



# Auburn Police Department

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## AUBURN POLICE CHIEF NAMED MAINE'S CHIEF OF THE YEAR

AUBURN, ME – On Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, Auburn Police Chief Phillip L. Crowell Jr. was named 2017 Chief of the Year by the Maine Chiefs of Police Association at its annual awards banquet in South Portland.

Crowell, a 24 year veteran of the Auburn Police Department was credited for his hard work and perseverance in several areas that have brought positive outcomes to Maine's Law Enforcement Community. Crowell was the driving force behind the new Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, which will make state accreditation very attainable for all Maine Law Enforcement agencies. This effort will be the proof that Maine accredited agencies are meeting the highest standards of professional excellence and accountability.

Chief Crowell has been responsible for many initiatives which have ranked the Auburn Police Department among the best in the State. He initiated the opening of the PAL (Police Activities League) Center, which serves 125 children, started Auburn's Citizen Police Academy and the first Somali Citizens Academy, and led the Auburn Police Department through their initial international accreditation process. The agency is the first department in Maine to be recognized with "Gold Standard Accreditation".

He has received numerous awards recognizing his efforts to enhance law enforcement efforts which include: "Officer of the Year" by the National Exchange Club, the City of Auburn's "Vision Award", 2014 Champion for Maine Children Award, the Public Leadership Award by the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce and Excellence in Aging Award by the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging for his efforts in establishing a Silver Alert System in the State of Maine.

He is actively involved with human trafficking initiatives locally and internationally, serving as a board member on the Foundation for Hope and Grace, Co-Founder of the Not Here - Justice in Action Network working to provide education and resources for at-risk children, and a member of the Maine Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force. The Auburn Police Department received the Civil Rights Award from the International Chiefs of Police Association for these efforts.

Chief Crowell said, "the Maine Chiefs of Police Association is an amazing organization for law enforcement agencies in the State of Maine and to be recognized by my colleagues is very humbling". He further stated, "I

am fortunate to have outstanding people within the police department who serve the citizen's of Auburn. Law enforcement face challenges every day and my wife and family knows firsthand these impacts and for this they are my true champions. The City of Auburn has provided me with incredible opportunities and I am blessed to be able to serve my community. This recognition as Chief of the Year is not just for me but also for my staff, family, and community – without them I couldn't do what I do."



Chief Crowell with MCOPA Executive Director Robert Schwartz