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The City of Burleson Municipal Court has been named one of nine cities to receive the Traffic Safety Award from the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center's (TCMEC) Municipal Traffic Safety Initiative. The award will be presented at the April TCMEC Traffic Safety Conference. All municipal courts in Texas were eligible to apply.

Burleson, Bryan, College Station, Conroe, Friendswood, Frisco, La Porte, Mansfield and Socorro earned recognition for those courts serving a population of 30,000-149,999.

Arlington, El Paso, Houston and Irving earned the kudos for courts serving populations of 150,000 or more and Alvin, Harker Heights, Hickory Creek, Lakeway and Universal City received recognition for the courts serving a population of less than 30,000. Honorable mention kudos went to Hutto, Lewisville, Odessa, Pasadena, Sweeny and Windcrest.

Burleson was also recognized by TCMEC in 2010 and 2011.

Each court was judged based on public outreach in their community to increase traffic safety while decreasing traffic crashes, traffic fatalities, juvenile driving under the influence cases, child safety seat offenses, red light runners, and other traffic-related offenses.

Constance White, director of court services for the City of Burleson, said the Municipal Court's outreach included:

- Burleson Teen Court program, which participated in the 2012 Teen Court Competition in Fort Worth;
- Creative sentencing - partnership with 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium Classrooms for online classes, including a class on shoplifting;
- Creative sentencing – partnership with Support Our Soldiers, in which teens who go through Teen Court write letters and cards to soldiers in exchange for one hour of community service for every 10 cards they write;
- Warrant Roundup/warrant calls – the Burleson city marshals implemented a Johnson County Warrant Task Force to work together on serving warrants;

- Community Outreach – Municipal Court participated in the 2012 City of Burleson Safety Fair where they distributed “Buckle Your Bod” bracelets, child safety seat information, and Don’t Text and Drive information;
- Community Outreach – the Municipal Court has a display case at the Burleson subcourthouse that publicizes traffic-related and Teen Court related topics;
- Community Outreach – The Teen Court Teen Advisory Committee has implemented Burleson Heroes, a project in which they bake cookies and send thank you cards to a person or organization that has had a positive impact on the community or just to thank them for their kindness;
- Partnerships – The Municipal Court and the City’s environmental services division partnered to establish the Litter Rangers program which allows youth to help preserve the beauty of the community;
- Partnerships – Teen Court partnered with Mothers Against Drunk Driving to establish a Teen Victim Impact Panel – any minor who receives an alcohol-related citation is ordered to attend a Teen Victim Impact Panel to see how reckless behavior affects others;
- Partnerships – In May 2012, Teen Court attended a youth forum facilitated by the Mayor’s Youth Council to come up with ways to make the City more youth friendly;
- Partnerships – In June 2012, Municipal Court and Teen Court partnered with community businesses and agencies to host a Teen SWAG (Sober, Wait, Awareness, Guidance) event;
- Partnerships – Municipal Court partnered with Citizens On Patrol to put together goodie bags for National Night Out;
- Education – The Court’s warrant division hosted a two-day court security training class;
- Education – The City marshals and Teen Court hosted the Alive@25 program to teens who had received alcohol-related as a result of an underage drinking party;
- Education – Municipal Court staff participated in the Shattered Dreams driving while intoxicated mock scenario at Burleson High School.

The TMCEC Municipal Traffic Safety Initiative is funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.