

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release
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Pat Evans
Mayor

Sally Magnuson
Mayor Pro Tem

Jean Callison
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Shep Stahel
Place 1

Scott Johnson
Place 2

Loretta Ellerbe
Place 3

Harry LaRosiliere
Place 5

Lee Dunlap
Place 8

Thomas H. Muehlenbeck
City Manager

REVISED

Texas Environmental Health Association Honors Plano Health Department With Award of Excellence

The Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA) awarded the City of Plano Health Department with the first TEHA Award of Excellence for a Food Safety Program on Oct. 18.

TEHA, a professional association of more than 1,200 health practitioners, developed the Award of Excellence in Food Safety to recognize one entity in Texas each year that achieves a high degree of professionalism and commitment to food safety in the community they serve. Plano was honored for its day-to-day operations focused on education and customer service.

During routine inspections, Plano health inspectors tell restaurant managers what is out of compliance and help them come up with a plan to get back into compliance. During Food Safety Month in September, and at other key times such as the upcoming holidays, Plano Health employees set up table-top displays on Food Safety at local groceries to educate residents on how to handle food at home safely. Throughout the year, utility bill inserts are placed in water bills reminding customers how to handle food safely, reiterated by fun and educational Public Service Announcements aired on the Plano Television Network. Plano is also an advocate of preventative food safety, hosting food handler and food manager certification classes. They also offer on-site classes to make it easier on the restaurant managers.

Award of Excellence applicants are judged against peer submittals and specific criteria over the past year in which sustained improvements and excellence are

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demonstrated. The award is modeled after the national Crumline Award presented by the Food Packaging Institute.

Sandra Long, City of Plano Inspections Services Supervisor stated "It is an honor to be recognized for hard work and level of commitment our staff demonstrates. "

Health Department Manager Tomeji Miller said "We are very fortunate to have a progressive group of Health Professionals who strive daily to provide the highest level of service to our citizens and customers. We are truly honored to have received this award."

Health Director Brian Collins indicated this award "is testimony to the commitment and professionalism of the Health Department field and administrative staff that work so hard every day. It is an honor to be recognized by your peers."

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