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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Oakland Housing Authority Police Accredited by CALEA  
*Department Cited for its Professionalism and Excellence***

OAKLAND, CA, March 30, 2005 -- The Oakland Housing Authority Police Department (OHAPD) was recently recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for its “professionalism, excellence and competence,” in awarding OHAPD its third straight national accreditation.

The re-accreditation of Oakland Housing Authority Police Department comes on the heels of a recent news account (Oakland Tribune, 10/14/04, “Safety at Public Housing Improves”) that the city’s public housing has, on average, less crime than the city as a whole.

“We are working hard to assure that Authority properties are assets to the community and that our residents have opportunities to rise above poverty,” said Jon Gresley, Oakland Housing Authority Executive Director. “We are proud that the community policing approach of our police department is working, and is being recognized as a model for others around the nation.”

CALEA accreditation is a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, and shows that OHAPD has met or exceeded all 444 of CALEA’s standards. OHAPD was first accredited by CALEA in 1999, when it became only the seventh law enforcement agency in California to become nationally accredited. CALEA returned to Oakland in December, 2004 to interview staff and public housing residents, review OHAPD records, and take testimony at a public hearing. CALEA accreditation can occur every three years, and was last awarded to OHAPD in 2002.

CALEA is an independent body established in 1979 by the cooperative efforts of four major law enforcement membership associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs Association, and Police Executive Research Forum. The Commission’s overall purpose is to improve the delivery of law enforcement services by offering a body of standards developed by law enforcement practitioners.

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