



**Sheriff Gary Caruana**  
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# Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### **Sheriff's Office Receives National Reaccreditation**

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office was awarded national reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The Sheriff's Office was first accredited in 1994. Thanks to the hard work, and dedication of the late Deputy Chief Donald Gasparini, Jr., our agency was able to receive the honor of CALEA reaccreditation consistently every four years since then. Deputy Chief Gasparini passed away suddenly in October of 2020. He served as our agency's reaccreditation manager and was responsible for showing the commission that our department works diligently to comply with internationally accepted standards and best practices. The honor is recognized as the Gold Standard for Public Safety Agencies.

The Sheriff's Office conducted their CALEA virtual on-site assessment in December 2020. During that process, CALEA assessors virtually visited the Sheriff's Office to examine all aspects of the Agency's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. Verification by the team that the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to gain and maintain accreditation and international recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.

In March of 2021, Sheriff Gary Caruana virtually attended the CALEA Commission hearing where the members unanimously voted to award the Sheriff's Office with reaccreditation. CALEA Accreditation has become the primary method for a law enforcement agency to voluntarily demonstrate its commitment to excellence in law enforcement.

Internationally, less than 1000 public safety agencies possess accreditation status—the Sheriff's Office is the 295th agency to attain this achievement.

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