

For Immediate Release

June 11, 2024

Hochatown Police Department is Officially Certified by CLEET

(Hochatown, OK) The Town of Hochatown is one step closer to their goal of establishing a local police department for the recently incorporated township. The municipality has successfully met all the certification criteria of the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) and received the official stamp of approval by the State of Oklahoma to establish a municipal police department in Southeast Oklahoma's newest town. The certification was presented to the new Hochatown Police Department by Vonnie Houser, CLEET field representative for the State of Oklahoma, and states that it represents a dedication to excellence in law enforcement and a commitment to providing high-quality public service to its residents and visitors.

Hochatown Mayor Dian Jordan was on hand at Hochatown Town Hall to cut the ribbon on the town's newest department and was joined by Trustees Howard Haggard, Todd McDaniel, and Brenda Walters, along with Town Treasurer Charles Ward and Town Administrator Adam Vossen. Vossen thanked the public for their "love and care throughout this entire process" and said, "It's been a long time coming and we are excited to share this historic day with you."

When interviewed following the event, Mayor Jordan said, "One of the primary decisions to incorporate was to have the autonomy to create a culture of public safety for our community, our residents, and our tourists. We have enjoyed a long history of cooperation and help with many jurisdictional agencies. Hochatown is pleased to soon offer mutual aid to all the agencies that have helped us keep our community a safe and fun place for families to visit. Now that we have a CLEET certified police department, we will soon be advertising for a police chief."

Town officials were joined by several Hochatown residents, as well as various law enforcement officers and representatives from local civic organizations to help commemorate the landmark occasion. Among the organizations represented were the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Choctaw Lighthorse Police, McCurtain County Sheriff's Office, McCurtain County EMS, McCurtain County Tourism Authority, Hochatown Volunteer Fire Department, park rangers from nearby Beavers Bend State Park, and members of the local news media.