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In 2007, Michael Owen was awarded the Burleson Police Department's Officer of the Year. On Wednesday, he earned the City of Burleson's Employee of the Year honor at the City's Annual Employee Awards Luncheon.

Owen and Kevin Law were nominated for the honor by their peers. Law works as an equipment operator for the City's solid waste department.



Officer Michael Owen and City Manager Curtis Hawk.

Owen became a household name in 2008 when the police department launched the community resource officer program. Owen was the first officer dedicated to the program.

According to the nomination, Owen "pioneered the Community Resource Officer position, developing crime prevention strategies, revamping the Neighborhood Watch Program, organizing National Night Out and bringing the Wise Eyes Program to Burleson. Officer Owen is a team player. He volunteers on a daily basis to help cover a shift, no matter if it is to come in early or stay over to make sure the shift is covered. He is dedicated to the department and the City of Burleson. His actions show him to lead by example to secure the public's trust."

The honoree was hired by Burleson in October 2003. He came to the City with no law enforcement experience. He earned the Rookie of the Year award and the department's first Ofelia Blair Character Award. Ofelia Blair, the department's first criminal investigations clerk, died in 2003 following a battle with cancer.

Owen is a member of the department's SWAT team. He is a field training officer, an advanced accident investigator, breath test operator and drug recognition expert and a TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) instructor.

The honoree has partnered with the department's school resource officers to track gang activity in Burleson and has monitored a Burleson Police Department traffic program that is specifically designed to lower highway speeds on I-35W.

In May 2008, Owen helped coordinate with the Tarrant District Attorney's office and Johnson County County Attorney's office to host training for officers from both counties concerning warrants for blood for DWI refusals.

Owen serves as the president of the Burleson Police Officers Association and has played in the annual Red Vs. Blue charity football game that benefits Heart For The Kids.

Owen graduated from high school in a small West Texas town, then earned an associates degree through Howard Payne University and Weatherford College.

For more information, call the public information officer at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.