

**Great Barrington Police
Department
William Walsh Jr., Chief of
Police**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Great Barrington Police Department
Achieves Full State Accreditation**



Left to right: Sgt. Paul Storti, Chief William Walsh Jr., Executive Administrative Assistant Cara Becker and Sgt. Adam Carlotto (Courtesy Photo)

GREAT BARRINGTON — Chief William Walsh Jr. is pleased to announce that the Great Barrington Police Department has achieved full State Accreditation from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC).

The department received its award at a ceremony on Wednesday, May 3, at the Connors Center in Dover.

"We are honored to be the first department in Berkshire County to obtain accreditation," Chief Walsh said. "This was a department-wide commitment and would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of all of our officers and staff, who went above and beyond their daily duties to make it happen. In particular, I want to commend Sergeants Paul Storti and Adam Carlotto and Executive Administrative Assistant Cara Becker, who serve on our Accreditation Team and worked tirelessly to allow us to achieve this goal. The town can be very proud of our police officers and staff.

"Thank you also to Town Manager Jennifer Tabakin and the Selectboard for their support. I also want to recognize the work of former staff employees Sharon Nourse and Kim Shaw for their efforts over the years when we first began this initiative."

Selectboard Chair Sean Stanton said: "The board truly appreciates the exceptional effort displayed by so many within the department that made this achievement possible. We want to congratulate everyone for a job well done."

Accreditation is a long and vigorous self-initiated evaluation process by which police departments strive to meet and maintain the highest standards of law enforcement practice. It is considered the best measure of a police department against the established best practices

around the country and region, and involves both an internal self-review and an external assessment by the commission's team of experts.

Under the leadership of Chief Walsh, the Great Barrington Police Department was evaluated by a team of commission-appointed assessors. The Assessment Team found the department to be in compliance with all applicable standards for accreditation.

In order to earn accreditation, the Great Barrington Police Department had to successfully complete an on-site review of 246 mandatory standards and 83 optional standards by the commission.

The MPAC program requires that departments meet all the mandatory standards and percentage of the optional requirements. These carefully selected measures include: Jurisdiction and Mutual Aid, Collection and Preservation of Evidence, Communications, Working Conditions, Crime Analysis, Community Involvement, Financial Management, Internal Affairs, Juvenile Operations, Patrol Administration, Public Information, Records, Traffic, Training, Drug Enforcement and Victim/Witness Assistance.

The commission offers two program awards: certification and accreditation, with accreditation the higher of the two. Accreditation is granted for a period of three years. Participation in the program is strictly voluntary.

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