

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Dennis J. Cassidy, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Challenge Award
DATE: November 2, 2004

NEEDS: To inform the City Council of two recent awards presented to the Police Department recognizing excellence in the Traffic Program, with special acknowledgement to Ofc. Eric Mattke for his important role in achieving such honorable recognition.

FACTS:

1. On November 8, 2004, the police department will receive the 2003 California Law Enforcement Challenge Award (CLEC), 1st place in the 26-50 sworn officer category, at the California Office of Traffic Safety's (OTS) annual conference in Palm Springs, CA.
2. On November 15, 2004, the police department will receive an award of honorable mention for the 2004 National Law Enforcement Challenge (NLEC) at the International Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference in Los Angeles, CA.
3. These two prestigious awards are co-sponsored by the Office of Traffic Safety and the California Highway Patrol for the State award, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the National Award.
4. Both awards were based on the same criteria, as submitted in the application by our department.
5. The awards recognize cities of similar sizes for their traffic safety efforts relative to a holistic approach in addressing traffic safety concerns in their respective communities. The criteria focuses on policy and guidelines, officer training, public information and education, enforcement activity and effectiveness of our efforts.

**ANALYSIS &
CONCLUSION:**

The State and National Law Enforcement Challenge awards showcase excellent work by the Paso Robles Police Department Traffic Program. The team is managed by Lt. Lisa Solomon, with Sgt. Clint Wenter as the operating supervisor and Officers Eric Mattke and Dan Hackett executing the daily work and coordinating all associated special programs. Although only two sworn officers are specifically assigned to the traffic program, success in traffic safety could not be achieved without the assistance of our busy patrol division, as well. All officers who vigorously enforce traffic laws in our City are commended for their efforts in this area.

This report gives special recognition to Ofc. Eric Mattke, for his contributions to the traffic program over the last two years. His energy and commitment to excellence have raised the bar relative to what we have come to expect from our traffic officers and the traffic program. Since his appointment to the team, Eric has made the following accomplishments:

- Authored four traffic related grants, resulting in over \$200,000 revenue for traffic programs in the City of Paso Robles, with an additional two grants still pending approval.
- Strongly focused the traffic program to impact occupancy protection, impaired driver detection and apprehension, and speed enforcement.
- Worked with administration to promote a strong traffic orientation, resulting in a cultural shift organization-wide relative to the vigorous pursuit of traffic safety for our community.

- Program successes include increased prevention, education and enforcement efforts of all officers; a 47% increase in enforcement efforts in 2003 over the prior year; and a reduction in the increased percentage of traffic collisions from 10% in 2002 to less than 2% in 2003.

The successes of the traffic program, which have resulted in outside recognition in the form of these prestigious awards, are the result of hard work and dedication by many, with the exceptional focus and direction largely led by Ofc. Mattke. The ripples of his boundless passion and commitment to traffic safety in our community will assuredly continue, and will be felt in this community for many years to come. He is an asset to the City, an example of excellence in the law enforcement profession and a true champion of traffic safety.

POLICY

REFERENCE: City purchasing policy.

**FISCAL
IMPACT:**

None.

OPTIONS:

- a. Receive and file.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.