

# NEACOP Community Policing Award 2019

Aug 20, 2020



The NEACOP has for a number of year's evaluated police departments throughout the six New England States for their efforts in community police. This was originally a work of the New England Community Policing Organization, but that agency ceased to exist several years ago.

The NEACOP aware of how important community policing is, especially in the New England states, decided to take on this process and continue to recognize the best agencies in our region. The award is not given for a program, but rather the entire agencies efforts in achieving a successful community policing program. The agency and its members have embraced a community policing policy that is present in its work and interaction with the community.

The NEACOP has a committee of recognized Police Chiefs in Community policing and academics at Roger Williams University, RI and Norwich University that scrutinize each applicant to decide on awarding those that are the best. The committee is limited to three awards, but will limit it further, if they feel that that fewer have reached the goals they set.



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August 5, 2020

To: New England Chiefs of Police  
From: Douglas Johnston  
Interim Executive Director  
Subject: New Release Community Policing Awards for year 2019

We would like to congratulate the following police departments  
for first place finish in the Community Award Application Process

Under 15,000: Veazie Maine Police Department  
Chief Mark Leonard

Over 50,000 Lawrence Massachusetts  
Chief Roy Vasque

There were only two categories out of the four that we received  
applications for, those being the 15000 and under and the 50,000  
and over. The applications were reviewed by seven different  
people and the averages taken from those people.

In the Under 15,000 category there was only 3.71 points  
separating the first and third place departments.

In the 50,000 and over there was only .85 points separating the  
top two. Honorable mention are the following police  
Departments:

15,000 and under: Thornton NH PD and Barre Ma PD  
50,000 and over Lowell Ma PD.

Douglas Johnston (Chief of Police RET.)  
Interim Executive Director



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DANIEL RIVERA  
MAYOR & CEO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PRESS RELEASE**

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**LPD Earns Community Policing Award  
Tops New England Large Cities in 2019**

**September 10, 2020, Lawrence, MA**- Mayor Daniel Rivera with Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque, proudly announce that the Lawrence Police Department was awarded first place in “Community Policing” among communities with over 50,000 residents within the New England Region by the New England Association of Chiefs of Police (NEACOP). “I want to congratulate our Police Department on receiving this award, and I want to thank NEACOP on recognizing the commitment of our Department,” said Mayor Rivera. “Under the leadership of Chief Vasque, we are policing smarter and creating ways to bridge the gap between the police and our community. We have made great progress in diversifying our department, which for the first time a majority minority police department. We are utilizing community policing as a tool to quell criminal activity, using open gyms to keep kids off the streets and circulating the LPD Free Ice Cream truck to have a police presence in our neighborhoods. In these times where the distance between communities (especially communities of color) seem to be widening this award shows that the work we are doing in Lawrence, an immigrant city, is having some impact; we however know there is work still to do”

“First and foremost, I want to thank Chief Roy P. Vasque for his leadership and for always being there for the Tower Hill Neighborhood Association as well as the Officers of the Lawrence Police Department for their commitment to Community Policing. Our partnership has created a stronger and more united community and we are excited for future collaboration. Congratulations on receiving this year’s NEACOP Community Policing Award, it is well earned,” said Elsa Sanchez, President of the Towerhill Neighborhood Association. The Lawrence Police Department has demonstrated strong community partnerships, with a diverse combination of groups and organizations in the City. In addition to running its own Citizen’s Police Academy for adults and Junior Police Academy for high school aged students, as well as an Open Gym basketball program, the Department has worked to support numerous neighborhood groups throughout the City. Along with this, the Department has assigned a liaison to the business community and has officers regularly on foot and bike patrols. The Department also supports the Special Olympics and works with other unique annual community events in the City. Officer accessibility has been a main priority for the Department. To this end, the Department has regularly scheduled events like Coffee with a Cop, and the circulation of its Free Ice Cream Truck throughout the city on hot summer days.

The NEACOP Community Policing Award is focused on how Police Departments embrace the concept of community policing on a regular basis and how these Departments sustain partnerships with groups in the community that they serve. The New England Association of Chiefs of Police serves the entire New England Region and Departments from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont were eligible to apply. The collective efforts to strengthen community policing made Lawrence’s effort noteworthy and earned the Department this recognition. “I am extremely grateful and humbled that the NEACOP Committee awarded the Lawrence Police Department the 2019 Community Policing Award,” says Chief Roy Vasque. “To be recognized in this way among so many deserving Departments from across New England is quite an honor. I am proud of the commitment the men and women of this Department make each and every day to foster positive police/community relationships.”

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