



# PRESS RELEASE

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During the 2020 Virtual Texas Municipal League (TML) Annual Conference and Exhibition, the City of Converse received a 2020 Municipal Excellence Award in City Spirit for cities **over 25,000** in population in the State of Texas. The award recognized the City for its Code Action Team.

To better address many long-standing code and safety-issues, the City of Converse established the Code Action Team (CAT), which includes the City's Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, Community Development, Animal Care and Stormwater departments. The team met every two weeks to coordinate efforts on work ranging from code enforcement to community service projects. In one year, 10 dangerous structures were demolished, four homes were repainted and renovated and hazardous brush was removed through community-wide service projects, and hundreds of code compliance violations were resolved.

Overall, the City has been able to work through many outstanding issues and more importantly established a "big team" concept, beyond City Staff. This collaborative approach between community leaders, citizens and staff resulted in more improvements than the City has seen in years.

City Manager Piatt stated, "I am extremely proud of everyone's hard work and dedication to serve our citizens. I am even more proud to see our community be recognized for their efforts at the state level. There is no doubt that we have plenty of City Spirit in the City of Converse".

"This award is a direct result from a professional organization when you hire the best employees, provide them with the best resources, and allow them to execute their duties" stated Mayor Al Suarez.

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 award, a large crystal oblique will be shared throughout the City and remain on display in the lobby of City Hall. TML is a voluntary association of 1,160 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 Converse is a member of TML.

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