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**City of Burleson wins statewide excellence award**  
*The Burleson Drowning Prevention Coalition named best in  
public safety for cities over 25,000 in population*

During the 2019 Texas Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio, the City of Burleson received a 2019 Municipal Excellence Award in public safety for cities over 25,000 in population. The award recognized the City for the Burleson Drowning Prevention Coalition.

Inspired to prevent childhood drownings, the City of Burleson Fire Department and marketing team created a public service video to raise awareness and encourage parents to safeguard their children. Wanting to do more, the Drowning Prevention Coalition, which consists of multiple community partners, formed and began collaborating on ways to end childhood drowning deaths. The result was a successful effort to provide swimming lessons, free of charge, to Burleson youth. To date, the Coalition is responsible for providing 1,500 children with swim lessons.

On hand at the Conference to accept the award were councilmembers Ronnie Johnson, Katherine Reading, Stuart Gillaspie and Rick Green.

"We are extremely proud that our grass-roots efforts to stop childhood drownings in our community has been recognized statewide," stated Burleson Fire Chief K.T. Freeman. "We look forward to growing this project with the continued support of city council, local businesses, our community and the school district."

TML's Municipal Excellence Awards recognize and encourage the achievements of Texas cities in meeting the challenge of municipal governance. Innovative problem-solving, excellence in management, increasing citizen participation, and reaching toward higher service levels are all daily occurrences in Texas cities, and they deserve recognition. This awards program seeks out the best of these programs to honor. Awards are given in two population categories (under 25,000 and over 25,000) and five areas (management innovations, communication programs, city spirit, public safety, and public works).

The 2019 TML Annual Conference and Exhibition was held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio on October 9-11 and attracted more than 3,000 city officials, who learned ways to govern more effectively, discussed critical issues, and shared best practices and solutions.

TML is a voluntary association of 1,161 Texas cities.

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