

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

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LCPD Receives Florida's Highest Traffic Safety Award

On Friday, July 26th, representatives from the Lake City Police Department joined law enforcement officials from around the State at the annual Traffic Safety Challenge Awards. These awards, hosted by the Florida Department of Transportation, recognize agencies state-wide for their traffic safety efforts. Criteria for these awards include program efforts towards enforcement and education, as well as statistical data including crash reduction, injury reduction, and focus area details (such as bicycle/pedestrian safety). Over 250 agencies ranging from city police, county sheriffs, and state agencies including the Florida Highway Patrol, are vetted by FDOT's Safety Office.

In 2023, LCPD won First Place in the "Agencies with 36-50 sworn personnel" category. This year, LCPD was placed in the "Champions Category," made up of the first-place winners from all the categories the previous year. Chief Gerald Butler was notified in advance that the Department had placed in the top three, along with the Marianna Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol Troop E (Miami-Dade). At the ceremony, an excited crowd cheered as Lake City was the final agency to be recognized as First Place, with the overall best Traffic Safety Program in the entire state, among agencies of all sizes.

FDOT Assistant Secretary Will Watts, Florida Governor's Representative for Highway Safety, was joined by Chief Safety Officer Lora Hollingsworth and Chris Craig, Florida's Traffic Safety Administrator, in presenting awards at this year's ceremony. Assistant Chief Andy Miles, Lieutenant Robert Milligan, Sergeant Mike Lee, and Traffic Officer Blake Craig, accepted the award on behalf of the Department.

"This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Lake City Police Department," said Chief Butler. "Lake City, Florida's Gateway, is the nexus where many major roadways converge, bringing over 50,000 vehicles into our city, on average, every day. We are committed to making our roadways safe for our residents and visitors."

Lake City has ramped up efforts in the past year, in support of its Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), using overtime funds provided by FDOT in target areas such as Speed and Aggressive Driving, Impaired Driving, and Occupant Protection. Efforts include community education, high visibility enforcement, sobriety checkpoints, and also participation in programs such as last week's Operation Southern Slowdown.

"We are honored by this award, and plan to continue efforts to improve safety on our streets," said Chief Butler.

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