



# Media Release

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Andrew Hawkes, Chief of Police

January 23, 2018

For Immediate Release

## **Jacksonville Police Department Receives “Recognized Law Enforcement Agency” status from the TPCA Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program**

On January 23, 2018, the Jacksonville Police Department was awarded the status 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 168 best 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 the public. These best practices cover all aspects of law enforcement operations including use of force, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, fiscal responsibility, patrol and investigative operations, and many other areas.

This voluntary process required the Jacksonville Police Department to conduct a critical self-review of the agency’s policies, procedures, facilities and operations. Beginning in January of 2017, 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 Recognition Program best practices. Upon completion of the internal review, an outside audit and review was conducted. This final on-site review, conducted by trained police chiefs and command level officers from other Texas cities, took place on January 17-18, 2018. 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 January 23, 2018, the Jacksonville Police Department received notification that it had been awarded the coveted “Recognized Law Enforcement Agency” award. According to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, there are 2,665 law enforcement agencies in Texas. Jacksonville Police Department becomes only the 145<sup>th</sup> agency in the State of Texas to be recognized. “This great accomplishment was a 100% team effort, every single member of this department played a role in the recognition effort. I am very proud of our team, both sworn and civilian, for their hard work, dedication, and for achieving our shared goal of becoming recognized as one of the very best police agencies in the State of Texas,” said Chief of Police, Andrew Hawkes. “This difficult and demanding process should assure the citizens of Jacksonville that their police department is conforming to the best practices in law enforcement, including the utmost in professionalism and transparency,” the chief said. The Jacksonville Police Department joins a number of East Texas Police Agencies that have recognition status.

The actual presentation of the award will take place during an upcoming Jacksonville City Council meeting. The date to be determined. The Jacksonville Police Department will also be recognized at the Texas Police Chiefs Association annual conference in Galveston, Texas on March 28, 2018.

More information and a description of the program may be viewed on the Texas Police Chiefs Association website at <http://www.texaspolicechiefs.org>.