy of community policing, commits the agency to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention through environmental design) that directly benefit the community.
- Certification creates a forum in which police and citizens work together to control and prevent crime. This partnership will help citizens to understand the challenges that confront law enforcement. Law Enforcement will, in turn, receive clear direction from the community about its expectations.

To the Employees:

- Certification requires that agency policies and procedures are in written form and are available to all agency personnel at all times.
- Certification assures employees that every aspect of the agency's personnel system is in accord with professional standards, and that the system is both fair and equitable.
- The morale of the agency is enhanced by increasing the employee's confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of their agency. The operations of the agency become more streamlined and consistent.
- Certification standards address safety issues and ensure all employees receive proper equipment and adequate training.
- Certification is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence and competence. Employees will take pride in their agency, knowing that it represents the very best in law enforcement.

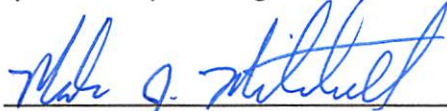
To the Chief of Police:

- Certification increases cooperation and coordination among other law enforcement agencies and other branches of the criminal justice system.
- The certification process requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations and administration.

- The certification standards provide norms against which agency performance can be measured and monitored over time.
- Certification provides objective measures to justify decisions related to budget requests, operational needs and personnel policies.
- Certification serves as a yardstick to measure the effectiveness of the agency's programs and services. The services provided are defined and uniformity of service is assured.
- Certification streamlines operations, providing more consistent and more effective deployment of agency resources.

The certification report prepared and approved by the GACP State Certification Program demonstrated this agency's commitment to providing the highest level of professional law enforcement services to the community and public we serve.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request and if you have any questions please give me a call.



Mark J. Mitchell
Chief of Police

cc: Asst. Chief Stephen Merrifield, Police Administration
Capt. Jeff Tucker, Operations Bureau
Capt. Wendell Turner, Support Services Bureau

MJM/kcb