



Media Advisory

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Gallatin receives Municipal League award

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --- Gallatin's significant improvements to the city's crime rates through enhanced technology, aggressive police patrols and public safety outreach efforts has enriched the community's quality of life and will be recognized with a 2009 Tennessee Municipal League Achievement Award for Excellence in Police Services. The award will be presented on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. during TML's 70th annual conference at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Remarkably, while dealing with the city's explosive growth rate, the Gallatin Police Department managed to reduce Gallatin's crime stats by 31 percent, while providing timely and informative outreach programs for the community. In 2004, the Gallatin PD implemented the managerial process known as COMPSTAT under the direction of its new police chief John Tisdale. COMPSTAT is an acronym for COMPuter STATistics or COMPARative STATistics, a process where the police department collects, analyzes and maps crime data and other essential police performance measures on a regular basis. Police managers are held accountable for their performance, which is measured by this data. As Gallatin's population grew by 15 percent during a five-year period and the clearance rate for crimes reported increased from 44 to 65 percent, the city's crime rate dropped during this same period.

"The reduction in crime is attributable to the aggressive and consistent efforts by both the patrol and investigative units to identify problems, to solve and prosecute crimes that have occurred, and prevent future crimes from occurring by making Gallatin an unattractive place for criminals to commit crimes," said Rex Barton, Municipal Technical Advisory Service Police Management consultant.

The Gallatin PD also concentrates its efforts toward positive community programs that have left a major impact on the citizens at large. The department has received numerous state and national

- more -

TML Achievement Award
June 11, 2009
Page 2

awards for its traffic safety initiatives and mission-based approach to delivering police services. Their "Treats for Seats" program received the 2006 Child Passenger Safety Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Governor's Highway Safety Office. The project awarded parents and children for wearing their seat belts and using age appropriate child restraint seats. The department also provides educational materials and training on how to properly install child restraint seats.

Gallatin's Police Department has raised the bar for law enforcement agencies in Tennessee. The citizens of Gallatin certainly have a police department to be proud of.

Each year the Tennessee Municipal League honors cities throughout the state for overall excellence, improvement, specific outstanding programs, or department accomplishments.

Other award winners for 2009 include: Alexandria, for Small City Progress; Chattanooga, for Excellence in Human Resource Programs; Dyersburg, for Excellence in Quality of Life Initiatives; Erwin, for Excellence in Governance; Kingsport, for Community Progress; Knoxville, for Excellence in Green Leadership; and Sparta, for Excellence in Public Works.

-30-

The Tennessee Municipal League is a voluntary, cooperative organization established by the cities and towns of the state for mutual assistance and improvements. The League's primary function is to advocate on behalf of city governments. TML works with the Tennessee General Assembly promoting legislation helpful to cities and opposing legislation harmful to cities.