



# PRESS RELEASE

#033015  
TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## For Immediate Release

Today, the demands on Law Enforcement have never been greater. Law Enforcement faces increasingly sophisticated challenges from computer crime, identity theft, narcotic trafficking and other crimes. All these efforts take place against a backdrop of shrinking budgets and limited resources.

Tomball Police Department has implemented Volunteers in Policing Services program to leverage existing resources and at the same time enhance public safety. Volunteer programs allow agencies and officers to focus on policing and enforcement functions by providing supplemental and/or support services such as administrative assistance or citizen patrols. At the same time, such programs create valuable ties between law enforcement and members of the community. A community member who volunteers with his or her local law enforcement agency will have a better understanding of that agency and law enforcement as a whole.

Tomball's established Volunteers in Policing Services Program grew out of their Citizens' Police Academy. We were able to cultivate the participant's demonstrated interest in the agency into a volunteer relationship. The V.I.P. Program is part of the community services sector and under the Investigations Division. The V.I.P. staff is responsible for day-to-day coordination, implementation and management to ensure the volunteers are managed in an organized process, as well as providing training, development, and evaluation of the program.

Since the inception of the program in June 2004, Volunteers have donated in excess of 100 hours performing various duties including but not limited to Administrative Assistant, Motor Service Equipment Management, Special Events, Detective Assistant, Traffic Complaint Enforcement, and Vacation Watch. On Independence Day alone we had a 72% participation rate among all registered volunteers in which the volunteered time ranged from 5 hours to 11.5 hours per volunteer. The volunteers performed duties such as dispatch assistant, traffic light operation, and parking lot patrol. It was amazing to see the energy and dedication displayed by these volunteers. Many of these volunteers are full-time employees elsewhere, and to see them contribute their time on a holiday to assist the public safety within the city was overwhelming. This participation rate allowed Tomball Police Department to free policing resources and focus on enforcement functions within the city. Without this level of participation, Tomball Police Department would have been required to call-in and pay several off-duty officers to perform these functions. These volunteers expanded and enhanced what Tomball Police Department was able to do for the community.

**Volunteers In Policing Services are a significant part of the policing team.**