

Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



Onsite Final Report

Meridian Township Police Department

Re-Accreditation

December 2, 2025

Team Leader: Dave Robinson

Team Member: Daniel Kudra

A. Agency Name, CEO and AM:

Meridian Township Police Department
5151 Marsh Rd
Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 853-4800

Richard Grillo, Chief
grillo@meridian.mi.us

Ed Besonen, Lieutenant, Accreditation Manager
besonen@meridian.mi.us

B. Date(s) of the On-Site Assessment:

Tuesday December 2, 2025

C. Assessment Team:

1. Team Leader: Dave Robinson, Chief of Public Safety
Rockford Department of Public Safety
7 South Monroe St
Rockford, MI 49341
grobenson@rockford.mi.us
(616) 894-1525

2. Team Member: Daniel Kudra, Deputy Chief of Police
Plymouth Township Police
Department
9955 N. Haggerty Rd.
Plymouth Twp., MI 48170
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(734) 354-3241

D. Community and Agency Profile:

1. Community Profile

Meridian Township was first settled by pioneers in 1836. In November 1836, Obed Marshall purchased 180 acres of land near present-day Haslett. The earliest settlers located at Pine Lake (now Lake Lansing) and made use of the numerous stands of pines to build their cabins. The lake was later the site of a Spiritualist Meeting Camp led by John Haslett. During the late 19th century, the lake became known as a local vacation area served by an "interurban trolley" which ran from the City of Lansing to the resort on the south side of the lake. An amusement park was introduced and enjoyed immense

popularity into the mid-20th century. Currently, the Village of Haslett is located on the south side of Lake Lansing.

The first settlers near the current Village of Okemos (to the south of the former Pine Lake) were Sanford Marsh and his wife who built their cabin in 1839. They were soon followed by Joseph Kilbourne, who took out land for his brother-in-law, Freeman Bray. It was Bray who platted out the southeast corner of his land and sold the lots to newcomers traveling into the mid-state wilderness. The village was first known as Hamilton.

A local Native American, Chief John Okemos, was well known throughout the area. The village area was one of his primary camping areas and he traveled frequently between the village and another campsite near present-day Portland, Michigan. In 1857, the Michigan Legislature changed the name of the village officially to Okemos to honor the old chief.

The Township is rich with history and one resident, Joseph Kilbourne, had a major role in the decision in 1847 to relocate the state capitol from Detroit to Lansing (then Lansing Township). A local organization, the Friends of Historic Meridian, has an archive of local historic information and maintains the historic buildings in the Meridian Historical Village.

In October of 1959, the Township gained the name “Charter” in its title due to the potential of facing serious sewage control problems and the inability of the present form of government. By becoming a Charter Township, the growing community would have a government with additional powers, including increased flexibility within the organizational structure, greater tax authority, and protection of the Township’s boundaries against annexation.

The Meridian Mall opened in 1969. The mall originally featured the J.W. Knapp Company and Woolco as its anchor stores and underwent many expansions in its history. Expansions in 1982 and 1987 added two more wings of stores anchored by Hudson’s (now Macy’s) and Mervyn’s. Further renovations at the beginning of the 21st century relocated the food court while also adding Galyan’s (now Dick’s Sporting Goods) and several other big-box stores. Meridian Mall features about 125 stores and a food court, plus a movie theater on its periphery. The mall’s anchor stores are J. C. Penney, Macy’s, and Dick’s Sporting Goods. Other major tenants include [Ashley Furniture](#), [H&M](#), Launch Trampoline, [High Caliber Karting and Entertainment](#), [Planet Fitness](#), and [Schuler Books & Music](#). Meridian Mall is owned and managed by [CBL Properties](#), which has owned it since 1998.

2. Agency Profile

Ingham County Sheriff’s Department deputies were assigned to patrol Meridian Township prior to 1950. In 1948, Deputies Milton Lamb, Ted Davis, and Theodore Dorriell were assigned to patrol Meridian Township. On April 13, 1950, the Township Board moved to obtain police protection from the Sheriff’s department. The Township asked the Sheriff

to make the selection of deputies, and the township reimbursed the Sheriff's department at the rate of \$250.00 per month.

The retail presence in Meridian Township began in 1969, with the opening of both the Meridian Mall and the new Meijer store in time for Christmas. The current Municipal Building was constructed in 1972, and the Township offices, including the police department, re-located from the corner of Haslett and Okemos Roads. The police department was located where HOMTV offices are now.

By the mid-1970's, the Meridian Division had become essentially independent, relying on the Sheriff for arrest powers, radios, equipment, and uniforms. The deputies assigned to Meridian Township were township employees, the patrol cars were owned by the township, and the deputies worked out of the Township Hall. Meridian Township even established its own records office independent from the Sheriff's department.

Subdivisions were expanding rapidly, and citizens of Meridian Township wanted accountability from their officers. If a citizen was unhappy with police service, they had to call the Sheriff's Department in Mason. The Township board unanimously passed a resolution in the fall of 1979 to create the Meridian Township Police Department. This resolution became effective on December 15, 1979. Twenty-four deputies were sworn in as the first Meridian officers. By 1988, the department grew to 28 sworn members.

The current public safety building was constructed and dedicated in 1992. The building was patterned after a Wisconsin city's department.

Perhaps the most significant change during the history of the MTPD was the advent of Public Safety. In February of 1996, the Township Board voted to consolidate the Police and Fire departments. The goal was to improve service and cut costs for the citizens of the township.

New hires dually trained in police and fire academies were sought. Current officers were sent to the fire academy. Public Safety did not work well for the Township, and the departments separated back into police and fire in 1997.

The department grew to its largest size and budget just prior to the recession of 2008, at 45 sworn and a budget of over 5 million dollars. Layoffs were avoided during the recession through attrition. Beginning January 1, 2011, Meridian Township entered into an agreement with Williamstown Township to provide police services. As a result of the contract, the Township Board authorized hiring one additional patrol officer. MTPD has maintained this contract with Williamstown Township and continues to provide police services there today.

MTPD is currently authorized for 42 sworn and consists of the Uniform, Services, and Professional Standards Divisions.

Township Demographics

Race and Hispanic Origin (Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020)

White alone	72.7%
African American alone	5.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.5%
Asian alone	15.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%
Two or More Races	5.4%
Hispanic or Latino	4.3%

Department Demographics

The Meridian Township Police Department is staffed with 52 employees (41 sworn and 12 non-sworn).

Gender

Male	Female
33	20

3. CEO Biography



Chief Rick Grillo obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Grand Valley State University in 2002. Rick began his career in 2003 with the Meridian Township Police Department as a road patrol officer. During his time as an officer, he worked several assignments including Field Training Officer, Chairman of the Police Advisory Committee, DARE and School Resources Officer, and three years as an Investigator. Rick was promoted to Sergeant in 2015 where he took over as the Field Training Program Coordinator and supervised a road patrol platoon on night shift. Rick was promoted to Lieutenant in 2018 and named the Services Division Commander. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in May 2021. As the Services Division Commander, Rick was tasked with oversight of the investigation's unit, court services, records unit, evidence and property room, and the cadet program. Rick was the first Accreditation Manager (AM) for MTPD and served as the AM until 2025. Rick graduated from the Michigan State University School of Staff and Command in 2017 and was a class facilitator in 2020.

Rick is a member of the International Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Chiefs of Police, and is currently the president of the Mid-Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. He has served as an accreditation assessor for MLEAC since 2021.

Rick grew up in Grand Haven and has been married to his wife Sarah for 22 years. They have two children, Emma (14) and Russell (12).

4. Accreditation Manager Biography



Lieutenant Ed Besonen obtained his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University in 2006. Ed joined the Meridian Township Police Department in 2006 after attending the Mid-Michigan Police Academy. Ed began his career as a road patrol officer then served 3 years as an investigator. During his time as an officer, Ed became an instructor in several topics including defensive tactics, Taser, Civil Disorder, Verbal Defense and Influence, Active Violence Response and several other topics. Ed was also placed on the regional tactical team where he has been since 2014. Ed was promoted to Sergeant in 2014 and supervised a night shift road patrol platoon. In 2021, Ed took over as the supervisor of the investigations unit until 2024 when he returned to the road to be the training coordinator for the department. In January of 2025, Ed was promoted to Lieutenant in the Professional Standards division where he oversees training, professional standards and accreditation. He is currently the Assistant Team Commander for the Ingham Regional Special Response team. Ed graduated from the Michigan State University School of Staff and Command in 2016.

Ed grew up in Pottsville and has been married to his wife Jesse for 15 years. They have two children, Bailey (13) and Micah (9). They currently reside in East Lansing.

5. Future Issues- Interview Rick Grillo, Chief of Police

Chief Grillo has been so happy with the support from the township board and Mayor. When he presented them with the need to look at adding wage increases to bring officers up the wages other departments were offering in the area, they acted on it and investigated what a competitive wage was to compete with the surrounding agencies to help retain personnel. Chief Grill said the board and Mayor are always willing to listen and are appreciative of all the services the agency provides its community.

Chief Grillo sees the benefit of additional mental health workers that could be used in the field as the need for their services continues to grow as well as additional assistance for the indigent population of the community in the form of a specialist or additional resources that could be offered to them for help.

Chief Grillo talks about his officer's mental wellness as being an important part of his department's wellbeing, they're offering a yearly one-hour meeting with a professional for employees to talk about anything they feel is important, which would be a great step in helping make sure officers' physical and mental wellness is taken care of and he's hoping to continue that moving forward.

E. Public Information Activities:

Public notice and input are cornerstones of democracy and the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) process. This section reports on the community's opportunity to comment on their law enforcement agency and to bring matters to the attention of the commission that otherwise may be overlooked.

1. Telephone Contacts

The public telephone call-in session ran from 10:30a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. The phone was tested prior to the call-in session and was functioning properly. Assessors received three calls.

Ken Plaga:

Mr. Plaga is the former Chief of Police for the Meridian Township Police Department and currently serves as the recruiting and selection section commander for the Michigan State Police. He stated that he is proud of the growth of the department and added that he is pleased that the agency has maintained its connection with the community.

Mr. Plaga stated that the police department's officers treat all residents with dignity and respect, and that they are an example to all law enforcement agencies. He further stated that he has had interactions with newer officers that came onboard after he left the agency, and that they were courteous and professional. He added that staff at the agency is always willing to help out, even with non-law enforcement matters.

Mr. Plaga stated that the Meridian Township Police Department is a "shining example of what a full-service law enforcement agency should be". He feels that the agency's continued commitment to the MLEAC accreditation program is commendable and stated that he is "glad to see that they are keeping their standards high".

Mr. Plaga fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

Father Ryan Riley:

Father Riley is a priest at the St. Martha Catholic Church in Meridian Township. He is also a 3-year resident of Meridian Township. Father Riley states that "the entire Meridian Township Police Department is awesome".

Father Riley stated that the Police department has been phenomenal in working with the parish school, reference security protocols in the wake of recent school and church shootings. He added that the Police Department DARE officer regularly visits the school and that the kids all know him. He further stated that the police department conducts regular building checks at the church and school.

Father Riley stated that, on multiple occasions, the police department has been very responsive when the parish has had to call for people suffering from mental health issues. He advised that the agency's response time is typically around one minute. He further stated that during these calls the officers have been "professional, courteous, and have always been able to deescalate the situation". He added that the police department "makes getting persons who are experiencing a mental health emergency the help that they need a priority".

Father Riley fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

Scott Hendrickson:

Scott Hendrickson is the Meridian Township Supervisor. He has been the Township Supervisor for 1.5 years and served on the Township Board for two years prior to being elected supervisor. He stated that he has oversight of the budgetary process for the police department.

Mr. Hendrickson stated that he receives regular updates from the police department reference any high-profile incidents happening in the community. Has stated that he has worked with the police department to bring up staffing levels to where the agency is now fully staffed. He advised that he regularly works with the police department regarding traffic complaints that are received by the Township Board.

Mr. Hendrickson stated that The PD is incredibly easy to work with. He further stated that community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive regarding the police department. He stated that the police department has a robust community outreach program. This includes quarterly HOA outreach meetings, a strong presence at community events, an annual shop with a cop program, and National Night Out participation. Mr. Hendrickson added that “we are blessed to have such a wonderful police department”

Mr. Hendrickson fully supports the agency’s effort towards reaccreditation.

2. Correspondence

The assessors received six email correspondence regarding the accreditation process.

Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust of Greater Lansing



December 1, 2025

Director Matt Silverthorne
MACP Accreditation Program Director

Dear Director Silverthorne:

I am writing to provide input into the re-accreditation process for the Meridian Township Police Department. I am a resident of Williamston Township to which Meridian Township provides police services. But my formal relationship with the Police Department is in my role as the Community Chairperson of Greater Lansing Area ALPACT --- Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust.

The mission of ALPACT is to examine issues affecting police and community relations and to engage in efforts to ensure equitable enforcement of laws; to develop recommendations and best practices designed to enhance the bonds of trust and to present and recommend implementation strategies to law enforcement and community groups. Founded by the MI Department of Civil Rights, ALPACT is made up of relatively equal numbers of law enforcement and community members, who meet monthly to build the relationships which are essential to realizing this mission. The MTPD has been a member of ALPACT for more than a decade, and I have served as the Community Co Chair for the past 4 and a half years, during which I worked with former Chief Ken Plaga and current Chief Rick Grillo. Both have been active participants and leaders in this organization.

On several occasions when arrests of subjects in Meridian Township raised concern to ALPACT members, Chief Plaga and Chief Grillo were forthcoming about the circumstances of the arrest and addressed the concerns raised by the group. The first was an arrest of a suspect who had been identified at a local Meijer and was followed by two detectives who were out of uniform. Chief Plaga shared the video footage with ALPACT and agreed that in the future, they would ensure that only uniformed officers would chase down a subject. The second was a shooting outside Meridian Mall in which MTPD officers arrested a Lansing teenager who had an illegal gun. In this case, Chief Grillo did an impressive job, sharing information about the incident as well as reassuring the community of the responses of the Police Department and the safety of the community. I have also witnessed Chief Grillo actively engaging in community events: from his participation at an evening panel at MSU, focusing on community mental health issues, to his presence at the Meridian Township Farmers Market to share resources, to regular community outreach events. I have also done a ride along with MTPD officers and observed their daily briefing.

One of the most difficult issues this past year has been concerns by ALPACT members about the potential presence of ICE in the community. Greater Lansing is ethnically and racially diverse and refugees and immigrants reside across the many jurisdictions in the area. Rick Grillo and the other chiefs have been reassuring the many members of ALPACT who represent these groups and who fear for refugee and immigrant safety. They have expressed a clear and consistent message that local law enforcement is not engaged in the enforcement of immigration law. ALPACT members have been able to rely on this message to reassure community members. When volunteers and advocates for immigrants recently expressed disbelief in this commitment on the part of local law enforcement, Rick Grillo volunteered to meet with them to clarify the policy and assuage their fears. There is no doubt in my mind that MTPD embraces an ethos that advances public safety, public service and community trust.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at this email address or my mobile phone: 517-256-0694.

Sincerely yours,

Katie O'Sullivan See

Professor Emerita, James Madison College, MSU
Community Co-Chair, Greater Lansing Area ALPACT

Dear Mr. Silverthorne,

I'm writing to provide feedback regarding the Meridian Township Police Department's re-accreditation assessment scheduled for December 2nd.

As Superintendent of Haslett Public Schools, I have had the privilege of working collaboratively with the Meridian Township Police Department on matters affecting school safety and student welfare. Our partnership has been characterized by professionalism, responsiveness, and a genuine commitment to supporting our students and staff.

One of the cornerstones of our relationship is our liaison officer program, which is collaborative and highly successful. This program has provided significant positive and proactive support, strengthening relationships with our students while increasing safety on our campuses. Beyond the liaison officer's presence, MTPD has been an exceptional partner in developing and refining our safety protocols and procedures. They have supported critical training initiatives including Stop the Bleed instruction, helped us establish and test response protocols, and collaborated on the development of our emergency operation plans and relocation procedures. Their officers are consistently accessible and responsive to our needs.

This partnership has been invaluable to our district. MTPD demonstrates a level of professional excellence and genuine care for our school community that is exemplary, and they hold significant regard throughout our community. We are fortunate to have them as partners in keeping our students and staff safe.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,
Patrick

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY: This is a transmission from Haslett Public Schools and the information contained is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the addressee, please note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is prohibited.

Mr. Silverthorn,

I am writing on behalf of the Meridian Township Police Department to provide input regarding our longstanding professional relationship. I have served as an Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney for 25 years, including the past three years as the elected Prosecutor. Throughout my career, I have handled numerous criminal cases investigated by the Meridian Township Police Department, and the officers and detectives have consistently demonstrated thoroughness, professionalism, and integrity in their work.

My relationship with the agency and its command staff has always been exceptional. It has truly been a pleasure to work alongside them over the course of my career. MTPD provides outstanding service to the communities it serves, and I cannot recall receiving a single complaint from the public or from victims regarding their performance.

Meridian Township Police Department remains one of the top law enforcement agencies I work with in Ingham County. I appreciate their hard work, responsiveness, and unwavering dedication to ensuring public safety.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

John J. Dewane
Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney
303 W. Kalamazoo Street, 4R
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-6272
jdewane@ingham.org



MACP Accreditation Director Silverthorne:

It is my pleasure to address you with information regarding the Meridian Twp. Police Department. (MTPD)

The MTPD and the Mid- Michigan Police Academy (MMPA) relationship go back decades with the MMPA training numerous MTPD 's future officers.

The MTPD provides guidance to the MMPA by sitting on the MMPA's advisory board, coordinator cadre and instructor cadre.

This dedication to the MMPA by the MTPD is a vital part of the academy curriculum and overall smooth running of the academy.

Chief Grillo values the product the MMPA provides not only to the MTPD but also the neighboring police agencies.

Chief Grillo's dedication to the academy and its Recruits is shown by his leadership in providing critical training in Verbal Defense and Influence and allowing his personnel to be a part of any academy function I need.

Chief Grillo and the MTPD are always there for the academy at a moment's notice and without hesitation.

The leadership from the MTPD shows in the way the MTPD officers conduct themselves at the academy and outside of the academy setting. The MTPD personnel always display professionalism and courtesy.

Being a former 10 plus year resident of Meridian Twp. I can personally attest to the service MTPD provides to the community. I have seen the MTPD interact with numerous community members in need including my family. I was impressed by the patience and courtesy that was given where frankly I wouldn't have been so inclined.

MTPD is an excellent agency that is always willing to go above and beyond what is necessary.

This agency is dedicated to its citizens, neighboring agencies, this academy, and law enforcement statewide.

I am proud to work with the members of the MTPD from the newest Recruits in training to the professional command staff.

Respectfully,

Andy Lindeman

Training Director, Mid-Michigan Police Academy

Lansing Community College West Campus

517 483 5253 Office

517 483 9766 Fax

lindea@star.lcc.edu

Mailing Address-

5708 Cornerstone Dr.

Lansing, MI. 48917





November 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission,
I am writing to express, in the strongest terms, the positive, collaborative, and proactive relationship that exists between Okemos Public Schools (OPS) and the Meridian Township Police Department (MTPD). Our partnership is an essential component of the safe, supportive, and well-coordinated school environments we strive to provide for our students, staff, and community.

The Meridian Township Police Department provides daily, dependable support for a wide range of school safety needs. Their officers regularly respond to crime-related concerns, construction impact and roadway safety issues, and maintain an active presence in and around our campuses. In addition to this ongoing support, MTPD officers conduct weekly walkthroughs at our schools, offering additional oversight, visibility, and reassurance to students, families, and staff.

Our collaboration includes extensive safety training and preparedness efforts. MTPD has been instrumental in supporting our lockdown drills, "Stop the Bleed" training, and other emergency response practices, like development of our Emergency Operations Plans. The department coordinates crossing guards, supports D.A.R.E. programming, provides a dedicated school liaison officer, and works side-by-side with our district safety and security team. Together, we co-author a bimonthly community safety letter to ensure transparent, consistent, and unified communication, on shared safety matters.

When crises occur, MTPD has demonstrated exceptional responsiveness and professionalism. They have supported us through threat assessments, emergency situations, after-hours concerns, wellness checks and the full cycle of response and debriefing following multiple serious swatting incidents. Their partnership has been invaluable in coordinating social media messaging with the district during emerging events and providing clear, aligned information to our families and staff.

The department also plays a key role in prevention and education. They offer gun-lock and safe-storage resources to families, participate in our annual community Protect the Pack event, partner with us on community safety and security forums and support public education efforts on emerging issues that affect our schools. MTPD officers and

leadership are accessible to school leadership, including our Director of Safety and Security, reflecting a highly functional and responsive working relationship.

MTPD's input has significantly strengthened our Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), procedures, and staff training. They routinely offer constructive feedback, reflect on collaborative practices, and engage with us as true partners committed to continuous improvement.

In every respect, the relationship between Meridian Township Police and Okemos Public Schools is a model for how public safety agencies and public school systems can work together. Their professionalism, responsiveness, and deep commitment to our community's wellbeing support not only a safer school environment but also a stronger sense of trust and shared responsibility.

We are grateful for the Meridian Township Police Department's ongoing service, leadership, and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Hood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

John J. Hood - Superintendent Okemos Public Schools



LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT

120 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING MI 48933

ROBERT BACKUS, CHIEF
517.483.4600 | lansingpolice.com



November 25, 2025

Matthew Silverthorn
Accreditation Program Director
Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police

Director Silverthorn,

I am writing to share my experiences with the Meridian Township Police Department (MTPD) as both the Chief of Police and as part of an organization who regularly interacts with a neighboring jurisdiction. The MTPD is held in high regard in our area as a result of their leadership staff, their commitment to the community and the service and professionalism shown by their department personnel. Much of this is due to, or continues on, because of the leadership from their Chief. Chief Grillo is very active in our area and represents his department at countless community events. This includes Meridian Township and collaborative events in our general area. He is a constant presence at the police/community organization ALPACT where he shares his experiences and offers insight into our policing profession. On at least one occasion, he shared information publicly regarding a criminal investigation of an officer. His actions demonstrated his commitment to transparency and showcased the high standards he has for his department. In challenging situations, he serves as an example of how to uphold community trust.

The Lansing Police shares a positive relationship with the Meridian Township Police Department. Our departments interact regularly through the response and investigations of calls for service and crimes. We also train together in multiple areas to ensure law enforcement and public safety members respond appropriately and in a coordinated manner in what would be the some of the worst situations imaginable. Our department has further relied on the training and expertise of their personnel from their shared responsibility on our multijurisdictional teams to include a regional accident reconstruction effort and through their participation with the regional Special Response Team.

Meridian Township Police Department is a model for community policing and public trust. Examples of this include their School Resource Officer within their public schools and their participation and attendance at local sporting events. It is also common to see area wide communication to the community. Examples of this include letters and announcements through the public schools regarding safety related issues and topics and regular communication through social media or township government publications (for each of their policing areas). The MTPD's commitment to accreditation (and reaccreditation) is just another demonstration of their dedication to their community and a showcase of their professionalism.

The Lansing Police Department is honored to call the Meridian Township Police Department a partner in our efforts to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Robert Backus

"CAPITAL CITY'S FINEST"
Excellence - Character - Teamwork - Respect - Courage

3. Media Interest

There were no inquiries from the media to assessors regarding the on-site.

4. Community Outreach Interviews

Township Manager Tim Dempsey

Assessor Robinson met with the Township Manager who has been with Meridian for just over a year. He has been very impressed with the police departments leadership and how they interact with the public especially with the Quarterly neighborhood watch meetings where they command staff meets with township residents to talk about whatever issues they may be having in their respective community's and the command staff not only listen but engages with the citizens to help with the issues that are brought up. He knows the public has confidence in the police department by the show of support for two separate public safety mileages that have passed. He also has worked with the department in allowing a lateral program and bring officers wages up to the other departments in the area to help with retention and hiring that was recommended by Chief Grillo. He has scheduled meetings with the command staff to talk about things going on in the township, so everyone is on the same page. Overall, the township manager is very pleased with the direction of the police department.

Dempsey fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

Union President Kyle Royston

Royston is the quartermaster for the department and has been with the agency for 20 years. He's limited in his knowledge of the accreditation program but appreciates the positive interactions with Chief Grillo. Royston says that the chief has always had an open-door policy if the union had questions or concerns, he was always willing to listen. Royston says that even if the chief decides on something outside of what the union may want, they appreciate the chief embracing the open line of communication and discussions they have.

Royston fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

IT Director Stephen Gebes

Gebes has been with the township for 30 years and he has had a great working relationship with the police department. They are always in contact if anything comes up and they will call the IT department so it can be fixed. He has total confidence that all records and computers are being taken care of and protected from any unauthorized access.

Gebes fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

Human Resource Director Abby Tithoff

Tithoff is a 5-year resident of the township and has been in the HR field for over 30 years. She works very closely with the police department from meetings to discuss policy questions to promotional processes. She also conducts after interviews to talk with candidates on what they can improve on for the next time a promotion may come up. Tithoff says the department has an open-door policy and is never afraid to call and ask questions to get answers before doing something.

Tithoff fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

Fire Chief Mike Hamel

Chief Hamel has seen with the township for 7 1/2 years coming from the Lansing Fire Department. Hamel feels the two departments work well together the officers will show up to medical calls when the firefighters are on a call if assistance is needed. Some of them even showed up for Thanksgiving for dinner at the fire house. Hamel feels the department does a great job for the community they serve.

Hamel fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

Township Board member Marna Wilson

Marna is a 40-year resident of the township and has been on the township board several different terms. She is very happy with the police department and the services they provide the community. She is impressed with Chief Grillo and his staff for all they do. She was very supportive of the pay increase to bring officers up to what other agencies in the area were paying to hire lateral officers as well as to help keep their current staff. She appreciates the deer call that the department does to help with the large deer population and with that it benefits a local food bank to help feed people.

Wilson fully supports the agency's effort towards reaccreditation.

5. Agency Ride Along

Assessor Kudra rode along with Officer Nate Wicks. Officer Wicks has been with the Meridian Township Police Department for two years and currently serves as a patrol officer. Additionally, Officer Wicks serves as a background investigator with the agency. Officer Wicks stated that the patrol officers within the agency have a good relationship with the command staff. He further advised that command staff are supportive of the rank and file, and that Chief Grillo has a reputation for being fair and consistent.

Officer Wicks stated that the police department enjoys a very positive relationship with the community. He stated that the department has numerous community outreach initiatives. He spoke at length about the department's Neighborhood Leader Program. He advised that each officer is assigned a few homeowners associations and is encouraged to attend HOA meetings and act as a liaison between the residents and the police department.

During the ride-a-long, Officer Wicks was dispatched to a property damage accident. He responded to the crash appropriately and assessed the parties involved for injuries upon his arrival. He interviewed both drivers and the lone witness to the accident. He issued a traffic citation to the at fault driver and explained additional steps to both parties. His interactions with all parties on scene were polite and professional. Officer Wicks wore his high-visibility safety vest throughout this call for service.

6. Community Involvement

Community Policing is the cornerstone of all our actions and interactions. Officers are in regular contact with their neighborhood leaders and residents to improve communication and build trust with the community. From the first day of employment until the day they retire, officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods to participate in community activities, communicate directly with citizens, and form relationships. Some of the community events include:



Lansing Littles Event



Wilkshire School Tour



Okemos Protect the Pack Event



Cops and Bobbers



Shop with a Cop



Touch a Truck



Halloween Open House





Chief for a Day



Blue Mass and Faith & Blue Weekend



Polar Plunge

Community policing is an important element of fulfilling our mission statement and effectively serving the community. Meridian Township has over 120 neighborhoods and each neighborhood has an officer assigned to be a neighborhood liaison. The officers contact the neighborhood watch leader a minimum of once per month to check in and provide the leader with information on crimes that have occurred as well as upcoming events.

Neighborhood leader meetings are held quarterly at the Township Hall and are well attended, both by residents and officers. At neighborhood leader's meetings, leaders can engage with the police command staff as well as other neighborhood leaders to discuss things that are happening in their communities.

National Night Out is an annual event to promote community partnerships with law enforcement. In 2025, officers attended 26 events with some locations receiving a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, the police motorcycle, canine teams, fire trucks and ambulances.



National Faith & Blue Weekend is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Law Enforcement entities and faith-based groups are key pillars of a local community, and when they work together, communities thrive. The Department was able to engage in several activities over the course of the weekend.

Our annual Halloween Open House is one of our favorite events and a fantastic way for us to connect with the members of our community, both young and old. We open our doors to the public and let everyone come in for a self-guided tour. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes and officers show off our equipment, give CSI

demonstrations, Chief Grillo gives a tour of the booking area, and we give out lots of candy, apple cider, and donuts. Approximately 800 people come through the department in 2025 during the three-hour event.

MTPD partners with Walmart, Buddies Pizza, Dunkin Donuts, and the Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club to host our own Shop with a Cop event every December. We work with the guidance counselors at our local schools to identify ten kids who need a little extra help during the holidays. The kids are paired up with an officer for the day, and each receive a \$150 gift card to purchase Christmas gifts at Walmart. Back at the station, volunteers wrap their gifts while the kids eat pizza, watch Christmas movies, and make ornaments for their parents with the officers.

At Cops and Bobbers, we work with our Parks Department to bring kids to a local pond for a day of fishing with our officers. Young anglers learn how to bait a hook, cast a line, and reel in a fish while spending time with an officer.

Touch a Truck is a regional event in which officers from all over Ingham County come together to show off their vehicles and connect with the community. Meridian Township hosted the event last year at the Meridian Mall. Approximately fifteen police and fire agencies participated and hundreds of adults and kids attended.

MTPD has a proud partnership with the local chapter of Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT). Chief Grillo attends monthly meetings with the group as they examine issues affecting police and community relations.

Essential Services

Chapter 1 – The Administrative Function

Direction of Personnel (1.1)

The Chief of Police has the authority to issue, modify, and approve the agency's written directives. The agency has a written directive system. The overall written directive system was clear and understandable. The directives were constructed in a logical manner with employee duties and responsibilities clearly defined, including constraints on employee actions and expectations.

Fiscal Control (1.2)

The agency has no cash accounts, the only forms of payment for fees accepted are personal checks, cashier's checks, and money orders no change is given. All payments are recorded and turned over to the Treasurer's Office.

Internal Affairs (1.3)

Investigations into allegations of employee misconduct is the responsibility of the office of the Chief. For serious complaints or allegations, it will be assigned to the Staff Services Division Commander. The Chief retains the discretion to request an outside investigation if needed. For less serious investigations they will be assigned to the supervisor in charge of the employee. Any supervisor investigating an internal affairs complaint will have the

authority to report directly to the CEO. The Chief reviews the investigation and makes the final recommendation as to the imposition of any disciplinary measures. All internal investigation files are properly secured with limited access. The agency accepts and investigates all complaints, including anonymous complaints.

During 2022, the agency investigated (6) formal citizen complaints and (4) internal investigations. Of those investigations, (3) were sustained, (1) resigned in lieu of termination, (1) resigned before conclusion of investigation, (2) unfounded, (3) exonerated. During 2023, the agency investigated (1) formal citizen complaint and (4) internal investigations. Of those investigations, (3) sustained, (2) exonerated. During 2024, the agency investigated (1) formal citizen complaint and (3) internal investigations. Of those investigations, (3) sustained, (1) not sustained.

Disciplinary Procedures (1.4)

The agency's written directive system details the rules, regulations, and expectations for employee conduct. Supervisors have discretion to place employees on administrative leave when it is in the best interest of the individual or department. The agency is well disciplined and has procedures to apply training and counseling in lieu of punitive employee discipline. The agency has an appropriate appeal and grievance process in place with established timelines outlined by policy and the collective bargaining agreement. During the assessment period, there were no documented incidents of grievances being filed.

Organization (1.5)

All sworn personnel take, sign, and subsequently abide by an oath of office to enforce the law and uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Michigan. Bias-influenced policing is strictly prohibited by the agency. There is a clear definition for bias-influenced policing, including but not limited to race and ethnic status or characteristics.

The agency also prohibits unlawful workplace discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment. The written directive outlines a proper reporting mechanism in the chain of command, including an alternate reporting process for any conflict of interest. The directive requires employees to report any type of harassment and requires investigations to be conducted. There were no substantiated reports of biased based policing and no reports of workplace harassment during the accreditation cycle.

The police personnel have structured unity of command at the Meridian Township Police Department, which includes the Chief who is supported by (1) Assistant Chief along with (2) Lieutenants (1) Detective Sergeant (6) Sergeants (4) Detectives and (41) patrol officers (2) School Resource Officers complete the sworn staff. The agency also employees (2) Full-time and (1) part-time Records/Civilian staff members and (7) part-time police cadets.

The agency also has access to supervisory personnel on a 24-hour basis. In the absence of the Chief, the Division Commander is appointed to act in the Chief's absence.

Agency Equipment and Property (1.6)

Agency personnel are responsible for all equipment issued to them or physically under their control. It is the responsibility of the employee to maintain all law enforcement-related equipment in an operational state and report any malfunctions, damage, or loss of equipment immediately to their supervisor. The wearing of body armor is mandatory for all sworn personnel, and there are additional requirements to wear body armor while engaged in pre-planned and high-risk operations. All sworn personnel are responsible for the maintenance of agency-issued equipment.

Public Information (1.7)

Assistant Chief is the primary PIO, if unavailable, the first available supervisor is the secondary. The PIO is the point of contact and directs the preparation of all media releases. In the PIO's absence, the highest-ranking command officer will act as the Public Information Officer. Meridian Township Police Department cooperates fully and impartially with authorized media personnel by assisting their efforts to gather factual public information pertaining to activities of the agency, if providing such information does not unduly interfere with agency operations.

Agency Records and Computers (1.8)

The agency has a detailed written directive system describing field reporting, follow-up investigations, and the approval of reports by supervision. The department controls access to agency records electronically with records management passwords. All reports are stored in their Records Management System (RMS) with only secure access. There are extra security measures for juvenile records and non-public records. Freedom of information requests are handled by the records staff, and the agency abides by the state retention and disposal requirements in accordance with Michigan Statute and Records Management.

The agency has procedures to protect its central records. The data is stored and backed up electronically and is password protected. Annual security audits and password audits were performed during the assessment period. There were no breaches in security during the assessment period.

Agency Training (1.9)

The agency's training records are current and are being maintained in accordance with applicable retention schedules. Training course content is outlined, and lesson plans are utilized. In-house instructors are properly trained and experienced. Newly sworn personnel are required to complete an extensive fourteen-week training program. Officers in field training rotate shifts and assigned field training officers to expose newly hired officers to all shifts. Field training officers are properly selected and trained through a documented process. The field training program is properly supervised by the Uniform Division Commander. Newly promoted personnel receive supervisory and leadership training consistent with new responsibilities and tasks. The agency has a remedial training policy. During the assessment period remedial training was required. No other training needs were identified during the assessment period.

Specific annual training topics required were properly identified in the written directive. The agency conducts mandatory training annually with each officer being required to accomplish the required training, review of material, and assessments. Annual training included firearms, Use of Force, TASER, CIT/Interacting with Mentally Ill Persons, Critical Incident Stress Recognition, Bias-Based Policing, blood borne pathogens and hazmat awareness, Active Violence Incident, firearms training simulator, LEIN and legal update. For sworn personnel assigned to specialized duties, additional training will be provided to employees on an as needed basis. The agency does have an SRT team. Each member will participate in training and readiness exercises as scheduled by the team commander.

Authorization and Use of Agency Weapons and Ammunition (1.10)

The Chief is the authorizing authority for weapons and ammunition, including specialized weapons. The agency uses certified/qualified staff for armorer inspections, repair, and replacement. Records of weapons are properly maintained with written guidelines for storage. The agency maintains a comprehensive list of all weapons and ammunition that are authorized. The agency provides all approved ammunition.

Chapter 2 – The Personnel Function

Personnel Benefits and Responsibilities (2.1)

The agency has a written directive outlining an employee assistance program, line-of-duty injury and death circumstance policy, and an employee collision and review process. The agency uses a third-party provider for the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). During the assessment period, there were no serious line of duty injury or death incidents. The agency has a comprehensive exposure control and reporting policy. Off-duty employment is allowed with approval from the Chief.

Performance Evaluations (2.2)

The performance evaluation system has a well-defined purpose statement with established and defined criteria, scored on a meets expectation or needs improvement. The system also includes directives to raters regarding evaluation responsibilities and procedures on how to use the required forms. The evaluation system has a clear appeal process. Training for evaluators is documented, and the evaluations are maintained according to the department's retention schedule. Evaluations are conducted yearly.

The agency has established an early warning system to monitor any employees who may need help.

Promotion of Sworn Personnel (2.3)

The written directive describes the promotional process and complies with the standard and is followed by the agency. The process includes a scoring system that consists of oral and written components along with additional in-basket exercises at the discretion of the Chief. During the promotional process, the Chief reviews scores received during the process along with the Human Resource Department, and other requisite qualifications for promotions when deciding on advancement of personnel. The eligibility list remains in effect for two years.

Recruitment of Sworn Personnel (2.4)

The recruitment plan contains a clear statement that the agency is committed to equal opportunity. The stated goals and objectives for recruitment are clear and understandable. The agency is dedicated to creating a workforce that is representative of the diversity of the community. Recruitment activities include selection of a recruitment team from police officers within the department to assist, outreach to the local police academies, MSU career fair, social media, and the MCOLES website.

Selection of Personnel (2.5)

The agency has a complete written process for the selection of new full-time personnel which is set forth in policy, and includes a thorough background investigation, as well as a medical and psychological exam. Background investigations are conducted by the detective bureau. The selection process includes a panel interview and establishes an eligibility list prior to a background investigation occurring. The Chief makes the final decision on the selection of new personnel.

Reserve Officers and Civilian Volunteers (2.6)

The agency does not have a reserve program; however, they have an active cadet Program. A thorough background is completed as part of the hiring process. The agency provides ample training, established duties, uniforms, and other in-service training.

Chapter 3 – The Operations Function

Arrest, Search, and Seizure (3.1)

The Meridian Township Police Department is a full-service agency with arrest powers. The agency and its policies follow the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan in relation to arrest, and search and seizure practices. The agency recognizes the foundation set forth in the Fourth Amendment.

Agency policy outlines the warrantless search exceptions and the need for a court-authorized search warrant, when applicable. The agency takes arrests to the Ingham County jail for processing and housing.

Meridian Township Police Department has an area in their police building, located off their Sally Port, used for providing Intoxilyzer 9000 (breathalyzer) tests for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests. This area is monitored by a centralized camera system. There are emergency buttons nearby, including the officer's prep radio. Department policy dictates that an additional officer is always present during OWI processing.

For arrests, officers utilize weapons storage lockers to store their weapons before entering any weapons restricted areas within the department.

The agency has a comprehensive strip search and body cavity search policy in place indicating that a search warrant is necessary to conduct such searches, when and where

these types of searches are to be conducted, by whom, and by whose authority. There were no occurrences of either type of search within this accreditation cycle.

Interview and Interrogation (3.2)

The Meridian Township Police Department has established procedures for standards compliance with contemporary criminal procedural requirements related to interviews, investigative detention interviews, and interrogations.

The agency has two interview rooms located on the premises including one on the first floor and one in the Investigations Unit. The interrogation room (in the Investigation Unit) is monitored by another detective who has the capability of activating an emergency alarm via prep radio.

Both interview rooms have audio and video recording capability. The agency's written directive indicates that investigative officers are required to use the agency's audio and video recording capabilities for purposes of recording statements and confessions consistent with state law. The policy also indicates that no more than two officers will be inside an interview room during an interview/interrogation.

Use of Force (3.3)

In 2022, The Meridian Township Police Department reported that they responded to 19,819 dispatched calls for service. There were (60) reported incidents in which use of force was required. When compared to 2021, the amount of use of force incidents increased by (11), but the calls for service also increased by six percent.

The agency conducted a meaningful review of each incident. Of the (60) reported incidents, (8) of the incidents resulted in injuries to officers and (14) of the incidents resulted in injuries to the suspect. Of the (60) incidents, (1) of them were found to be outside Meridian Township Policy and Procedure guidelines and did result in discipline.

In 2023, The Meridian Township Police Department reported they responded to 19,026 dispatched calls for service. There were (93) reported incidents in which use of force was required. When compared to 2022, the amount of use of force incidents increased, while the calls for service decreased by 793.

The agency conducted a meaningful review of each incident. Of the (93) reported incidents, (7) of the incidents resulted in injuries to officers and (14) of the incidents resulted in injuries to the suspect. Of the (93) incidents, none of them resulted in discipline and all were found to be within the Meridian Township Policy and Procedure guidelines. In their analysis, the Meridian Township Police Department contributed an increase in alcohol and drug use amongst the subjects taken into custody as a contributing factor to the year-over-year increase in use of force incidents.

In 2024, The Meridian Township Police Department reported they responded to 19,533 dispatched calls for service. There were (132) reported incidents in which use of force was required. When compared to 2023, the amount of use of force incidents increased, while the calls for service increased by 507.

The agency conducted a meaningful review of each incident. Of the (132) reported incidents, (8) of the incidents resulted in injuries to officers and (35) resulted in injuries to the suspect. Of the (132) incidents, none of them resulted in discipline and all were within the Meridian Township Policy and Procedure guidelines. In their analysis, the Meridian Township Police Department identified an abnormally high number of priority backup requests from neighboring agencies for individuals with firearms, armed with other weapons, and felony traffic stops for stolen vehicles and/or weapons offenses as a contributing factor to the year-over-year increase in use of force incidents.

Communications (3.4)

The Meridian Township PD contracts with the Ingham County 9-1-1 Dispatch Center for its communication needs. The County Dispatch Center is a full-service dispatch authority, and the operators are trained in medical emergency dispatching. All recordings are kept in storage for one calendar year or unless requested by the department for longer retention. Reviews of any recordings are limited to personnel with a legitimate and official need.

The Dispatch Center has a backup generator onsite. The generator will automatically engage if the main power supply is lost, thus supplying power so that the Dispatch Center can maintain operations. The generator goes through a weekly function test. The Dispatch Center is also equipped with a backup battery power supply system to bridge the gap between the power outage and when the generator begins to provide power. A full load test of the generator is conducted monthly.

Field Activities (3.5)

During the accreditation cycle, there were several motor vehicle and foot pursuits conducted by the Meridian Township Police Department. The pursuits originated mostly from minor traffic violations. The Meridian Township PD policy allows for pursuits by officers who must follow the guidelines appropriately outlined the policy. The department has a review process for each occurrence, and an annual analysis is conducted.

For 2022, there were (5) vehicle pursuits. One of these pursuits was found to have policy violations. Counseling and additional training was conducted for the officer found to be in violation of agency standards. There were also (5) foot pursuits for 2022, with all subjects being apprehended. One suspect was reported as being injured (shortness of breath), while one officer was injured (minor cuts to his hand). All foot pursuits were within policy. For 2023, there were (7) vehicle pursuits. None of the pursuits were found to have policy violations. There was also (1) foot pursuit for 2023, with all subjects being apprehended.

There were no reported injuries to either suspects or officers. All foot pursuits were within policy.

For 2024, there were (8) vehicle pursuits. Three of these pursuits were found to have policy violations. Counseling and additional training was conducted for the officers found to be in violation of agency standards. There were also (8) foot pursuits for 2024, with all subjects being apprehended. There were no reported injuries to either suspects or officers. All foot pursuits were within policy.

All agency personnel receive entry level training on dealing with emotionally impaired people. Refresher training is provided at a minimum of every three years. All personnel required to complete refresher training have completed the training. Officers also keep medical equipment in their vehicles and are trained as medical first responders.

The Meridian Township Police Department has in-car computers available in each patrol vehicle, accessible to each patrol officer. The agency has video recording equipment in their police vehicles and body worn cameras. The in-car videos are remotely downloaded when the patrol car pulls into the department's parking lot. Body cameras are downloaded when placed into a charging station at the Police Department. All videos follow the agency's retention guidelines.

Traffic Safety and Enforcement (3.6)

The Meridian Township Police Department has applicable policies in place regarding traffic violation enforcement, enforcement options, offenders, and traffic direction and control. The directive establishes procedures to conduct motor vehicle stops, including high-risk stops. The enforcement options include warnings, citations, and arrest when appropriate. Assessors observed several proofs of compliance to the standards in regard to the wearing of high visibility vests when working traffic details and crash investigations.

Homeland Security / Critical Incidents (3.7)

The Meridian Township Police Department has written directives for a critical incident system which complies with MLEAC standards. The agency provided several proofs, and all operational plans were complete, thorough, and utilized the critical incident response system. The agency's operational plan form is clear, concise, and addresses all required standards.

Chapter 4 – The Investigative Function

Criminal Investigation (4.1)

The on-duty shift supervisor is responsible for screening all incoming reports and forwarding those reports that require extensive follow-up to the detective sergeant. Other minor investigations are assigned to patrol officers. The detective sergeant reviews and assigns investigative reports to the appropriate investigator to conduct follow-up investigations.

Crime Scene Processing (4.2)

The Meridian Township Police Department has detectives and accident investigators available 24 hours a day. An on-duty supervisor will respond to the scene to determine whether patrol officers or evidence technicians should process the scene. All evidence collected will be submitted to the evidence room as soon as possible, but prior to the end of the submitting employee's shift.

The agency's officers are trained to keep the crime scenes undisturbed unless a danger exists that may destroy or compromise evidence prior to the arrival of detectives and crime scene investigators. Appropriate and standard compliant packaging requirements are in place and chain of custody is appropriately followed and documented.

Storage of Evidence and Property (4.3)

Appropriate policies are in place for property processing and evidence collection. The agency has a well-organized and equipped property room with a computerized evidence management system. Access to the property room is limited to the property officer and their command officer. There is a log for all individuals entering and exiting the main and off-site storage facilities, including the MLEAC Assessors, during this onsite.

There are several two-way lockers, including large sized, for officers to secure large items of evidence/property until the evidence technicians can remove the property, log the property, then place the property/evidence in the property lockers. Once secured the lockers are only accessed by the property room manager for proper intake and storage. Meridian Township PD has a storage facility a short drive from the main station. At that location, there is a large vehicle bay utilized for processing vehicles and storing items too large for the lockers. These areas are alarmed. The agency properly stores valuable jewelry, money, and guns. The agency also has a drug disposal policy in place to properly destroy drugs. The agency uses a crematorium located in Grand Rapids for incineration of these items.

Assessor viewed all property storage areas and found them to be clean and organized. Audit/Inspection records were made immediately available and complied with MLEAC standards. There was a change in the agency's Chief Law Enforcement Officer during the first year of this accreditation cycle. The appropriate complete inventory of evidence and property was completed.

Items the agency is not equipped to process are sent to Michigan State Police (MSP) Crime Lab in Lansing, Michigan. This process is documented and items sent to MSP lab are packaged according to MSP evidence packaging standards. An appropriate policy for transmission and chain of custody is in place.

Policies are in place for the proper notification of owners of property received and returned to them or to someone designated by the owner.

Juvenile Matters (4.4)

The Meridian Township Police Department has established policies regarding juvenile status offenses, including runaway cases, unidentified adults and children, and the safe delivery of newborns.

Special Investigations and Operations (4.5)

The agency has a special investigations policy. The written directives comply with all MLEAC accreditation standards. The agency is well organized in keeping records of information shared with or received from other agencies. The agency has an appropriate deconfliction procedure in place.

Operational supervisors and detectives work together to keep each other informed regarding general investigations as well as special investigations or operations taking place.

The agency does not have a confidential informant policy, as they do not utilize confidential informants. The agency received a waiver letter for this standard from the MLEAC program director.

Chapter 5 – The Arrestee/Detainee/Prisoner Handling Function

Transporting of Arrestees/Detainees/Prisoners (5.1)

The Meridian Township Police Department has established policy and procedure in place to include searching vehicles and subjects prior to transport. This process is validated through review of officers' daily activity logs and report narratives. Subjects are secured in vehicles with modified rear compartments and seat belts are utilized in compliance with State law.

Processing of Arrestees/Detainees/Prisoners (5.2)

All custodial arrests are lodged at the Ingham County Jail. The Meridian Township Police Department has a processing area where arrestees can be given an Intoxilyzer 9000 test prior to being transported to the Ingham County Jail for lodging. The processing room is equipped with an emergency button that sounds an alarm indicating there is an emergency in the processing area. It is also their practice to have two officers in the processing room during processing. There is a secure sally port where lock boxes for weapons are installed and available for securing weapons prior to entering the processing room. Access to the processing room is controlled using a cypher lock. Officers can secure arrestees to the bench in the processing area.

Holding of Arrestees/Detainees/Prisoners (5.3)

The Meridian Township Police Department does not have a holding facility as defined by MLEAC standards. Prisoners are lodged at the Ingham County Jail. The agency held no prisoners in temporary detention during this assessment period.

Chapter 6 – Campus Security and Policing

The Meridian Township Police Department is not a college, University or other campus law enforcement or campus security agency. They have received the proper Standard Not Applicable Waivers for this chapter.

F. Applied Discretion Compliance Discussion

The agency had no standards with Applied Discretions.

G. Waivers of Standards

This section provides specific information on those standards which qualified for waivers. Waivers are available to agencies when it is impossible to comply with a specific standard. A request to waive standard compliance must be made to the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation Program Director in writing, on official agency letterhead, signed by the CEO. The following standards were granted non-applicable waivers:

Standard 1.2.1 Fiscal Control

Standard 2.6.1 Reserve Officers

Standard 4.5.3 Confidential informants

H. Standards Noncompliance Discussion

The agency had no standards in noncompliance.

I. Future Performance / Review Issues

The only recommendation would be in the written directive they refer to Uniform Division Commanders who are their lieutenants this can be hard to follow it would be easier to use the ranks that are assigned.

J. Summary and Recommendation

Assessors conducted a thorough file review, supported by on-site observations and interviews. The Meridian Township Police Department was determined to be in compliance with MLEAC accreditation standards, with waivers noted above. Reaccreditation is recommended.

Dave Robinson, Team Leader
December 2, 2025

Daniel Kudra, Team Member
December 2, 2025

Reviewed and approved to be scheduled for a hearing before the MLEAC.



Program Director Matthew Silverthorn
Date: January 8, 2026