



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SAGINAW, TEXAS
333 West McLeroy Blvd.
Saginaw, Texas 76179
817-232-4640

TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
1821 Rutherford Lane, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78754
512-231-7400

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CONTACT: Fire Chief Doug Spears
817-230-0412

During the 2021 Texas Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference and Exhibition in Houston, the City of Lake Worth and City of Saginaw each received a 2021 Municipal Excellence Award in public safety for cities under 25,000 in population. The award recognized the cities for the creation of the Lake Worth Saginaw emergency management coordinator position.

This new position focuses on providing disaster preparedness outreach to the public through classes, public service announcements, and community events. Additionally, this role monitors severe weather and provides updates to ensure the safety of both cities. The equally shared and funded position has already assisted Saginaw and Lake Worth in building resilience and reducing social vulnerabilities in the event of man-made and natural disasters.

On hand at the Conference to accept the award were members of the City Council and staff.

In the words of Saginaw Fire Chief Spears, *"I am very pleased that we were able to create this position with our neighbor, the City of Lake Worth. The EMC position has already made a strong impact in both our city's emergency preparedness efforts and the person we jointly selected as our EMC, Joseph Laster, was a great choice. It makes tremendous sense to share or consolidate resources where possible lessening the financial impact on our citizens and community while maintaining or enhancing our public safety capabilities."*

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 2021 TML Annual Conference and Exhibition was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston on October 6-8 and attracted more than 2,500 city officials, who learned ways to govern more effectively, discussed critical issues, and shared best practices and solutions.

TML is a voluntary association of 1,168 Texas cities. Guided by its purpose statement—*Empowering Texas cities to serve their cities*—the League provides support and services to city governments. The City of Lake Worth and City of Saginaw are members of TML.

For further information about TML and the awards program, contact Jacqueline Redin at 512-231-7400 or jredin@tml.org.