



Police Officer of the Year
Officer Paul Wathen

Officer Paul Wathen began his career with the Mesquite Police Department in 2012 as a police officer. He had previous law enforcement experience as an officer in South Dakota. In seven short years, Officer Wathen's work ethic has placed him as the department's leading arresting officer for DWI and DWI related offenses and his supervisors consider him the driving force behind many procedural improvements in the DWI program. Paul's passion for DWI enforcement shows through and influences others in a way that has a positive impact on the Department. Officer Wathen also participated as a Field Training Officer sharing valuable information while training new recruits before they are released on their own. Officer Wathen has also been recognized through his training as a Drug Recognition Expert.

Officer Wathen holds a Master Peace Officer Certification and Basic Instructor Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Officer Wathen is skilled as an Instructor teaching DWI topics and certifying new Field Training Officers. Officer Wathen was involved in a critical incident last year in which his actions likely saved the life of a fellow officer.

Officer Wathen's dedication is indicative by the number of awards bestowed upon him including the Instructor of the Year, Elks Lodge Officer of the Year, and Excellence in Service Award. Officer Wathen has received a Certificate of

Merit award for his dedication to the DWI enforcement program and has earned the MADD Enforcement Hero award multiple times. He is also a three-time recipient of the MCPAAA Officer of the Month and excels in Firearms Proficiency. Officer Wathen has received 24 commendation letters from coworkers, citizens and outside agencies. Officer Wathen leads by example in terms of his integrity, character and work ethic. All who meet him recognize the enthusiasm and dedication he brings to the profession.

The Mesquite Police Department is proud to recognize Officer Paul Wathen with the Sergeant H. Kent Tyler Award.