



## **Town of Needham, Massachusetts**

### **Media Release**

Office of the Town Manager  
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 23, 2025

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### **Needham Police Department Receives Full Accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission**

**NEEDHAM, MA** – The Needham Police Department (NPD) announced that it has received full accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC) effective December 6, 2024. MPAC will host an awards ceremony on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at Marlborough Country Club to recognize departments who achieved accreditation status.

Accreditation is a lengthy and voluntary process which demonstrates a police department's commitment to meeting and maintaining the highest standards of law enforcement professional excellence. To achieve accreditation status, an agency must meet or exceed 274 mandatory standards and 72 optional standards as defined by the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, a Board that was created following Massachusetts' Police Reform Act of 2020. MPAC's accreditation program comprises current best practices and emerging law enforcement trends. Accreditation must be re-applied for every 3 years to maintain compliance from MPAC.

Following the NPD's self-assessment, a team of assessors from MPAC visited the department for two days in November 2024 to review NPD's operations, policies, and procedures in the areas of management, technical support activities, emergency response planning, prisoner transport and holding, communication, facilities, evidence handling, training, equipment, use of force, vehicle pursuit policies and others.

“We are proud to have achieved full accreditation status,” said Needham Police Chief John Schlittler. “It’s an important department wide achievement that demonstrates Needham Police Department’s continued commitment to the highest standards of law enforcement and service.”

“This voluntary process ensures that our department meets the best practices in law enforcement, both regionally and nationally, and allows us to continually improve how we serve and protect Needham,” said Schlittler.

“This accomplishment highlights the exceptional work of the members of the Needham Police Department and their ongoing commitment to excellence,” said Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. “We’re fortunate to have such dedicated individuals working to keep the Needham community safe.”

The Needham Police Department is committed to transparency and community engagement. Anyone interested in learning more about the Department's accreditation program or the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission may contact the Chief of Police, John Schlittler at [jschlittler@needhamma.gov](mailto:jschlittler@needhamma.gov) or at 781-455-7570.

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