

USF POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: March 11, 2009

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ACCREDITATION TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tampa: A team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will arrive on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, to examine all aspects of the University of South Florida (USF) Police Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Chief Longo announced today. The USF Police Department has to comply with approximately 250 standards in order to receive reaccredited status.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. Comments must be in writing and must address the agency's ability to comply with CFA standards. A copy of the standards is available through USF Police Department's Public Information Officer in Tampa at 813-974-2451.

For more information regarding CFA or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the USF Police Department's ability to meet the standards of reaccreditation, please write: CFA, 3504 Lake Lynda Dr., Suite 380, Orlando, FL 32817, or email to info@flaccreditation.org.

The Accreditation Manager for the USF Police Department is Lt. Meg Ross. She said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies. The assessors will review written materials; interview individuals; and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The CFA Assessment Team Leader is Director Mike Somberg, Broward Sheriff's Office. Other team members are Lt. Justin Woodall, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement, and Ofc. Kathleen Halstead, University of North Florida Police Department.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to receive reaccreditation. USF Police Department's accreditation is for 3 years. Verification by the team that USF Police Department meets the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain or maintain accreditation—a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, Chief Longo said.