

Original

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 _____
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 Kevin Lewis
Nominated by City of Deland
(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 Michael Grubosz

Title Special Projects Coordinator

Government City of Deland

Address 120 South Florida Avenue, Deland, FL 32720

Telephone Number 386-626-7110 Fax 386-626-7140

E-mail Address grubosz.m@deland.org

Nomination Certification

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

Signed Kimberly Cline for
Julie Hennessy 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: 679
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:**

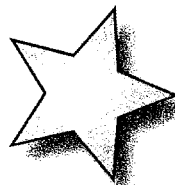
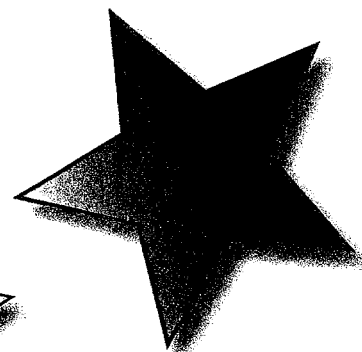
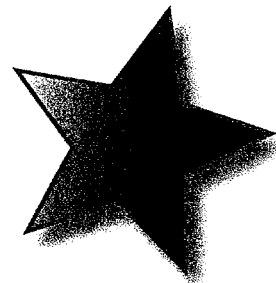
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757





Financial Official of the Year

Kevin Lewis

The City of DeLand is proud to nominate Kevin Lewis as its nominee for Financial Official of the Year. Mr. Lewis has been an employee of the City of DeLand for 19 years. His career path is an outstanding model of the value of promotion from within an organization. His career began as an enterprise fund accountant in 1988. In 1990, he was named the assistant to the City's first Finance Director. He served in that capacity for over a decade before being named as the City's second Finance Director in 2002. Kevin's technical and leadership skills have been an invaluable asset to the City in a time where funding for growth is a challenge due to ever changing external conditions, particularly the uncertainty of tax reform.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting, certification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is also a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO). The CPFO certification is a distinguished honor for public finance officials held by only a select group of professionals. The certification stands for proficiency and specialty within the profession. Only 281 CPFO designations have been awarded nationwide. His success as finance director for the last five years is in no small part due to his strong motivation to improve his knowledge and skills in government finance.

Above and beyond managing the City's \$90 million budget, Kevin is in charge of developing, implementing and maintaining a comprehensive financial management system for the City including centralized accounting and budgetary reporting. He also oversees purchasing, accounts payable and payroll processing, budgetary preparation and compliance, cash and debt management, grants and fixed asset administration, meter reading and billing for water and sewer, solid waste and recycling

collection services, storm water management and property rentals for the City. Over the last several years, the City has funded a number of major capital projects totaling \$70,196,225. Kevin's expertise was invaluable in evaluating the various financing options and proposals insuring that the interest rates paid by our citizens were the lowest possible and that the debt service was well within the City's ability to pay.

Kevin and his staff of nineteen dedicated professionals have received the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for twenty-three consecutive years. The department has also received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award every fiscal year since 2003-2004.

Additionally, in the past year Kevin has led the City on various projects, including:

- Implementing online bill pay for utility customers, allowing customers to access information about their utility account as well as pay the bill at the same time;
- Implementing in-house and online credit card payments;
- Implementing automated bank payments for utility customers;
- Implementing electronic billing of utility bills;
- Moving t-hangar leases, utility billing, telephone payments and lockbox to automatic clearing house (ACH) payments;
- Establishing a floating credit card program to increase the City's financial rebate from the card issuer;
- Improving the City's ability to obtain and properly administer complex grants;
- Implementing radio read water meter system on 21,747 accounts to replace old manual read meters resulting in, (i) a much less labor intensive process;(ii) more accurate reporting of consumption thereby reducing unbilled water usage; and(iii) increasing revenues and reducing costs;

- Offering several budget alternatives and alternate sources of revenue to assist the City Commission address the proposed and actual impacts of property tax reduction and assisted the City in positioning itself for a future of less ad valorem revenue;
- Assisted in the establishment of a voluntary program for citizens to donate local charitable organizations where funding was significantly reduced by the City through tax reform by adding a preset donation to their water bill.

Kevin Lewis has the experience, technical skills, and knowledge that make him a well qualified candidate for the Florida League of Cities Financial Official of the Year 2007. Kevin has made the City more efficient in many ways and will continue to lead the finance department of the City of DeLand in the right direction for years to come.