



**Chief's Report
Ruston Police Department
Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

Chief of Police:

The Department has re-examined its' goal of working toward law enforcement accreditation and has paused the project for now. Instead, we are determining if the effort for accreditation would be better placed toward nationwide accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA is the only nationally recognized accreditation organization, requires less internal effort since it aligns more closely with the company that our maintains our Policy Manual, and may cost less. This project would take approximately 2 years.

One of our officers is in the background for a larger law enforcement agency. This officer states he loves our community and the Department, but the higher wage and \$25,000 signing bonus will help him provide for current his family's needs.

Officer Vela investigated a financial fraud crime against the City and was able to develop the case to the point that the suspect has been charged with felony and gross-demeanor crimes. Financial crimes are generally very difficult to investigate and present to a prosecutor, but Vela was able to complete the case within 2 months of detection.

The Department is considering the applications of 3 retired law enforcement officers. The top criteria for selection is a desire to serve the Ruston community, specific skills and work experience that benefit the Department, willingness to adhere to our Core Mission. We believe retirees seek employment with the Department because of the reputation for service the officers are building in our area.

Prepared by Nestor Bautista