

# CEDAR HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2024 Annual Report



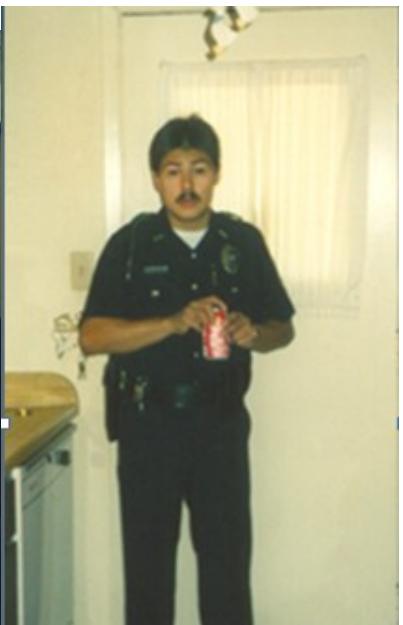
**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF KEEPING  
CEDAR HILL SAFE**

**1974—2024**

**Chief of Police Ely Reyes**



# 50 years in the making.....CHPD



# Message from Chief Ely Reyes

Greetings:

It is my honor to present the 2024 Cedar Hill Police Department Annual Report. This year's report reflects not only our continued commitment to excellence but also the strong bond we share with the community we proudly serve.

Throughout the year, our officers and professional staff have remained focused on our mission—to protect, serve, and partner with our community. From responding to emergencies and solving complex investigations to managing records and supporting daily operations, each member of our team has worked with integrity, professionalism, and compassion.

In 2024, we continued to prioritize building on our community relationships through outreach, engagement, and transparency. By actively listening to concerns, collaborating on solutions, and staying visible in our neighborhoods, we've strengthened trust and promoted shared responsibility for public safety.

We also embraced technology as a force multiplier, adopting innovative tools and data-driven strategies to enhance our effectiveness. These advancements have helped us respond more efficiently, allocate resources smarter, and stay ahead of emerging public safety challenges.

As a result of these collective efforts, I'm proud to announce that Cedar Hill continues to be the safest city in the Best Southwest. This distinction reflects the hard work of our officers and staff, the support of our city leadership, and—most importantly—the partnership of our community members.

Our achievements in 2024 are a testament to what's possible when a department and its community move forward together. I am incredibly proud of the men and women of the Cedar Hill Police Department and grateful for the opportunity to lead such a dedicated and forward-thinking team.

We look forward to building on this momentum in 2025 and beyond, continuing to serve with excellence in every call, every contact, and every commitment we make.

Ely Reyes #276  
Chief of Police  
Cedar Hill Police Department



# Technical and Information Services Division

The Technical and Information Services division encompasses the Public Services Unit, Alarm Billing Unit, and Property & Evidence Unit. Lt. Pam Brown manages the division and oversees the Axon in-car and Body Worn camera system, Criminal Justice Information System security, mobile computer terminals, internal records management, and computer-aided dispatch systems.

## Public Service Officers

The Public Service Officers (PSOs) consistently provide assistance to individuals visiting the Police Department lobby, operating around the clock. Our dedicated PSOs include Jared Salinas, Tracy Ferrell, Tianna Conway, Connie Jarkowsky, Roxanne Villafranco and Alexa Martinez. Their



responsibilities encompass a variety of daily tasks, such as validating all accident reports, entering records for wanted persons and protective orders, managing the TLETS terminal for warrant confirmations and urgent state messages, and processing parking citations issued by our Citizens on Patrol for disabled parking violations. Additionally, they collect real-time intelligence information for patrol officers as they respond to calls. In 2024, they successfully verified 475 crash reports and entered 6,136 warrants issued by the city court and police department into the regional database.

## Property and Evidence Unit

The first line supervisor of the Property and Evidence unit is Police Information Supervisor John Stevens. The Property Room Coordinator is Rachel Knuppel, who is responsible for daily care, custody, and control of all property and evidence submitted to the property room. This property and evidence are maintained until it can be lawfully released or destroyed. In 2024, Rachel and John completed an inventory of 4,154 pieces of property and evidence. During the same year, 3,270 pieces of property and evidence were booked in, and 6,882 pieces were destroyed.

## Records and Alarm Billing

The first line supervisor for the Records Clerks and Alarm Billing Coordinator is Police Information Supervisor John Stevens. The unit's employees include Yasmine Johnson, Mary Audet, and Alarm Billing Coordinator Yolanda Kommer. The Records unit is responsible for submitting monthly reports to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which document the number and types of crimes committed each month. The Records team verifies each arrest, incident, accident, supplement, and other types of reports entered into the Records Management System (RMS) on a daily basis. In 2024, the Records unit successfully completed 3,867 open records requests and dedicated 80 hours to Body-Worn Camera/In-Car Camera requests. The Alarm Coordinator processed and prepared a total of 16,112 alarm correspondences. In October 2024, Donia White, the Senior Records Clerk retired after 22 years of service. We are thankful for her years of service.



## **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible presence of the Cedar Hill Police Department. The Patrol Division works 12 hour shifts, with two Lieutenants, four Sergeants, four Corporals and 30 Officers. The city is divided into 5 reporting districts. Patrol officers responded to 20,574 citizen initiated calls for service, and self-initiated 37,933 calls while proactively patrolling the city. The ability to respond to calls for service in a timely and safe manner is a high priority for the city. Response times to Emergency Priority calls for service were 6:02, a decrease from 6:30 from 2023. Non-Emergency response times also decreased from 17:16 in 2023 to 14:04 in 2024. With Cedar Hill's proactive response to crime and high visibility patrols in neighborhoods and shopping centers, Cedar Hill's violent crime rate of 1.73 in 2024 continues to be the lowest in the Best Southwest Region.

<b>VIOLENT CRIME 2024</b>						
	Cedar Hill	DeSoto	Duncanville	Lancaster	Dallas	Grand Prairie
Homicide	3	1	3	6	210	7
Rape	16	27	9	16	475	41
Robbery	18	32	32	28	2,227	58
Agg. Assault	51	124	76	116	5,816	353
Population	50,904	57,999	40,779	42,183	1,356,479	209,231
Violent Crime rate per 1,000	1.73	3.17	2.94	3.94	6.43	2.19

Crime Data: Crime In Texas Online Portal 3.17.25  
Population: 2024 NCTCOG Population Estimates

<b>PROPERTY CRIME 2024</b>						
	Cedar Hill	DeSoto	Duncanville	Lancaster	Dallas	Grand Prairie
Robbery	18	32	32	28	2,227	58
Burglary	66	99	173	353	6,133	323
Theft	666	641	495	397	23,619	2,366
Motor Vehicle Theft	135	188	219	216	14,543	611
Population	50,904	57,999	40,779	42,183	1,356,479	209,231
Property Crime Rate per 1,000	17.39	16.55	22.54	23.56	34.30	16.05

Crime Data: Crime In Texas Online Portal 3.17.25  
Population: 2024 NCTCOG Population Estimates

# Community Service Officers

The Community Service Officer program started in 2006 with 3 part-time members and has grown into 3 full time positions. The Community Service Officers (CSOs) are Matt Grigsby, Shawn Burke and Caleb Tomlinson. The CSOs are professional support staff members who respond to calls for services such as burglaries, frauds and thefts that are not in progress. This helps free up the Patrol Officers to respond to crimes in progress. They also help process crime scenes, collect evidence, check on abandoned vehicles, review all on-line reports and help with traffic control at accidents and special events. Our dedicated CSOs responded to 4,613 calls for service and completed 950 reports in 2024 saving countless hours for patrol officers to be proactive and respond to emergency calls.

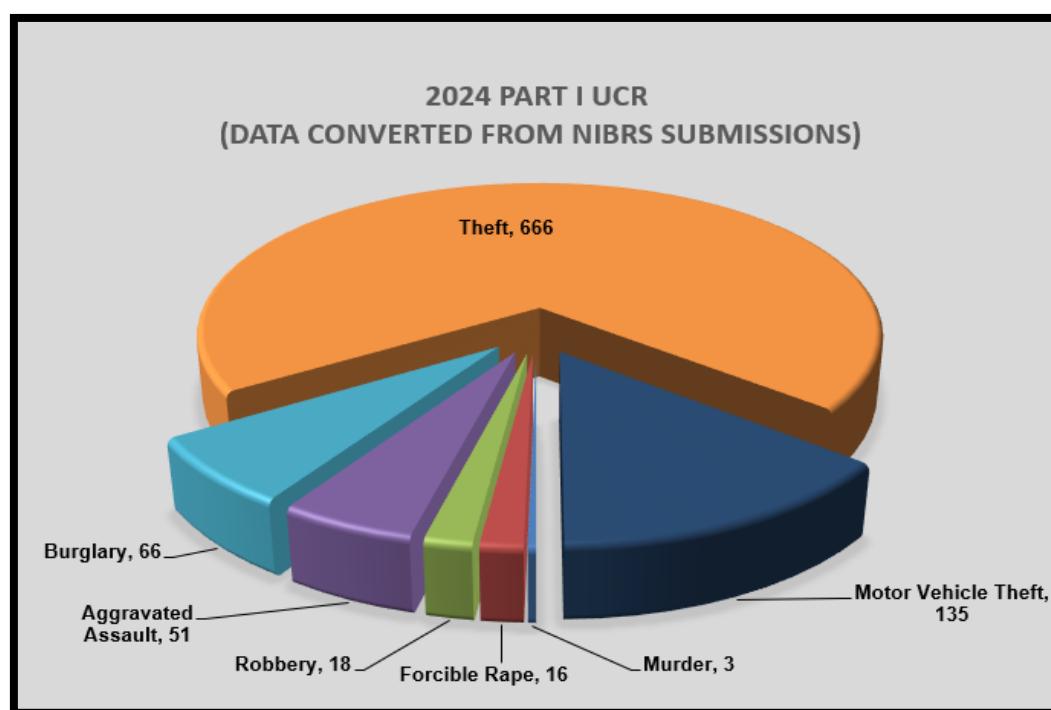


# Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigation Division is comprised of a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, a Corporal, seven Detectives, two Civilian Investigators, a Forensic Manager, Victim Assistance Coordinator and a Digital Media Coordinator. The division oversees all criminal investigations and reviews all reports generated by the department. In 2024, 4,516 cases were created with 2,051 cases assigned for additional follow-up. Cedar Hill had a 24% clearance rate for all Part I Crimes and 47.6% overall clearance rate for all crimes for 2024. Our Part 1 Crimes clearance rate is well above the state average and the highest compared to our southwest cities.

Year	Cedar Hill	Desoto	Duncanville	Lancaster	State Average
<b>2019*</b>	<b>28%</b>	11%	9%	12%	15%
<b>2020+</b>	<b>19%</b>	9%	4%	11%	13%
<b>2021†</b>	<b>17%</b>	9%	6%	16%	12%
<b>2022†</b>	<b>21%</b>	11%	4%	14%	12%
<b>2023†</b>	<b>22%</b>	11%	8%	10%	13%
<b>2024†</b>	<b>24%</b>	13%	6%	9%	15%

\* Data taken from Crime In Texas Report (DPS) † Data taken from Crime in Texas Online Portal



# Professional Standards Division

The Professional Standards Division is responsible for screening, testing and hiring of new applicants; the administration of the internal affairs investigative process; developing, scheduling, and conducting training for all sworn and non-sworn personnel; oversight of the Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices and Accreditation Program, and the Sex Offender Registration and Compliance Unit. The division is led by Captain Colin Chenault, Sergeant Jason Praytor oversees the hiring and training of Police Academy recruits and maintains the department's compliance with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Officer Ann McSwain maintains the Texas Police Chief Accreditation, and ensures all sex offenders are within compliance. The department has been a member of the Texas Police Chief's Association Foundation Accreditation Program since 2010.

In 2024, the department logged 6,445 training hours. The department is committed to maintaining its accreditation and providing the highest quality service to our customers by making sure our staff members receive updated training. Some of the courses included: Active Attack Integrated Response (ALERT), updated mental health and wellness training, de-escalation training, pistol transition and optic training, women in policing, leadership and senior management in policing.



## Internal Affairs Unit

In 2024, Officers responded to 20,574 calls for service and initiated 10,580 traffic stops. These 31,154 encounters resulted in 13 Internal Affairs complaints from citizens. That is one citizen complaint for every 2,396 contacts. An additional 22 complaints were filed on officers internally for a total of 35 complaints. Internal complaints are initiated by other department members when they observe or identify a policy violation through our internal auditing processes. A total of 65 allegations were included in the 35 complaints. Improper tactics/procedures was the most common internal and external complaint.

Types of Complaints Investigated 2024	Internal	External
Attendance	2	0
Body Camera	2	1
Conduct Unbecoming	4	3
Damaged Property	1	0
Discourtesy	2	7
Excessive Use of Force	0	1
Harassment/Discrimination – City Policy	1	0
Improper Procedures/Tactics	11	9
Insubordination	1	0
Neglect of Duty	3	2
Pursuit Policy	4	0
Racial Profiling	0	4
Vehicle Operation	7	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>

Findings of 2024 Investigations	Internal	External
Exonerated	0	0
Sustained	36	13
Not Sustained	2	2
Unfounded	0	1
Administratively Closed	0	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>27</b>

## Use of Force Analysis

In 2024, Officers responded to 20,574 citizen-initiated calls for service and initiated 10,580 traffic stops. These 31,154 citizen encounters resulted in 1,257 arrests, an increase of 84 arrests (7%) from 2023. Of these arrests, 66 were juveniles, an increase of 15 arrests (29%) from 2023. A total of 30 reported types of physical force were recorded during 25 incidents. Physical force was used in one out of every 1,246 customer-violator contacts in 2024. The use of physical force involved a total of 29 Officers in 25 separate incidents in 2024. Force, including the threat of force, was used against 102 individuals, of which 90 were males and 12 were females.

The following types of force were used to gain compliance:

Type of Force Applied	Number of Times Applied	Reported Effective First Time Applied	% of Effectiveness
<b>Soft Empty Hand</b>	24	24	100%
<b>Hard Empty Hand</b>	1	1	100%
<b>OC Spray</b>	2	2	100%
<b>Conductive Energy</b>	2	1	50%
<b>Threat of Deadly Force</b>	64	58	90%
<b>Deadly Force</b>	1	1	100%

The complete 2024 Use of Force report is available on the Cedar Hill Police Department's website.

## Accident Analysis

When an employee is involved in an accident, is injured, or is exposed to a contagious disease/virus, the employee immediately reports the incident to his/her supervisor. The supervisor then completes the appropriate reports and sends them to the Office of the Chief where they are reviewed and maintained. No changes were made this year to policy that would change or affect reporting comparisons of 2024 totals to 2023 totals. There were a total of eight (8) accidents this year compared to 12 accidents in 2023. The chart below provides the causes of the accidents. The complete 2024 Injury/Accident reports are available on the Cedar Hill Police Department's website.

Cause	2023	2024
Improper Backing	1	0
Improper Turn	1	0
Driver Distraction/ Inattention	7	8
Weather	1	0
Intentional action to stop imminent threat	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

## Injury Analysis

There was a total of seven (7) personal injuries reported this year compared to 12 in 2023. This represents a 42% percent decrease over 2023. The injury causes are listed in the following chart by type with comparison to the previous year.

	2023	2024
Slipped on Ice or wet	1	0
Slipped, Fell, Tripped (Dry)	1	2
Exposure (All)	4	1
Arrest	2	2
Training	3	1
Other Injury	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>

# Unmanned Aerial Systems Unit

The Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) unit was officially launched in July 2024. Currently, the unit comprises eight pilots, organized across four patrol shifts. Each pilot holds FAA certification and has completed comprehensive training. The adoption of this technology has yielded significant operational benefits for the Police Department, facilitating aerial surveillance during high-risk scenarios, supporting search and rescue efforts, assisting in suspect apprehension, and managing crowd control situations. Furthermore, the utilization of UAS technology enables access to hard-to-reach areas and provides real-time video feeds, which enhances response times, situational awareness, and officer safety, ultimately leading to more effective policing and safer communities. During 2024, the unit responded to 41 calls for service and resulted in 12 assists in apprehensions.



## Forensics Unit

The Cedar Hill Police Department employs civilian support personnel to perform the processing of crime scenes and collect various types of evidence. The Forensic Unit consists of one full-time Forensic Manager, Ashley Zachry. In 2024, Ashley responded to and processed 50 scenes in Cedar Hill and assisted six other agencies in processing 13 scenes outside of Cedar Hill. Ashley also teaches our officers intermediate crime scene classes and conducted 18 demonstrations and presentations at various programs throughout the year. She is also a presenter at various conferences around the state.



## Traffic Unit

In 2024, the Cedar Hill Traffic Unit was comprised of Sergeant Thomas Pritchett, Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Inspectors Lincoln Sweeney and Jim Valenti, and Motor Officers, Don Crymes and Eduardo Cerdá. One of the top priorities of the Traffic Unit is driving education/awareness and keeping our citizens safe. In 2024, the department made 10,580 traffic stops. The Traffic unit accounted for 1,762 of the total traffic stops. There were 481 crash reports completed, and the traffic unit accounted for 185 those reports. Traffic unit personnel responded to 123 traffic complaints, 632 traffic hazards, and 525 motorist assists.



# Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement

The Department Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Inspectors Lincoln Sweeney and Jim Valenti conducted 585 inspections in 2024. They identified 4,035 violations with 65% of the trucks taken out of service for imminent hazard safety violations. Each truck taken out of service and off the roadway potentially saves lives! The national out of service average is 23.4%. Most violations cited were brakes, lighting, tires, wheels and over size and weight. The Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspectors were instrumental in the development of the "No Truck Route" city ordinance. Our Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Inspectors are committed to keeping the roads safe for the Cedar Hill community.





## Police and Community Team

The Police and Community Team (PACT) is dedicated to engaging in crime prevention, problem-solving initiatives, and fostering enduring relationships with our community members. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Sandefur, the 2024 team included Sergeant Novian-Hodgson, Corporal Brackenridge, Officers Rodriguez, Lozano, Williams, and Griffin. PACT collaborates closely with other divisions within the police department and various City departments to address a range of community concerns. The team recognizes the importance of interpersonal connections and works to bridge the gap between Patrol Officers and the community through numerous events, including National Night Out, Youth Summit, back-to-school rallies, meals for seniors, school visits, the Citizens Police Academy, crime watch meetings, Mission Cedar Hill, the Special Olympics, and many other community initiatives. The Cedar Hill Police Department is committed to establishing strong relationships with the residents of Cedar Hill and ensuring their safety.



# Neighborhood Level Service Strategy

In 2024, the Police Department organized four Neighborhood Walks as part of the Neighborhood Level Service Strategy (NLSS). This strategy aims to identify the unique service priorities, crime concerns, and quality of life issues specific to each neighborhood. By focusing on the micro-community level, NLSS addresses the distinct issues and needs of local residents. To gain a comprehensive understanding of neighborhood priorities, these walks included participation from a variety of city and community representatives. The neighborhoods visited this year included Meadow Vista Estates, Heritage at High Pointe, the Fountains at Lake Ridge, Wildwood, and Stone Hill. Since the program's inception, the Police Department has successfully completed 25 Neighborhood Walks, and we look forward to engaging with more community members in additional neighborhoods in 2025.



# Of the Year Awards...



## Operations Supervisor of the Year

Lieutenant LeAnne Hartin is a dedicated, hands-on leader who consistently supports her team, shares knowledge, and seeks growth opportunities for officers. Her commitment to the department and drive to improve performance make her an exemplary and invaluable supervisor.



## Support Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Brandon Woodall exemplifies dedication, professionalism, and calm leadership. A knowledgeable and reliable resource, he is always willing to assist others and goes above and beyond to ensure the job is done right. His presence strengthens our team and reflects the highest standards of law enforcement service.



## Professional Staff Member of the Year

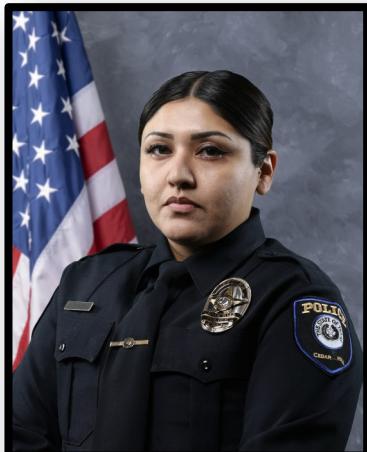
Ashley Zachry brings passion, precision, and positivity to every crime scene. Her detailed documentation strengthens cases, and her enthusiasm is evident from the moment she arrives. Always eager to help and teach, Ashley's dedication to crime scene processing makes her an invaluable and uplifting presence within the department.

# Of the Year Awards...

## Rookie Officers of the Year

Officer Lizette Andrade has exceeded rookie expectations through her strong work ethic and willingness to learn.

Her accountability, productivity, and commitment to growth make her a valuable team player.



Officer DeSean Cooper is a proactive, detail-oriented officer who brings energy, and positivity to every shift.

His responsiveness, growth, and enthusiasm make him a valued and reliable member of the team.



## Operations Officer of the Year

K-9 Officer Rual Pedraza is a natural leader who leads by example with integrity, professionalism, and dedication. His work ethic and commitment to improving both himself and the department make him a rare and invaluable asset to the team.



## Support Officer of the Year

Officer James Valenti is a dedicated professional known for his strong work ethic, traffic expertise, and upbeat attitude. Always ready to help and take on extra duties, his positivity and reliability make him an invaluable and uplifting presence within the department.

# Citizens Police Academy

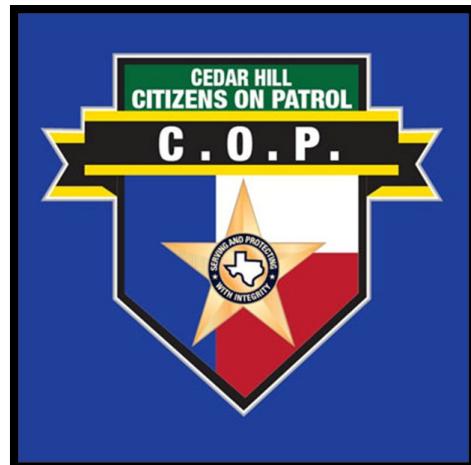
In 1997, Cedar Hill started the Citizens Police Academy (CPA). The CPA allows our citizens to go through an 8-week course on how our police department operates. In 2024, we held our 36th and 37th Citizens Police Academies and had 25 graduates from those classes. Those who graduate from the Academy have the option to become Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) members who volunteer their time to help the police department with many different activities such as the Youth Summit. In 2024, there were 55 active CPAAA members. The CPAAA members also raise money to purchase items for the police department such as a laptop for the training room and other items needed by the department that are not in the annual budget. They help keep our department members in good spirits by decorating the police station

during holidays and purchasing snacks throughout the year. CPAAA members volunteered 8,562 hours of their time in 2024 serving our community.



# Citizens on Patrol

Our Citizens on Patrol (COP) program was established with the support of members from the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. To become a member of COP, individuals are required to undergo additional training and participate in ride-alongs with police officers. By the end of 2024, there were 28 active COP members. These members utilize several vehicles to enhance visibility and support patrol officers, assist with handicap parking enforcement, and provide traffic direction at special events and food distribution initiatives. In 2024, COP members contributed a remarkable 6,241 volunteer hours and traveled 11,101 miles in their patrol efforts. To date, they have covered over 127,000 miles while patrolling the city. COP members also participated in various community events, including Scare on the Square and the CHPD Youth Summit. Notably, they dedicated their time assisting in delivering meals to homebound elderly residents in our city.





# CEDAR HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHPD

“Serving and Protecting with Integrity”

## Compassionate

Concern and caring  
for our community

## Honest

Integrity and truth  
in all actions

## Professional

In everything we do

## Dedicated

To building  
relationships that  
promote trust and  
respect

## VISION

To be a premier law enforcement agency  
that is trusted and respected by all to make  
Cedar Hill the safest community in Texas



## MISSION

To provide the highest quality of service that  
promotes and maintains a safe environment in  
partnership with the community consistent  
with our values





**Cedar Hill Police Department**

*“A state accredited law enforcement agency”*  
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