



CITY OF NEW BRITAIN

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE HONORABLE ERIN E. STEWART

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New Britain Police Department Meets All State Accreditation Standards Significantly Ahead of Deadline

New Britain, CT – Mayor Erin Stewart and Interim New Britain Police Chief Ben Murphy recently announced that the New Britain Police Department has passed the Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III accreditation standards set forth by the Connecticut State Police Officer Standards and Training Council all at once, and well before the December 2026 deadline.

The Connecticut State Police Officer Standards and Training Council accreditation process is an extensive one that requires self-assessment of every aspect of policing to ensure accountability and promote transparency. It addresses the most current and effective practices in communication, management, evidence and property, training, use of force, officer authority, operations, recruiting, hiring and many other aspects of modern-day policing. In 2022, CT Public Act 22-119 (an act concerning accreditation standards for law enforcement units) was passed requiring all CT Law Enforcement Units to be State or CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accredited.

“The City of New Britain has been updating our law enforcement policies since 2015 under Chief James Wardwell, a process that was started in order to identify areas for improvement, increase overall police effectiveness, and demonstrate to the community that the New Britain Police Department is a modern law enforcement agency,” said Mayor Erin E. Stewart. “This process was overseen by Chief Christopher Chute until his retirement earlier this year, and I am proud of our Police Department for their ongoing dedication to meeting the highest standards of their profession and being a 21st-century law enforcement agency that is highly equipped to best serve all of our residents.”

The Connecticut State Police Officer Standards and Training Council accreditation process is divided into three tiers. Tier I, Liability Standards, is designed to assist police agencies better protect themselves, their employees, and their governing entities from liability exposure as well as enhance delivery of service and improve public confidence in the agency. Tier II, Professional Standards, addresses legal requirements, management, and operations. Tier III, General Management, further expands upon the Tier II standards.

In total there are 322 standards among the three tiers and each tier comes with the deadlines listed below that law enforcement agencies must adhere to in order to be in accordance with the CT law.

- Tier I- December 31, 2023
- Tier II- December 31, 2025
- Tier III- December 31,2026

The New Britain Police Department successfully prepared for a two week assessment that was conducted by State Assessors in February of 2023. Following that assessment, it was determined that New Britain Police Department had developed and implemented all the policies required to meet the Connecticut State Police Officer Standards and Training Council’s Tier I, II, and III accreditation standards. Therefore, the Council granted New Britain Police Department State full accreditation on March 9th, 2023. The New Britain Police Department is now three and a half years ahead of the state required deadline for accreditation.

“The achievement of Tier III accreditation for our agency is terrific example of the professionalism, dedication to training and accountability for the New Britain Police Department,” said Interim Police Chief Ben Murphy. “This process has been in motion for many years and Sergeant Radek Sztachelski should be acknowledged for elevating our efforts and commitment to this accomplishment. His tireless work and attention to detail not only expedited this process but his services have been sought after by other agencies and the state accreditation team to help streamline other police departments.”

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Media Contact:

Rachel Zaniwski

Public Affairs Specialist, Office of Mayor Erin E. Stewart

(860) 826-3302

rachel.zaniwski@newbritainct.gov