

August 7, 2008

Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence
301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)
P.O. Box 1757
Tallahassee, FL. 323302-1757

Re: Nomination of Trela J. White, Esq. for "City Attorney of the Year"

Dear Cities of Excellence Selection Committee:

On August 6, 2008, the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach held a special meeting and voted unanimously to nominate our exceptional Village Attorney for the Florida Cities of Excellence "City Attorney of the Year" Award. Therefore, on behalf of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, it is my personal honor to extend to you the nomination of Trela J. White, Esq., for "City Attorney of the Year".

I also wish to express what great personal pleasure it brings me to offer this nomination to the Florida League. Throughout Ms. White's fifteen years of invaluable service to the Village, she has provided legal counsel to me on all manner of issues. Her superlative legal counsel, unwavering devotion to her clients and her unmatched personal integrity represent the very best that the legal profession has to offer. These attributes, when combined with her dynamic personality and disarming nature has allowed Ms. White to not only survive in the politically charged world that is municipal practice but has allowed her to rise to the top of her field.

In addition to the Village, Ms. White also represents ten other municipalities in Palm Beach County and since 1992 she has served as General Counsel to the Palm Beach

County League of Cities, Inc. Additionally, she was named as one of the top Municipal Lawyers in South Florida in the South Florida Legal Guide for 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Over the years the Village has faced numerous legal and political challenges that threatened to materially alter the quality of life in the Village. One of the most recent challenges came in the form of an extremely large DRI application by Callery-Judge Groves. The impacts created by the Callery-Judge DRI would have completely overwhelmed the Village's roadways and other infrastructure but due to Ms. White's uncanny ability to think both tactically and strategically, the Callery-Judge application was denied by Palm Beach County. Ms. White assembled and led a team, comprised of Village staff, other municipal attorneys, local lobbyists, Palm Beach County staff and other local government officials in order to identify critical time frames for challenging the actions of the applicant for the DRI. She then coordinated the various parties during their presentation of critical data and information to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. After exhaustive research, legal review and synthesis it was her ability to focus on minute details without losing sight of the main issue that enabled the Village to successfully challenge the DRI. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners ultimately denied the Callery-Judge DRI and a much smaller development has now been proposed in its place. The victory over Callery-Judge was a team effort but the team would have been lost without Ms. White's leadership, at best and would have never existed, at worst. As the architect of our victory over the Callery-Judge DRI, Ms. White protected the Village, as well as other surrounding municipalities

and neighborhoods, from a development that would have had overwhelming and devastating impact upon the Village of Royal Palm Beach. Her initiative, selfless commitment and professionalism reflect great credit upon the Village of Royal Palm Beach and the entire legal profession.

Presently, the Village of Royal Palm Beach is also facing a challenge regarding the proposed construction of a county road to the east of the Village. The construction of Roebuck Road, badly needed to alleviate traffic congestion in the Village, has become a politically charged issue, due to challenges from neighboring communities which oppose its construction. Ms. White is literally serving as the historian and legal “conscience” for many of the parties involved. Roebuck Road is the subject of an interlocal agreement from the mid-1990s. The agreement provided for the construction of Roebuck Road as a subsequent condition to the development of three separate residential communities, and required each community to contribute its fair share toward Roebuck Road’s planning and construction. Although the necessary funds have been collected and Palm Beach County has now placed the roadway in its capital improvement schedule, after more than a decade, Roebuck Road has not been built and the parties to the interlocal agreement continue to dispute the road’s necessity.

Ms. White remains instrumental and active in this matter, pushing for Roebuck Road’s construction despite mounting political pressure from the voters residing in the adjacent communities who are now demanding that their elected officials, parties to the interlocal agreement, oppose the construction which they previously agreed to. She is pursuing

innovative paths of communication in order to help the Village affect the outcome of this issue. Although Palm Beach County has now decided to fund the roadway construction, the Village is in need, now more than ever, of Ms. White's aid in helping the parties to "do the right thing" and actually construct Roebuck Road despite the political pressures which continue to threaten its construction.

Although Ms. White's work for the Village is significant and noteworthy in and of itself, it must be remembered that Ms. White has accomplished the above, and more, while simultaneously representing ten other municipalities and the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. She has always made our staff and the Village Council feel like we are her only clients. Ms. White's responsiveness, efficiency and dedication are simply unrivaled. Everyone at the Village of Royal Palm Beach continues to appreciate Ms. White's contribution to the Village more and more everyday.

I have also attached several pieces of supporting information regarding the Village's nomination of Ms. White for your review and consideration. I know of no other person who better exemplifies the concept of "City Attorney of the Year" than Trela J. White. It is my hope that you will look upon her nomination with favor. Should you have any questions about our nomination of Ms. White, please call me at any time.

Sincerely,

David B. Farber
Village Manager

cc: Royal Palm Beach Mayor and Council

WORD COUNT: 1040

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