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# PRESS RELEASE

## **Watauga Police Department Receives "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" from the Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program**

Watauga, TX - On February 22, 2016, the Watauga 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 166 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 individual's 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 Watauga Police Department to conduct a critical self-review of the agency's policies, procedures, facilities and operations. 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 18, 2016. The on-site review is 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.

On February 22, the department was notified that it had been awarded the coveted "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" award. The Watauga 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 Watauga that its Police Department is conforming to the current state of the art policies and procedures in law enforcement.

The department will be recognized at the Texas Police Chiefs Association annual conference on March 23, 2016.

For more information, a description of the program may be viewed on the Texas Police Chiefs Association website at [www.texaspolicechiefs.org](http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org).