

**FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES
FLORIDA CITIES OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
CITY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR**

**Nomination of John G. Hubbard
City of Dunedin**

Judgment

John Hubbard has been City Attorney for the City of Dunedin since 1974. He practices what could be described as "preventative law" for the city, with the goal of protecting the city and the City Commission from potential litigation and ill-advised courses of action. From the dais, Mr. Hubbard acts as parliamentarian, advisor and sounding board, assisting the City Commission through a myriad of complex and potentially consequential decisions and actions.

Initiative

John Hubbard has long been an innovator. An early proponent of the development community paying for its impact on communities, he was instrumental in crafting the ordinances that established impact fees in Florida. He was the lead attorney in the landmark case *City of Dunedin vs. Contractors & Builders Association of Pinellas County*, 312 So. 2d 763 (Florida 2nd DAC 1975), which upheld the legality impact fees. He assisted in the adoption of one of the nation's first tree preservation ordinances in Dunedin, as well as the city's parking lot landscape ordinance. And his Parkland Dedication ordinance is a prime reason that over one-fourth of Dunedin's land mass is designated as recreation and open space. His environmental achievements extend beyond Dunedin, as he was instrumental in the recommendation of the acquisition of Starkey Wilderness Park while serving on the Anclote River Basin Board. More recently, he recognized early that municipal sign ordinances were coming under attack in Florida federal courts and guided his local clients through the development of comprehensive sign ordinance amendments that prevented the legal actions that were being taken against many other Florida cities. Working with cellular providers wishing to locate towers on city property, he has implemented requirements for camouflaging towers and language requiring the providers to remove the towers at their own expense if the technology

changes to make the need for tower obsolete. He has drafted public art ordinances for both the City of Tarpon Springs and the City of Dunedin and is working with the City of Dunedin to update and improve its development codes to reflect the Visioning Process outcomes desired by the public and the City Commission.

As a negotiator, Mr. Hubbard exhibits an impressive range of skills. Among the agreements he has negotiated on behalf of the city are numerous union contracts, a stadium naming rights agreement, land purchases, a contract for law enforcement services with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and several spring training facility agreements with a major league baseball franchise.

Commitment

John Hubbard has been in government service throughout his professional life. In addition to serving the City of Dunedin, he has been City Attorney for the City of Belleair Bluffs (1989 – 2005), the City of Oldsmar (1973 – 1987) and the City of Tarpon Springs (1996 – present). He has also served as City Attorney for Belleair Beach and assisted with rewriting the city charter for the City of Ft. Meyers. He is passionate about his work and has a reputation for speaking out strongly on issues at City Commission meetings, regardless of the potential reaction, exemplifying the adage about “speaking truth to power”.