



December 4, 2009

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PRESS RELEASE

Sumner Police Receive Elite Accreditation

Sumner, WA—At the City Council Meeting on December 7, 2009, the Sumner Police Department will present to the City Council their new accreditation from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Sumner Police went through the accreditation process throughout the year and received final accreditation from WASPC in November.

Through accreditation, the top managers of law enforcement agencies throughout the State set standards by which police departments can be evaluated. Approximately 10% of the State's police departments have earned this accreditation. Sumner police earned accreditation, which lasts four years, for the first time in 2005.

The department begins the process by reviewing all of its own policies and procedures and comparing them against WASPC's 140 standards. The department prepares a report to WASPC on each standard. Next, WASPC representatives came to Sumner for an on-site assessment in October. They reviewed policies and interviewed employees. WASPC then awarded accreditation at their November conference. Administrative Services Manager Jason Wilson was the lead manager for the department through the accreditation process.

“Accreditation is a great honor for our department,” said Chief John Galle. “We have a vision and reputation for being very community-oriented, but this accreditation also speaks strongly of the professionalism of our officers and their ability to serve our community in all the areas of law enforcement necessary.”

Accreditation often attracts a higher caliber of employees since it is a sign to candidates that the department is run well. It decreases the department's susceptibility to litigation and civil court settlements that would cost taxpayers money, and it broadens a department's perspective, giving the opportunity for other professionals to suggest ways to make things work even better.

"I am very proud of our police department and hope that the citizens share my pride," said Mayor Dave Enslow. "Only one out of every ten departments in our state has earned this accreditation, which shows us that we can be both small and excellent."

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More information about WASPC's accreditation program can be found at <http://www.waspc.org/index.php?c=Accreditation>.