

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(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 Charles F. Dodge  
Nominated by City of Pembroke Pines  
(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]

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

Please print or type.

Name Gordon J. Keibler

Title Assistant City Manager

Government City of Pembroke Pines

Address 10100 Pines Boulevard, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026

Telephone Number 954-431-4884 Fax 954-437-1149

E-mail Address gkeibler@ppines.com

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

Signed   
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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of words

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**:

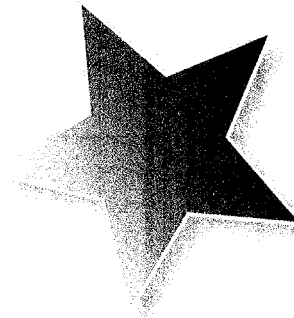
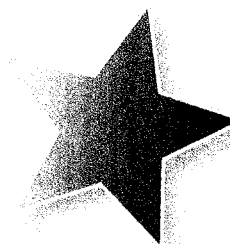
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**Florida League of Cities  
2007 City Manager of the Year Award**

**City Manager Charles F. Dodge  
Nominated by the City of Pembroke Pines**

*These awards will be given to a city manager, city clerk, city attorney, and city finance official for their exemplary efforts on behalf of their city during the past year. Nominations for the above awards must be made by a majority vote of the nominees' city council/commission. In the 1200 word narrative and supportive materials, show how the official has displayed excellence in these areas: Judgment, Initiative, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism, Commitment, Citizen Relations.*

1220

A Pembroke Pines municipal employee for 30 years, Charles Dodge has been City Manager for the past 18. Dodge works closely with all sectors – citizens, nonprofit agencies, educational institutions, businesses, regional organizations, and County, State and Federal government – to improve the quality of life in Pembroke Pines and throughout the region. His low-key approach belies an exemplary ability to think “out of the box,” build coalitions, shape innovative financing packages and thereby creatively address community challenges. Thanks in part to Dodge’s leadership, Pembroke Pines was named an All-America City in 2004 by the National Civic League and was spotlighted last week as one of only four Florida communities on the *Money/CNN* listing of “Best Places to Live” in America..

Over the past decade, our population doubled to 151,000. This growth challenged city government to improve infrastructure, alleviate school crowding and expand services, cultural and educational resources.

Dodge has played a unique role in planning, funding, recruiting partners, and developing major community–improvement projects during this period, including:

- Building the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center – with unique affordable housing, transportation and myriad medical, wellness and enrichment programs -- reaching beyond Pembroke Pines to serve southwest Broward County,
- Establishing the first tuition-free, municipally-developed and managed Charter School System,
- Providing new educational resources for 10,000 students of all ages at Academic Village – an 80-acre campus with a high school, 2- and 4-year colleges, performing arts center, regional library, sports complex and wetlands park, and
- Opening the first FSU Municipal Charter Elementary Professional Development School and Center for Children with Autism for 600 students.

Beyond establishing these model programs, Dodge made exemplary efforts on behalf of the city during the past year:

**Affordable housing complex for seniors opens.** To meet the strong demand for affordable senior housing, Pembroke Pines just opened its second complex of 394 affordable rental apartments for people 55 and older, tripling the units owned, managed and rented to seniors by the City. Complementing the 190 units located at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, the new apartments are located in the Forman Human Services Park, a large State-owned parcel master-planned in partnership with Department of Children & Families and managed by the City. This project addresses myriad regional needs and is an important component of the redevelopment of this blighted former State mental hospital property. *This project spotlights Dodge's initiative, innovation and*

*collaborative talents, spotlighting his ability to tackle community challenges and shape long-term solutions.*

**466-acre wetland nature preserve expands in 2005.** To stem the loss of Florida wetlands to development, the City established a wetlands mitigation bank combining parcels purchased and donated by developers to form a significant restored wetlands and recreation area. Chapel Trail Nature Preserve provides sustainable habitat and cleans water as it seeps into the aquifer. The Preserve offers an Environmental/Interpretive Center, a boardwalk and canoe rentals. *The first of its kind in Florida, Dodge pioneered the Wetlands Bank method of combining and restoring adjacent parcels to create a significant ecosystem. The City purchased 9 acres last summer and is restoring that habitat to wetland, upland hammock and an observation gazebo.*

**City begins site work for vibrant City Center** . In 2002, the Commission purchased a 133-acre property adjacent to City Hall with frontage on Pines Boulevard, our “main street.” Then zoned commercial and industrial, the Commission wanted to prevent piecemeal development and community fragmentation. Having completed 12 charrettes and the master-planning process, the project reached a milestone in August 2006, when excavation began and the Commission approved the Affordable Housing component. City Center will offer affordable residential, commercial, parkland, a new Civic Center and a central square – creating a people-oriented downtown. The project is projected to bring \$170 million in additional revenues to the City over 30 years. *Thanks to Dodge’s ability to translate the Commission’s vision, this project will allow the City to shape its*

*downtown. Dodge's hands-on leadership, and the appointment of a volunteer Streetscape Committee this year, will ensure that City Center reflects the needs and vision of the entire community.*

**First Phase of \$100 million Building Our Future General Obligation Bond Projects**

**Complete.** In 2005, Pembroke Pines residents passed the Building Our Future bond.

The phased bond will fund:

- Street & Traffic Improvements
- Parks Facilities
- Visual Arts Center
- Community Centers with Seniors/Youth Programming
- Open Space Acquisition
- Economic Development

*Dodge worked with Commissioners and staff to shape a plan to raise funds for capital projects through this low-interest bond. In just three months, public education teams of Commissioners, the Mayor and staff presented the plan to voters, who passed it decisively. Phase 1, with \$55 million in projects, will be completed over the next year.*

**Expanded local emergency response and recovery capability.** Recently, Hurricane Wilma tore through Pembroke Pines. The City and County lost power and communications, suffering damage to thousands of structures. Streets were choked with debris. Fuel and generators to power wastewater treatment were in short supply. A significant challenge for the general population, this was a critical threat to the hundreds

of seniors who live in the City's apartment towers and the 15,000-resident Century Village. Once the recovery was complete, the City mobilized, completing projects to improve response and recovery capability:

- Won a State matching grant to help install an emergency generator at the wastewater plant,
- Constructed a field kitchen capable of serving 20,000 meals daily in an emergency (and preparing meals for seniors and the Charter Schools)
- Purchased solar traffic signals and portable generators
- Increased backup fuel storage capacity
- Fortified key facilities
- Purchased a radio station to ensure uninterrupted communications
- Negotiated contracts with outside vendors for ice, water distribution and debris removal if necessary.

**Pembroke Pines Charter Schools Score A+ in 2006.** In June, every school in the Pembroke Pines Charter School System received an A+ grade on the Governor's Report Card. The Charter School System was founded in 1997 in response to an overburdened County School District that could not build schools fast enough to handle our influx of children. The City offered to build schools and lease them back, but the District declined. Pembroke Pines then established a Charter School System, which now has 5,200 students, from elementary through high school. The City constructed 18 buildings on four parcels, hired hundreds of teachers and staff, developed curriculum, and established partnerships with cultural, academic and government institutions. It is the most

successful smaller-learning community alternative in Florida and received the 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award in the national US Conference of Mayors' City Livability competition. One competition judge observed, "This is a very creative program that addresses a very serious societal problem - a good example of thinking outside the box. There was a tremendous mobilization of resources with an extremely successful result." *With the Commission as school board, Dodge:*

*-Worked with legislators to amend legislation to allow a municipality to establish charter schools.*

*-Shaped an innovative Strategic Financing Plan that ensured that other Broward County school children did not lose out. The Charter Schools receive a per-student allocation from the State and operate on about 45% of what the local district spends.*

*-Took a leadership role: the City Manager is superintendent.*

*-Negotiated partnerships with Florida International University, Broward County Library and Cultural Council, and Broward Community College.*

*-Launched the first City-run FSU Charter Elementary Professional Development lab school, with special programs for children with autism.*