



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 – Abilene Police Department Becomes Recognized Police Agency

Date – February 22, 2012

Investigation Status – N/A

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On February 12, 2012, the Abilene Police Department received the award of “Recognized Law Enforcement Agency” from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program. Begun in 2006, the Recognition Program evaluates a police department’s compliance with over 160 best business practices for Texas law enforcement. These best practices were carefully developed by Texas law enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of individuals’ rights. These best practices cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including: use of force; protection of citizen rights; vehicle pursuits; property and evidence management; and patrol and investigative operations.

This voluntary process required the Abilene Police Department to conduct a critical self-review of the agency’s policies, procedures, facilities and operations. Beginning in April of 2011, the Department began the lengthy process to become a “Recognized Law Enforcement Agency” by preparing proofs of compliance for each of the Texas Law Enforcement Best Business Practices. Upon completion of the internal review, an outside audit and review was requested. This final on-site review took place on February 6th and 7th. The on-site review was conducted by trained police chiefs from other areas of our state. The result of this review was then sent to the Texas Police Chiefs Association’s Recognition Committee for final analysis and decision to award “Recognized” status.

Abilene becomes the 58th agency in the state to be so recognized, out of more than 2,600 active agencies. The Abilene Police Department has always considered itself to be one of the best in the state. This process provided for an independent review of the Department’s operations and should assure the

citizens of Abilene that its police department is conforming to the current state of the art in law enforcement.

The actual presentation of the award will take place at a City Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2012. The Department will also be recognized at the Texas Police Chiefs Association annual conference in April.

