

2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

Name of Municipality Nominated City of Delray Beach
Nominated by City of Delray Beach
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Municipality Nominated _____
Nominated Project _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Title _____ Department _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

[OVER]

Contact Person

The following person will be the main contact if your city's nominee is selected as a finalist.

Please print or type.

Name Douglas E. Smith

Title Assistant City Manager

Government City of Delray Beach

Address 100 NW 1 Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444

Telephone Number 561-243-7010 Fax 561-243-7199

E-mail Address smithd@ci.delray-beach.fl.us

Nomination Certification

This nomination has been voted on and approved by a majority of the city council/commission.

Signed Charles D. Nubin, CMC
City Clerk

The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

Narrative

In the narrative, please be clear and concise, using the Award Criteria to support the selection of your nominee. Please type (or print in black ink), up to 1,200 words, double-spaced on white 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

Please include a word count: 1200
Number of words

Supportive Information

Up to 10 pages of supportive information (newspaper clippings, photographs, letters from constituents, etc.), on 8-1/2" x 11" paper (single-sided) may be provided. Please do not include videotapes, DVDs, CDs or Power-Point presentations.

Submit nominations by **August 10, 2007**:

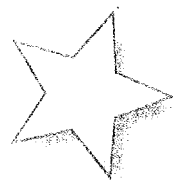
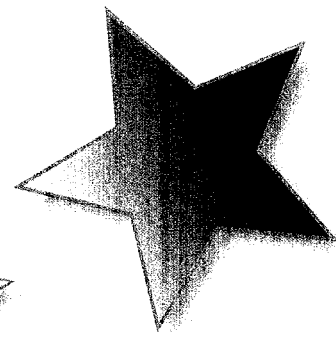
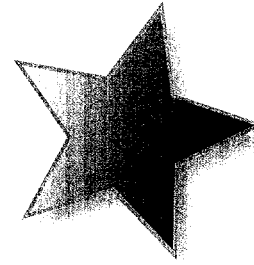
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards
City Of Excellence Award – Nomination Narrative**

City of Delray Beach

Background

The City of Delray Beach was incorporated in 1927 by joining the City of Delray with the Town of Delray Beach. The City has an estimated population of more than 64,000. Downtown Delray Beach struggled in the 1980's with many vacant storefronts. After a renaissance in the early 1990's, downtown is now a thriving shopping, dining, cultural, and entertainment district with numerous special events.

Governance/Administration

The achievements of City Departments display efficiency and effectiveness. The Fire Department maintains an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 2 rating and the Police Department is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. The Parks and Recreation Department is one of 66 agencies that have received national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

The City includes performance measures in the annual budget process that provide a tool for measuring performance and outcomes, which allows for continuing improvement in the provision of City services.

City Leadership

Effective, stable leadership has contributed to the City's success. The Mayor and Commission worked diligently to lead the City's renaissance in the 1990's and they have continued to work diligently with the community and City staff to provide the best possible services for the community. The City Manager has served for 17 years building an effective and cooperative department head team which was evident in the response to Hurricane Wilma in 2005. The response involved the combined efforts of all City Departments to respond to the storm and restore services.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Delray Beach displays a high level of intergovernmental cooperation and partners with various governmental entities. The City provides approximately \$1.8 million annually in direct assistance to low-income households through the Community Development Block Grant and other programs.

The City built a partnership with Atlantic Community High School for the Criminal Justice Academy program which provides a foundation for students who may be interested in a law enforcement career. The City assigns an officer to run the program (which had over 200 students last year). The Police Department currently employs three individuals who went through the academy.

City elected officials or staff serve on boards or committees with the Florida League of Cities, Palm Beach County League of Cities, Governor's Century Commission, the County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Intergovernmental Coordination Issues Forum for the County.

Citizen Outreach and Involvement

Citizen involvement is a hallmark of Delray Beach. The City was recognized as an All-America City in 1993 and 2001 and was a finalist in the 1998 competition. In 1993 the citizens were honored for their community neighborhood efforts, school improvement initiatives and the culture and arts complex. The 2001 award honored the citizens of Delray Beach for their Community Neighbors Helping program, the Youth Enrichment Vocation program and the Village Academy.

One venue for citizen participation is the Annual Town Hall Meeting. This past year, the meeting included a roundtable discussion for citizen input which provided for meaningful dialogue between citizens and staff. Opportunities for participation in the City provide a sense of "cityhood" with programs such as Community Dinners, the Neighborhood Advisory Council, and efforts to solicit input including charrettes for our downtown master plan. Efforts are also made to reach out to the community in unique ways including an innovative non-profit academy, resident's academy, and citizen police academies. Communication vehicles include monthly and bi-monthly newsletters, television programming, video streaming of Commission meetings, an AM emergency radio station, and the Speakers Bureau (comprised of City staff). The City's volunteer advisory boards provide many opportunities for citizen involvement.

Our Study Circle program is another opportunity for citizen involvement. These "circles" are discussion groups of 8-10 people from different cultures that allow people who might never meet to explore issues and themselves in a safe atmosphere. Participants in past groups felt the experience was valuable and some said life changing. Relationships were formed and each group plans to stay in touch and tackle community projects together. Our hope is that these circles become "viral" and spread to include thousands of people.

Technology

The City was awarded first place for our population category in the 2005 and 2006 Digital Cities Surveys by the Center for Digital Government. Our website provides residents with important information on City services and provides a connection to live video streaming of City Commission regular meetings. The e-mail subscription service allows residents to receive updated City information. The Information Technology Division has implemented an interactive voice response system, allowing for utility customers to view their account information and make payments by phone and on the website. The system also allows for contractors with building permits to schedule inspections and for inspectors to record inspection results either by telephone or through the website.

The City negotiated a cable franchise agreement and an institutional network agreement, which provides fiber optic services to remote City sites. This assisted employees by allowing for computer network access at remote locations.

Innovative Programs and Services

One of the City Commission's goals is to provide "Quality Educational Opportunities." An innovative program started by the City, which addresses this goal is the Delray Beach Youth Vocational Charter School. The school, started by the Delray Beach Police Department, has taken dozens of at-risk-youth off the streets and into a caring educational environment. The program has been extremely successful and won the Thomas H. Muehlenbeck Award for Excellence in Local Government from the Innovation Groups (now named the Alliance for Innovation) in 2006.

Another goal of the Commission is to have “Quality Neighborhoods Where People Want to Live.” The City has been a leader in addressing the affordable housing issue. The City and the Community Redevelopment Agency formed the Delray Beach Community Land Trust (CLT), which has the power to buy land or buildings suitable for rehabilitation. The CLT owns the land but the dwellings are sold to low and moderate income residents with resell restrictions that ensure that the homes remain affordable. The CLT currently has seven homeowners, six in the process of closing, and fifteen units under construction.

The Commission also approved amendments to the City’s Development Regulations which increased incentives for developers to provide workforce housing.

Our innovative Clean City Initiative has helped to improve the appearance of the City through Code Enforcement and working with residents.

Fiscal Management

The City manages public funds in an exceptional manner. The City’s ad valorem tax rate was decreased for fiscal year 2006-2007 after not being increased since 2000-2001. The City continues to receive unqualified audit opinions indicating accountable, professional management. The City has received the GFOA awards for Budget Presentation for 21 consecutive years and for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 23 consecutive years. Within 10 months after Hurricane Wilma, the City submitted over \$9.5 million in FEMA claims and received over \$9 million in reimbursement.

Regarding communication on City’s finances, information is available on the City website and is included in City newsletters, including the annual report newsletter. The Finance Department issued the City’s first Financial Trends Monitoring Report in 2006, which contains

ten years of historical financial information displayed in a graphic format in order to visually evaluate trends.