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Lake Worth Police Department Joins National ABLE Project

(Lake Worth, TX) – The Lake Worth Police Department has been accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project™, Georgetown University Law Center’s national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm. With its acceptance, the Lake Worth Police Department has become the first municipal, county, or state law enforcement agency in Tarrant County to join the National ABLE project.

By demonstrating a firm commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders, the Lake Worth Police Department joins a select group of more than 215 other law enforcement agencies and statewide and regional training academies from across North America.

Backed by prominent civil rights and law enforcement leaders, the evidence-based, field-tested ABLE Project was developed by Georgetown Law’s Center for Innovations in Community Safety in collaboration with global law firm Sheppard Mullin LLP to provide practical active bystandership strategies and tactics to law enforcement officers to prevent misconduct, reduce mistakes, and promote health and wellness.

ABLE gives officers the tools they need to overcome the innate and powerful inhibitors all individuals face when called upon to intervene in actions taken by their peers.

Chief J.T. Manoushagian said seeking inclusion to join the ABLE Project reflected important priorities for the Lake Worth Police Department.

“Together with the Lake Worth community, we work daily to create a safe environment where life and commerce thrive. As you are aware, the landscape of policing in our country is changing. Being a part of that change has been, and continues to be, one of the greatest joys of my life.” said Chief J.T. Manoushagian. “Although we have much work left to do, I am excited about the opportunity to implement the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) program in Lake Worth.”



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Those backing the Lake Worth Police Department’s application to join the program included Alliance for Children’s CEO Julie Evans, City of Lake Worth City Manager Stacey Almond, and Lake Worth Baptist Church Lead Pastor Zachary Hatton, who all wrote letters of support.

“With deep gratitude we have felt heard as a community organization because the Lake Worth Police Department genuinely listens. Whenever we have a burden, the members of the LWPD ask, "How can we help?". I cannot express to you the relief we feel knowing that we have such strong and capable partners to stand alongside of us.” wrote Pastor Zachary Hatton.

Professor Christy Lopez, co-director of Georgetown Law’s Center for Innovations in Community Safety, which runs ABLE, explained: “The ABLE Project seeks to ensure every police officer in the United States has the opportunity to receive meaningful, effective active bystandership training, and to help agencies transform their approach to policing by building a culture that supports and sustains successful peer intervention to prevent harm.”

Chair of the ABLE Project Board of Advisors, Sheppard Mullin partner Jonathan Aronie, added: “Intervening in another’s action is harder than it looks after the fact, but it’s a skill we all can learn. And, frankly, it’s a skill we all need – police and non-police. ABLE teaches that skill.”

The ABLE Project is guided by a Board of Advisors comprised of civil rights, social justice, and law enforcement leaders, including Commissioner Michael Harrison of the Baltimore Police Department; Commissioner Danielle Outlaw of the Philadelphia Police Department; Dr. Ervin Staub, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the founder of the Psychology of Peace and Justice Program; and an impressive collection of other police leaders, rank and file officers, and social justice leaders.

- See the complete list of the [ABLE Project Board of Advisors](#).
- For more information about the ABLE Project, visit the program’s [website](#).
- See a list of the [ABLE Standards](#) to which every participating agency must adhere.



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- [These articles](#) share more information about active bystandership generally, and the ABLE Project in particular.

ABLE Project Train-The-Trainer events take place every month. By the end of August 2022, Lake Worth Police Department instructors will be certified as ABLE trainers. Over the coming months, all of the Department's officers will receive 8 hours of evidence-based active bystandership education designed not only to prevent harm, but to change the culture of policing. Please follow our progress across our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and NextDoor).

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The Lake Worth Police Department's Public Relations and Outreach (PRO) Team will be handling all public relations inquiries associated with this release. The team can be reached at:

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For more information on the ABLE Project, review the program's website at: law.georgetown.edu/ABLE