

2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶ Nomination Form

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

FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD
Name of Municipality Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

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

MAYOR OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated Mayor Karl N. Flagg
Nominated by City of Palatka
(Name of City/Town/Village)

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Title _____ Department _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CLERK OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY FINANCE OFFICIAL (DIRECTOR OR OFFICER) OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
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 Betsy Driggers

Title City Clerk

Government City of Palatka

Address 201 N. 2nd Street, Palatka, Florida 32177

Telephone Number 386-329-0100 ext. 211 Fax 386-329-0199

E-mail Address betsy@gbso.net

Nomination Certification

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

Signed Betsy J. Driggers
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: 1,199
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**:

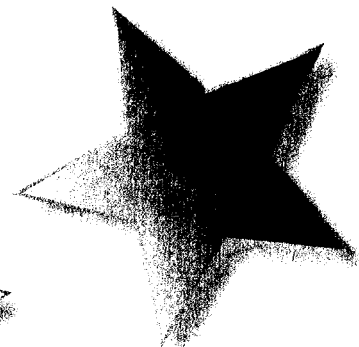
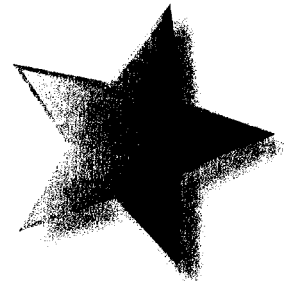
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



Karl N. Flagg – Mayor of the Year

The Palatka City Commission proudly nominates The Honorable and Reverend Karl Nathaniel Flagg as FLC 2007 Mayor of the Year. Mayor Flagg ran unopposed and was inaugurated as Palatka's first African-American mayor on December 20, 2000. He has been re-elected twice since. Prior to that, he served as a Palatka City Commissioner for five years in the early 1990s.

Mayor Flagg is a native and life-long resident of Palatka. He began preaching church and revival sermons as a licensed youth minister at the age of 11, and was active in school student council activities. He graduated with honors from Palatka Central High School, where he served as 1977 Senior Class President. In addition to studying mid-marketing and management at St. Johns River Community College in Palatka, he graduated from Miami-Dade Community College in 1979 with a degree in Funeral Service Education/Mortuary Science. A licensed mortician, he owns and operates Karl N. Flagg Serenity Memorial Chapel. In addition to his duties as Mayor of Palatka and administrator of his own business, he completed his Pastoral Ministerial Studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Jacksonville in 1991, and is an ordained Baptist Minister. He serves as Pastor of Mt. Tabor First Baptist Church, one of the largest African-American churches in Putnam County, whose congregation recently celebrated his 16th anniversary commemorating his years of service as its pastor. Locally, Mayor Flagg is sometimes referred to as the "Three M's" – The Mayor, Minister and Mortician. Mayor Flagg and his wife, Terri, have two daughters, Karla and Kandyce.

His past civic service includes volunteer fireman and Palatka Code Enforcement Board member, and trustee of both the American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. Other service affiliations include Director of United Way of Putnam County, Chairman of Putnam Community Medical Center Board, past Director of Capital City Bank, Putnam County YMCA Board of Directors, Past President of Greater Palatka Ministerial Association, and member of the Putnam County Interdenominational Minister's Alliance. His professional affiliations include the Florida Funeral Director's Association, Florida Mortician's Association, National Funeral Director's Association, and Independent Funeral Directors of Florida.

Locally, his community affiliations include the Tourist Development Council, Economic Development Council, Vice Chairman of Putnam County Development Authority, Haven Hospice of the Lakes Board of Trustees, Mayor's/Superintendent's Mentoring Initiative, G-P Community Advisory Council, Palatka Municipal Airport Advisory Board, African-American Cultural Arts Societies of both Putnam County and Palm Coast, and service as advisor to numerous other local civic groups. He is a member of the Florida Mayor's Association and Florida Black Caucus. We have attached his resume' for other particulars on past service and career development.

Mayor Flagg works tirelessly not only for the betterment of the City of Palatka, but also for Putnam County and Northeast Florida. Examples of his leadership are numerous and well-known; he serves as this community's leader every minute of every day. His initiative is our initiative; he inspires those around him to reach greater heights of achievement and excellence. He is a natural leader that others look to first for

solutions and guidance. One recent example of his leadership came during the 2004 hurricane season, in which every county in the State of Florida was declared a disaster area by the Federal Government, and some more than once -- including Putnam County. Mayor Flagg took charge and pulled all the mayors of the various Putnam County municipalities together to meet with Putnam County Emergency Management Services, Putnam County School Board Representatives, Palatka Housing Authority and Palatka Gas Authority representatives to coordinate disaster preparedness for all of Putnam County. If this had not been done, Putnam County businesses and residents would have suffered from exceedingly more chaos, confusion and hardship than they did in the aftermath of these powerful and destructive hurricanes during this unprecedented storm season. During these storms he rotated between his home, family, business, church and Palatka's Emergency Operations Center, monitoring these storms' progress and the ensuing damages, alongside public safety coordinators. Both during and after the storms he put out disaster proclamations and press releases, organized telephone conferences and meetings, and otherwise kept the lines of communication open between various government entities, both local and state, and its citizens. This is not something he had to do, but he undertook the task willingly as a community leader.

Mayor Flagg's daily life is hectic and full while he switches from Mayor to Minister to Mortician, and then to brother, husband, father, friend, and mentor in between. He puts a personal touch on his dealings with citizens, and has been known to compose original and heartfelt poetry to commemorate the lives of departed citizens, which he presents to family members as a cherished and lasting tribute to their loved one.

Mayor Flagg stands at the forefront of this entire county's planning initiatives to ensure that the community's current and future needs are being met, and that everyone is communicating with each other. He is responsive to the needs and requests of all citizens and does his best to attend every community function he can in order to make each and every citizen, organization or agency feel that they are a part of the City of Palatka. As Mayor, he is involved with all departments, and is the first to 'roll up his sleeves' and do whatever it takes to get any task, no matter how menial or great, accomplished. He is an eloquent speaker and can deliver inspiration at the drop of a hat, and is one of the best representatives and delegates Palatka could have.

The American Heritage Dictionary's definition of "leadership" is *"The capacity to be a leader; the ability to lead."* This same dictionary defines "leader" as, *"One who leads others along a way; one who guides. One in charge or in command of others. One who has an influential voice in politics. **The foremost horse or other draft animal in a harnessed team.**"* In short, Mayor Flagg is the "foremost horse" in the "harnessed team" of professionals and community leaders in Putnam County. Even better, he helped 'harness' all of Putnam County's politicians, churches, community professionals, leaders and civic organizations into one cohesive team through the organization of quarterly LOGIC (Local Government in Cooperation) meetings. He is the person the citizens, politicians and community leaders of not only Palatka, but all the surrounding communities, look to for guidance and leadership.

Mayor Flagg is always in a proactive mode and is always looking for ways to make life richer and fuller for citizens of our rural community. He is motivated by his faith and a commitment to creating a better quality of life for everyone. He is decisive

and a true leader in every sense of the word. Both former Governor Jeb Bush and President George W. Bush recognized these qualities in him when both bestowed upon him their respective "Thousand Points of Light" Awards. He is one of only a few people in the entire country to have received both of these awards.

Please give the highest favorable consideration to our nomination of our Mayor, the Honorable and Reverend Karl N. Flagg, as 2007 Mayor of the Year.

1,199 words