



CITY OF HOUSTON
Municipal Courts Department

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2012

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Municipal Courts Receives 2012 Traffic Safety Award For Community Efforts

HOUSTON, Texas – The City of Houston Municipal Courts Department today received a 2012 Traffic Safety Award from the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center during the Traffic Safety Initiatives Conference. Funded by a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, the goal of this program is to recognize those who work in local municipalities that have made outstanding contributions to their community in an effort to increase traffic safety.

“We believe that the best way to meet the responsibility of insuring safe drivers in our city is to have an informed public, and we take seriously our role in helping to meet the public’s need for education in public safety and court matters,” stated the Honorable Barbara E. Hartle, Director and Presiding Judge of the Municipal Courts Department. “We achieve this balance on a day to day basis in the most respectful way possible, and we continuously strive to provide our citizens with a municipal court of which they can be proud,” said Judge Hartle .”

Houston’s Municipal Court is among 21 courts selected to receive an award. They are being recognized for their work with juveniles in their Juvenile Case Manager Program. Their application also highlighted several outreach efforts with schools, students and other entities to take a proactive approach to traffic safety by reaching Houston’s younger population before they become violators.

All municipal courts in the State of Texas were eligible to apply. Applicants were judged on the basis of what their court is doing in terms of public outreach in their community to increase traffic safety while decreasing traffic crashes, traffic fatalities, juvenile DUI, child safety seat offenses, red light running, and other traffic related offenses.

Awards are dispersed based on the population of the municipality where the court operates. As a high volume courts serving a population of 150,000 or more, Houston is one of only 2 other cities in the state selected. The other two cities in that category are El Paso and Irving.

Texas Municipal Court Association (TMCA) Board President, Judge Donna Starkey of Alvin Municipal Court, will present awards to the recipients today at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas.

Award recipients will host a breakout session at the TMCEC Traffic Safety Conference so other courts can learn about the award recipients' traffic safety initiatives and ways they can incorporate traffic safety outreach in their own court.

To learn more about the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center or the Municipal Traffic Safety Award, contact Lisa Robinson, TMCEC Grant Administrator, at robinson@tmcec.com or 512-320-8274 or visit www.tmcec.com.

For more information about City of Houston Municipal Courts, visit their website at www.houstontx.gov/courts.