

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 _____
Nominated by _____
(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 MARTIN P. BLACK
Nominated by CITY OF VENICE
(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 PAM JOHNSON

Title Public Information Officer

Government CITY OF VENICE

Address 401 W. VENICE AVE, Venice FL 34285

Telephone Number (941) 486-2626 x2003 Fax (941) 480-3031

E-mail Address pjohnso@ci.venice.fl.us

Nomination Certification

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

Signed *Rori Stelzer*

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: 595
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:**

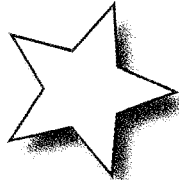
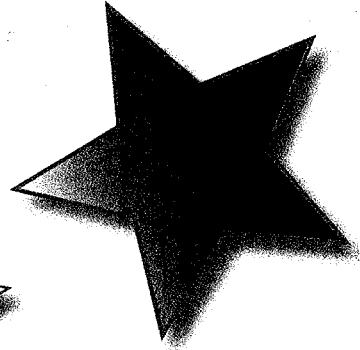
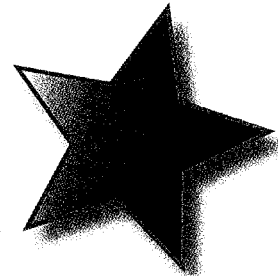
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



Florida League of Cities Excellence Awards

Nomination for City Manager of the Year: Martin P. Black, City of Venice

Narrative: 595 words

On May 22, 2007, the City of Venice Mayor and City Council voted unanimously to nominate City Manager Martin P. Black for the honor of the City Manager of the Year Award. It is with pride and pleasure we submit his considerable qualifications for this prestigious award.

Last year, after significant conflict between the city of Venice and Sarasota County regarding annexation and growth in the area, the county issued a challenge to its municipalities. The challenge was to create and finalize a joint-planning agreement in three months. Immediately, City Manager Black rose to the occasion. He took **initiative** by putting all other projects on the back burner, created a joint planning agreement negotiation team and spent intensive time studying and negotiating a planning agreement with county staff. While other cities in the county dealt with the county's challenge in their own ways, due to Mr. Black's **professionalism** and **sound judgment**, the City of Venice was the only one to achieve the end goal of striking a 25-year agreement that meets the needs of the citizens of both the city and the county.

The plan is the first of its kind in the state, and probably one of the few if not the only one of its kind in the nation. Mr. Black's land-use planning background immediately made him a **leader** during the negotiations, with both city and county staff looking to him for

guidance. His **integrity** allowed him to seek the benefit for the majority of citizens in the area, to look at the big picture, and not let the negotiations turn into a turf war.

Because of his **innovative** and creative **professionalism**, the plan created a mapped area showing where there might be land annexed into the city in the future, and where land would remain in the county. It showed land uses acceptable to both entities and which entity would provide which services. He displayed a **commitment** to identifying and implementing win/win strategies during these negotiations.

Throughout this time, Mr. Black encouraged **citizen involvement** in the process, as exemplified by the large turnout of people from various backgrounds in the community to learn about and speak about the elements in the possible agreement. Because he has spent a substantial amount of time establishing positive **citizen relations**, many people went directly to Mr. Black to have questions answered or make suggestions regarding the project.

Above all else, the unique planning agreement serves the citizens of Venice and Sarasota County in a cooperative effort that allows for greater efficiency of government and clarifies reasonable expectations for the area's future growth.

Another challenge Black faced this year, as did all city administrators in Florida, was the consequences of state tax reforms to the city budget. Early on Black chose to be proactive and showed **initiative** by tightening the budget. He made some **hard**

decisions, such as cutting staff, encouraging city council to be less charitable with city funds, and finding **innovative** ways to save money.

Besides recognition for his leadership by the Venice mayor and city council, and by Sarasota County Commissioners (see attachments), Black received the **Picot B. Floyd Public Service Leadership Award from the Suncoast Chapter of American Society for Public Administration** on June 29. ASPA is one of the **professional organizations** with which he is involved and which appreciates his expertise and active membership.

Mr. Black's leadership and vision have effectively influenced the quality of life for current and future residents of **Venice**.