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**Immediate Release**

**ACCREDITATION TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT THE SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

A team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will arrive June 30 – July 02, 2020 to examine all aspects of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer, Jr. announced today. The Sumter County Sheriff's Office has to comply with approximately 260 standards in order to receive accredited status. Many of the standards are critical to life, health and safety issues. This upcoming on-site assessment with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office will be their "Second Excelsior Recognition". The "Excelsior Recognition" means an agency has successfully achieved the accreditation process five consecutive cycles in a row.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the standards is available through the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Accreditation Officer in Wildwood at (352) 569-1600.

For more information regarding CFA or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the Sumter County Sheriff's Office ability to meet the standards of accreditation, please write: CFA, P.O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302, or email to [info@flaccreditation.org](mailto:info@flaccreditation.org).

The Accreditation Inspector for the Sumter County Sheriff's Office is James Aguiar, Jr. He 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.

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 accredited status and achieve their "Second Excelsior Recognition". Sumter County Sheriff's Office accreditation is for 3 years. Verification by the team that the Sumter County Sheriff's Office 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, Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer, Jr. said.