

To: Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.
From: Vicki Cutcliffe, Team Leader
Date: May 3, 2022
Re: Edgewood Police Department
Full Compliance Assessment Report
April 26 – 27, 2022

A. Agency/Assessment Information:

Chief Executive Officer: Chief John Freeburg
Accreditation Manager: Officer Adam LaFan

Standards Manual Version: 5.16

Previous Accreditation Dates: June 2007, July 2010, June 2013, June 2016, June 2019

Assessment Team Recommendation: Reaccreditation

Assessment Team

Team Leader: Vicki Cutcliffe
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B. Compliance Tally:

Status	Mandatory Standards	Other-than-mandatory standards	Total Standards
In compliance	140	40	180
Not in compliance	0	0	0
Not applicable	42	13	55
Elected exemptions	0	0	0
Waiver	0	0	0
Total:	182	53	235

Total <i>Applicable</i> "Other-than-mandatory" Standards.....	40
Maximum allowable number of Elected Standards.....	8

C. Agency Profile:

The city of Edgewood is located just south of Orlando, within Orange County, Florida. The city was established in 1924. The police department was established in the 1960s due to the growth in the area. There are approximately 2,700 residents, 845 homes, 220 townhomes, and over 300 businesses in Edgewood. The main roadway running through the city is Orange Avenue (SR 527), which has over 60,000 vehicles per day driving through the city limits.

The Edgewood Police Department has 13 full-time sworn officers. The department additionally has three civilian positions, including an analyst. The command structure currently has three patrol sergeants and the chief of police. An officer is assigned as the detective. The evidence and property custodian(s) are certified by the Property and Evidence Association of Florida (PEAF). Officers work 12-hour shifts with a minimum of two officers per shift. Officers' experience ranges from four to 26 years (most or all with the Edgewood Police Department).

The chief of police is John Freeburg. Chief Freeburg began his career with the Edgewood Police Department in 1995 as a reserve officer. In 1996, he became a full-time officer and has served as a detective, sergeant, and captain, and was promoted to chief in 2017. The department has strong relationships with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Orlando Police Department, and Belle Isle Police Department. All these jurisdictions touch the city's borders.

The Edgewood Police Department stands for Excellence/Professionalism/Dignity (EPD). The department's attitude is, "We never say it's not our job."

D. Assessment Summary:

The assessment team arrived in Edgewood on Monday evening, April 25, 2022. The team met and discussed the assessor package and previous assessment reports. On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, the team was met at the hotel by Accreditation Manager Adam LaFan and escorted to the department. The work space accommodations were perfect for the team's needs. An entrance interview was held with Chief Freeburg and Accreditation Manager LaFan. After the entrance interview, the team began reviewing files.

Over the next two days, the assessment team reviewed files, conducted many interviews, and participated in ride-alongs. All department members were ready for the team and displayed full cooperation and excitement with the process. The supporting documentation presented in the accreditation files was complete and properly highlighted for assessors to quickly verify compliance. The assessors requested to see other examples of proofs from various areas within the department to verify that the accreditation files presented to the assessors were an accurate representation of activities performed by the department.

The department has a solid structure with clear lines of communication, authority, and accountability. All members are held to the highest ethical standards from the top down. The written directive system is easy to follow. Interviews with personnel verified access to policies and updates are prompt and thorough. All sworn members interviewed have a clear understanding of the use of force and pursuit policies, and related reporting practices. The department supplies clear directives regarding the conduct and discipline process, grievances, and misconduct complaint processing.

The department does not use interview rooms or holding areas, nor does it operate courtroom security.

The department has a very good training component. It is clear the department recognizes the overall professionalism obtained through qualified and relevant training. All training is consistent with the department's goals and objectives. All records are current, complete, and secure. The department supports a well-established infectious disease program. All sworn members attend firearms training at least once annually. All members are current with lethal and less than lethal training.

Assessors interviewed different sworn members, both in their work areas and in the hallways. All were knowledgeable about patrol duties and responsibilities, investigative practices, juvenile operations, and unusual occurrences.

Members interviewed in the field described the department's policy and response to traffic incidents, including how hazardous materials are handled. All members have reflective vests readily accessible and described how they always wear them while directing traffic.

The team had the pleasure of speaking with Mayor John Dowless, who stopped by to see how the assessment was proceeding. Mayor Dowless spoke favorably about the department and its members.

Assessor Hasson took part in a ride-along with Officer Christopher Meade. Officer Meade was interviewed about the pursuit policy, juvenile detention, procedures related to bomb threats, domestic violence calls, and conducting show-ups. Assessor Hasson observed Officer Meade's reflective safety vest and the first aid kit assigned to the vehicle. Officer Meade also confirmed that weapons and infectious disease trainings are conducted annually.

Assessor Dixon conducted a ride-along with Police Officer Ronald Beardslee, a 26-year veteran of the department. Officer Beardslee described the process for inspecting vehicles at the start of shift. All personal protective equipment and first aid supplies are assigned to the vehicle and not the individual officers. Upon inspection by the assessor, the fire extinguisher, personal protective equipment, NARCAN (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray, and first aid equipment were all present with current end dates. The automated external defibrillator (AED) was present and functional. Officer Beardslee is familiar with the requirements and limitations of the use of force, pursuit, and policies. He described the department's evidence and property procedures.

Assessors interviewed Evidence/Property Room Custodian Stacey Salemi and Evidence Trainee Amy Watkins. The evidence room was found to be secured with two door locks and an alarm system. Entrance to the evidence/property room is limited to Stacey Salemi, Amy Watkins, and Chief Freeburg. When entering the evidence/property room, assessors were required to sign into the log book and were always accompanied by Stacey Salemi or Amy Watkins.

Assessors were able to observe separate, secure storage for guns, narcotics, money, jewelry, and other high dollar/sensitive items. The department has access to excellent temporary storage lockers to include refrigeration. All evidence and property information is entered into the eForce Records Management System (RMS) prior to submitting the items to evidence either directly or in temporary evidence/property lockers.

Officer Nicolle Crock was interviewed and advised that every year officers have a refresher training for bloodborne pathogens. The Exposure Control Plan is accessible to all employees and is reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Assessors interviewed Crime Analyst Stacey Salemi about criminal intelligence information. No criminal intelligence information was received during this accreditation cycle, nor were there any files kept by the Edgewater Police Department at the time of the assessment. The department does have a policy to address procedures related to criminal intelligence information and a secure limited-access computer file to secure such information if the need arises.

Detective Nicolle Crock was interviewed by Assessor Hasson about procedures related to sexual violence and missing persons investigations. Detective Crock explained the process in administering photo lineups via an independent administrator and conducting necessary follow-up investigations, including those for domestic violence reports. Assessor Hasson observed the secure storage of investigative files.

Assessor Cutcliffe interviewed Training Sergeant Michael Fraticelli about the department's training plan. Sergeant Fraticelli presented all training files that further backed up the proofs in accreditation files. All members are up to date with all required training.

The department has a clear policy on biased policing. All members receive the required training. There were no bias complaints this accreditation cycle, or ever. While the standard requires an annual administrative review of traffic stop procedures related to fair and impartial policing, the department goes further and reviews all enforcement action and investigations in the review process.

E. Standards Noncompliance Discussion: None

F. Corrective Action Discussion: None

G. Standards Elected for Exemption: None

H. Standards Verified by the Team as Waiver Applicable: None

I. Standards Verified by the Team as Not Applicable to the Agency:

1.04	5.05M	5.06M	8.01M
8.02	8.03	9.04	9.07
10.17M	13.01M	13.02	14.02
14.11M	14.12M	14.13M	15.03M
15.11M	17.04M	15.02M	17.08M
18.11M	18.12	17.05M	22.02M
22.03M	22.04M	22.01M	22.06M
22.07M	22.08M	22.05M	22.10M
22.11M	22.12M	22.09M	22.14M
22.15M	23.01M	22.13M	23.03
23.04M	23.05M	23.02	23.07
23.08	26.06M	23.06M	27.03M
27.11M	27.06M	26.07M	31.02M
32.03M	32.04	31.01M	

J. Standards with a Status Changed by Assessors: None

K. Public Information Activities: None

L. Exemplary Policies/Projects/Procedures:

Mental, Financial, and Wellness

Each year a health screening is hosted at the department. Officers receive gift cards for taking part in this program. Officers participate in the program on the city's time. The department hosts the Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics team, also known as "the heart bus." This event takes place over two days and the team performs electrocardiograms (EKGs), sonograms, and other screenings regarding the officer's heart health. The Edgewood Police Department also invites surrounding agencies and officials to participate. During scheduled block training, the department supplies a financial consultant to address financial health. The officers learn about their retirement, investments, and different methods to manage their monies for the future. In addition, mental health for law enforcement officers and their families is covered. Part of this discussion is the different services available to all officers and the importance of officers' mental well-being.

M. Summary and Recommendation:

The Edgewood Police Department is a family made up of exceptional and dedicated personnel who enjoy their profession. All members of the department wear many hats and enjoy the responsibilities. The department is a professional law enforcement agency which exceeds the goals and standards set forth by the Commission.

The team is in full agreement that the Edgewood Police Department be reviewed for reaccreditation status by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Submitted by Vicki Cutcliffe
Team Leader