

2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program

Original

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or

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 Kenneth W. Parker
Nominated by City of Port Orange
(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]

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 Don Robinson

Title Management Intern

Government City of Port Orange

Address 1000 City Center Circle, Port Orange, FL 32129

Telephone Number 386-506-5501 Fax 386-756-5208

E-mail Address drobinson@port-orange.org

Nomination Certification

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

Signed Shirley M. Kelly
Deputy 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: 1191
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:**

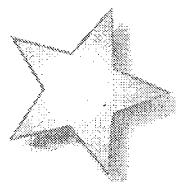
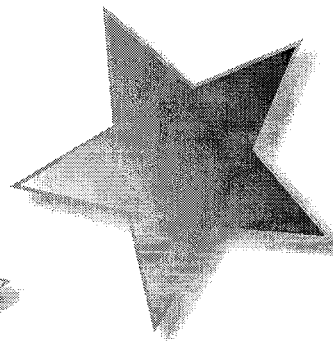
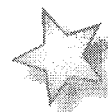
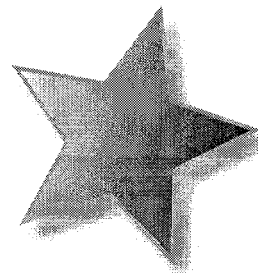
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



Original

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

2007

CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR

AWARD NOMINATION

KENNETH W. PARKER



SUBMITTED

BY THE

CITY OF PORT ORANGE

It is with great enthusiasm and honor that the City Council of Port Orange nominates Kenneth (Ken) W. Parker for the Florida League of Cities City Manager of the Year Award. Ken assumed the position of City Manager of Port Orange on August 1, 1984, and recently celebrated his 23rd anniversary with the City. His dedicated work for the City Council and the residents of Port Orange has remained noticeable and constant throughout his tenure. In fact, in his 23 years of service, Ken has been absent for only two out of well over one thousand City Council meetings.

Ken Parker doesn't see problems; he views challenges as opportunities to find solutions. His initiative was particularly evident as he worked through this year's tax reform issues. Ken took a proactive approach to planning for the tax reductions by soliciting and analyzing revenue enhancing and expenditure reduction ideas from employees, citizens and Council Members. It was Ken's goal to look holistically at multi-year budget preparation and organizational alignment to prepare for additional reductions and changes to the City's revenue stream.

Ken's judgment and professionalism shined during the recent legislative tax reform debate. Instead of delegating the task of telling employees about the impending tax reductions and their effects to Department Heads, he met personally with every employee to provide accurate information and answer questions, as rumors circulated as to what the impact of the legislation would be. The meetings quelled many of the fears employees had and truly showed the level of concern Ken had for each member of the Port Orange Team.

Ken takes initiative to create new programs in an effort to tackle community problems. When a residential area of the city repeatedly flooded and homes were

damaged, he stepped in to develop a broad-based grant partnership to purchase and demolish many affected homes, redesign the storm water system, and secure over \$13 million in outside funding. Securing additional funding remains a priority. Ken also took the lead in promoting the restoration of Rose Bay, a Florida Outstanding Water, by working with local residents, state and federal permitting agencies, and legislators to acquire project support and funding. He also led the effort to acquire state and federal monies for the dredging of the B-23 canal to further supplement the work undertaken in Rose Bay.

During the past year, some of the innovations that Ken has undertaken to improve the City of Port Orange were:

- Developing a methodology for fair share agreements between developers and the City of Port Orange. These agreements help defray the City's costs associated with road construction and maintenance in and around new communities.
- Becoming the first government agency in Volusia County to comply with the state-mandated concurrency requirements in FL Senate Bill 360.
- Conceptualizing a fire station/community health facility concept to grant residents in the western portion of the City access to health care facilities close to their homes through shared facilities.
- Coining the tech savvy phrase "Government on line, not in line" and ensuring that the organization could offer desired technology in an easily accessible and functional way through the website and City cable channel.

- Creating an Employee Suggestion Program to reward employees for suggestions to make the City more efficient and effective.

Because Ken is aware that his organization is constantly changing, he meets with Department Heads every two months to modify performance standards. This step enables the City's government to work as well as possible. Ken believes wholeheartedly in the Vision of Port Orange. He was instrumental in its development and has measured performance of the City's employees and activities by the benchmark set in the Vision. This can best be seen through his involvement and accountability to the citizens of Port Orange through the budget.

Ken epitomizes the professional city manager. He is committed not only to his city, but also to the profession and to education. In addition to leading by example, Ken mentors young managers and interns, teaches in the UCF Master of Public Administration program, and regularly speaks about local government management and current issues to groups throughout the nation. He is well known and respected by his peers as an ethical and professional manager.

In terms of commitment, Ken Parker continually displays his dedication to the City, its employees, its residents, and the environment. He encourages Department Heads to hire interns to help young adults gain much needed experience. He also advocates the City's student assistance financial program, which reimburses employees for completed job-related college courses. In a display of commitment to the protection of Florida's natural resources and wetlands, Ken led the development of a wetland mitigation bank. He also created a replacement gopher tortoise habitat in the City's wellfield property after the shelled animals were found during development in a business

park. Along with the commitment to higher education for employees and Florida's environment and wildlife, Ken is equally committed to the City of Port Orange, its residents, and its vision.

Ken has developed model relationships with other cities in areas of emergency dispatch and emergency management initiatives. Through the Regional Communications Center, the City of Port Orange is connected with the Cities of South Daytona, New Smyrna Beach, Ponce Inlet, and Edgewater for dispatch services, first response agreements, and unified training. He helped and encouraged the Port Orange Police Department to seek national accreditation and become the only municipal police department in Volusia County to be nationally recognized.

Ken's real passion is interacting with citizens. He averages over 15 meetings per month with citizens, neighborhood associations, individuals, business leaders, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and educational institutions and organizations. These meetings cover everything from concerns about trash service to playing conditions at the City-owned golf course.

Ken encourages residents to call and schedule an appointment with him to discuss questions or issues. He holds new resident breakfast meetings twice annually to introduce new citizens to their city officials. There, residents can inquire and learn about city programs, meet key staff, and find out how to get involved.

Ken was recently recognized with the President's Award at the 2007 Annual Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) Conference. He won the award for his commitment to the local government profession and for providing a link between the FCCMA and the International City/County Management Association

(ICMA). Ken has been a contributing member to the FCCMA for 23 years and currently serves as a mentor and coach for the Emerging Professionals Council. Ken is an ICMA Credentialed Manager and was a Regional Vice President for the ICMA's Southeast Region from 2002-2005. By serving in this role, Ken was eligible to pursue the ICMA President's position in 2007. He was named as one of three finalists for the ICMA President. Ken currently serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of ICMA and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Innovation in Local Government.

Based on the his excellent service and commitment to the citizens of Port Orange, the City Council of Port Orange gladly nominates Kenneth W. Parker for the 2007 Florida League of Cities City Manager of the Year Award.