



**Timothy Burton**  
*Chief of Police*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**DATE: June 28, 2010**

**TYPE OF INCIDENT: Announcing First Session of new Odessa Police Academy**

The Odessa Police Department is pleased to announce the start date for the first Odessa Police Academy which will begin August 2, 2010. The academy will be 20 weeks long with recruits graduating on December 17, 2010. Since obtaining the Academy License from Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) in March, the Odessa Police Department has been completing all the necessary preparations for running a successful academy. This includes identifying Odessa Police Department instructors and getting lesson plans completed as well as coordinating with Odessa College for the use of their classrooms, resources and staff to assist in making this an exceptional Academy. With the cooperation and assistance of Odessa College, successful graduates of the Academy can receive 20 hours of college credit that could be applied towards an Associate in Applied Science Degree for Criminal Justice.

Persons interested in attending this academy must be employed by or sponsored by a law enforcement agency that is willing to sign the required sponsorship forms. Sponsorship is for persons not currently employed by a law enforcement agency but who would still like to attend an Academy as a way to become qualified to be hired as an officer upon graduation and after passing the State Test. Sponsorship requires that a person meet minimum TCLEOSE qualifications to attend an Academy and at the Odessa Police Academy this must be verified by an agency willing to sign the sponsorship forms indicating that person has been checked and qualifies to attend. If a person meets the qualifications to attend the academy and is not sponsored by another agency, the Odessa Police Department will consider sponsorship on a case by case basis, even though they will not be a Police Department Employee. If you would like more information you can contact any of the below people, but to obtain a registration packet you must contact Sgt. Jerry Harvell from the Odessa Police Department or the Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Department of Odessa College.

**Sgt. Jerry Harvell**  
Training Coordinator  
432-335-3309 or 432-335-4620  
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**John Marshall**  
HR/Personnel Specialist  
Odessa Police Department  
432-335-3323

**City of Odessa**  
HR/Personnel Department  
432-335-3200

**Odessa College**  
Law Enforcement Department  
432-335-6500 or 432-335-6505

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