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NEWS RELEASE

BILLY PHELPS, CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN, NAMED KLC CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

LOUISVILLE, KY- Morgantown Chief of Police Billy Phelps was named by a panel of his peers as the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) City Employee of the Year.

Presented Friday, September 17 at the 2010 KLC Conference & Expo in Louisville, Ky., the award honors outstanding workmanship, organization, employee innovation and excellence in local governance and brings recognition to city employees who perform their duties at a distinguished level to improve their local government and community.

Chief Phelps was nominated by Morgantown Mayor Eva Hawes, who describes him as someone who leads by example. In his time as chief, the police department size has doubled. Chief Phelps rewrote the Police Department policies and procedures handbook, encouraged his officers to get involved in community organizations and he created an outreach program to the Hispanic community. Mayor Hawes credits Chief Phelps with bringing leadership and credibility to the Morgantown Police Department, although she states that he never takes credit for anything and always praises the city and his officers for a job well done.

Mayor Hawes complimented the chief saying, "He has changed the way our council and local boards think about police work. He leads by example and when he gives directives he follows those directives and expects nothing less from anyone in the department."

This is the second year for the new KLC City Employee of the Year award which was created to recognize and honor city employees of the highest caliber. Last year's recipient was Paducah City Engineer/Public Works Director Rick Murphy.

Founded in 1927, the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) is a membership organization of more than 380 cities across the Commonwealth. A staff of 80, headquartered in Lexington, with offices in Frankfort, provides legislative advocacy, legal, financial, policy and development, technology, training and online training.



Chief Phelps (left) accepts the KLC City Official of the Year Award from KLC Executive Director, Neil Hackworth.