

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Overview of the City's Accreditation Programs

Todd Dickerboom, Deputy Fire Chief, 452-7872
Fire Department

Shelley McVein, Acting Director, 452-5378
Parks and Community Services

Steve Mylett, Chief of Police, 452-4334
Police Department

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468
Transportation Department

Nav Otal, Director, 452-2041
Utilities Department

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

INFORMATION ONLY

Directors from the five operating departments in the City will provide an overview of the City's accreditation efforts, and its value to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The City of Bellevue has the distinction of being one of very few agencies in the region and the nation that has all of the City's operating departments nationally accredited.

Accreditation provides an opportunity for operating departments to work with representatives from national professional organizations to validate their operating procedures and practices against the latest industry standards. While an extensive effort, accreditation ensures that the departments evaluate their standard operating procedures and practices and make modifications if deficiencies are found. Conversely, often national reviewers will discover practices from our departments that later become model practices for others to adopt.

In addition to the operating departments, as part of the accreditation process, all of the support departments such as Information Technology, Human Resources, City Attorney's Office and Finance and Asset Management are also evaluated.

The community benefits from departmental accreditation, as it ensures that the City is being run efficiently and with the state of the art in terms of process and practice. It also allows the departments to learn of deficiencies and to make process improvements accordingly. Accreditation also facilitates succession planning and knowledge transfer through documentation of practices and procedures. National Accreditation results in high performing organizations with the capacity to address any operational or administration challenges and serve as industry leaders.

The following operating departments are nationally accredited agencies:

Bellevue Fire department is accredited by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). Bellevue Fire was one of the first agencies in the nation to be accredited in 1998 and has been continuously accredited since then. Bellevue Fire is one of five agencies in the state and one of 270 in the United States and Canada to be accredited. The department was recently recommended for re-accreditation and will participate in a hearing before the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) in early March 2020.

Parks and Community Services is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Bellevue Parks was first accredited in 2005 and has been reaccredited every five years since then. Bellevue Parks is one of three agencies in the state and one of 175 nationally to be accredited. The department will be seeking reaccreditation in 2020, which involves a review of 151 standards.

Bellevue Police department is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Bellevue Police department has sought and received Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation, an accreditation program for elite organizations striving to demonstrate professional excellence within a comprehensive range of operational and administrative functional responsibilities. Bellevue Police department was first accredited in 2005 and has been re-accredited in 2008, 2011, 2014, and most recently in 2017. The department will be pursuing re-accreditation in 2020 with on-site inspection/assessment scheduled for November 30 – December 3. Bellevue Police is one of only nine law enforcement agencies in the state to be accredited.

Transportation and Utilities departments are accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The Utilities department was first accredited in 2004, the first agency in the state and the 14th in the nation to be accredited by APWA. The Transportation department became accredited in 2007. Both departments have jointly pursued re-accreditation since 2007, and have successfully been re-accredited in 2011, 2015, and most recently in 2019. The accreditation process involves documentation and review of several hundred practices and standard operating procedures. During the 2019 re-accreditation, in addition to being fully compliant on all the practices reviewed, Bellevue was recognized for four model practices.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

N/A

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A