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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## State association awards ‘Recognized’ to Police Dept.

LITTLE ELM (June 17, 2016) Little Elm’s Police Department has been awarded the “Recognized” designation from the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) following an exhaustive internal review that measured its level of adherence to a comprehensive list of best practices, joining a select list of only 130 law enforcement agencies in the state.

“The men and women of the Little Elm Police Department have shown their uncompromising commitment to maintaining a law enforcement agency that adheres to the highest levels of integrity and professionalism,” said Police Chief Rodney Harrison. “The standards developed by the Texas Police Chiefs Association provide a way for the department to ensure that we are using the latest and most effective techniques available to peace officers.”

With an eye toward achieving this prestigious honor, the department embarked on a process of examining compliance in areas such as policies, procedures, equipment, facilities, and operations based on the 166 best business practices for law enforcement, developed over a two-year period by Texas law enforcement officials and now used in conferring the designation of Recognized by TPCA to local police agencies. The process began in June of 2014, and word of the successful completion arrived almost exactly two years later.

“This designation confirms that our officers are employing the most current best practices in our profession,” said Harrison. “It also means, in a clear and unmistakable way, that we are meeting our professional obligations to Little Elm’s citizens, businesses and visitors.”

To attain the designation, the highest level granted by the TPCA, the Little Elm Police Department provided verifiable proof of compliance with each of the 166 best business practices, covering aspects such as appropriate use of force; protection of citizen rights; vehicle pursuits; property and evidence management; and patrol and investigative operations, among others. Some internal policies did not exist and were created, others required rewriting, and training on all of the changes was mandated.

An audit team from the TPCA reviewed the department’s operations and facilities, and interviewed the department’s staff. That assessment team developed a report of its findings to the organization’s Recognition Committee. The Committee reviewed the findings and voted affirmatively to award Recognized status to Little Elm. The status is good for four years, with annual updates.

“There has never been a question regarding the professionalism of our force, but it’s very gratifying to see this kind of acknowledgement from a respected and independent outside source,” said the Chief.

The department will be recognized at the Texas Police Chiefs Association annual conference next April and at a Town Council meeting in the near future.

More information on the program can be obtained by visiting [www.texaspolicechiefs.org](http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org).

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**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.