



Abilene Police Department Information Release



Our mission is to work together to build a community of the highest quality for present and future generations.

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Subject – Police Department pursues “Recognition”

Location – N/A

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From the early 20th century to the 1960’s, law enforcement in the United States was seen by many as poorly trained, uneducated, unprofessional, and sometimes as an instrument to deny the civil rights of citizens. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson created the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, which served as a springboard for major reforms in policing. Those efforts continued into the next two decades, when efforts to professionalize America’s law enforcement saw increased education requirements, the standardization of a ‘Code of Ethics’, and the development of Internal Affairs and Professional Standards units. In the 1990’s, efforts continued as agencies identified best practices and standards, often compiling extensive policies and procedures manuals.

Today, the Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices Recognition Program has become the standard for professional law enforcement in Texas. Since its development and introduction in 2007, the Recognition Program has been overwhelmingly accepted by Texas law enforcement agencies. There are currently 46 “Recognized” agencies in Texas and more than 30 that are in the process. The Recognition Program is a voluntary process where police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with 164 Texas Law Enforcement Best Practices. These best practices were carefully developed by Texas law enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service, the reduction of risk and the preservation of individual’s rights. They cover aspects of law enforcement operations such as use of force; protection of citizen rights; pursuits, property and evidence management; and patrol and investigative operations. Many times agencies operate for years without critically reviewing policies and thinking about new ways of doing things. The Abilene Police Department is excited about the opportunity to begin this year-long review of all policies and procedures, and in doing so continue the rich legacy of the department for generations to come. Your police department will be even better because of these efforts.

Thank you,

Stan Standridge