

# 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 Vice Mayor William B. Armstrong  
Nominated by City of Pembroke Pines  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
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)

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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

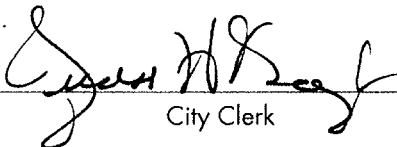
Government City of Pembroke Pines

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:**

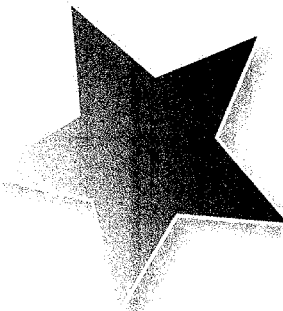
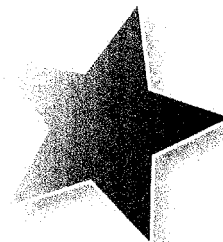
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Palmdale, FL 32302-1757



**2007 Cities of Excellence Awards  
Florida League of Cities**

**William Armstrong, Council Member of the Year  
Nominated by the City of Pembroke Pines**

1187

William Armstrong has had a long and distinguished career in public service in the City of Pembroke Pines, championing a quality of life that encompasses strong schools, affordable senior housing, and City services that make Pembroke Pines a desirable place to live – so desirable that Pembroke Pines was named an All-America City by the National Civic League in 2004 and was spotlighted last week as one of only four Florida communities on the *Money/CNN* listing of “Best Places to Live” in America. These are significant accomplishments in light of the City’s struggles with surging growth and a diverse populace – and are a testament to Commissioner Armstrong’s vision and initiative.

Commissioner Armstrong has served as civic leader in Pembroke Pines for 35 years. Elected to three terms as Mayor, he also served as Vice Mayor for two terms and Commissioner for eight terms!

**2006-07 Accomplishments**

Planning and initiative have been the hallmarks of his public service, but this past year’s initiatives distinguish him as a Commissioner of the Year nominee. His nomination for “Commissioner of the Year” is directly attributable to the four key initiatives:

- **The City Center** project, a mixed-use town center, master planned by the City, which addresses community fragmentation and sprawl by incorporating the New Urbanism development model.
- **Comprehensive Services and Affordable Rental Housing for Seniors**
- **Emergency Response & Recovery**, and
- **The Building Our Future General Obligation Bond Program.**

1. Over the past year, Mr. Armstrong devoted countless hours and served as a key player in the **City Place Project**. The project involves developing a 133-acre site next to City Hall with residential, commercial and retail areas. Pembroke Pines held 12 charrettes to develop a master plan for the site, which will offer affordable residential, commercial, park land, a new Civic Center and a central square. Mr. Armstrong devoted hundreds of hours in 2005 to develop a shared vision by conducting town hall meetings to broaden citizen participation and discuss the project in an effort to determine the residents’ vision of City Place. Commissioners also appointed a Streetscape Committee to develop a visual theme for the project, and continue to work on urban design issues in the future.

City Place is expected to create a new and significant tax base for the City. The expected increase in property values will generate a continuous revenue stream, projected at \$170 million over 30 years. Moreover, the sale of the property as it is developed will recover the land and development costs.

On the regional planning front, Commissioner Armstrong has participated in ongoing negotiations with Broward County regarding the appropriate residential and non-residential use mix for City Place. Commissioners and planners also addressed traffic concerns and environmental considerations.

2. Armstrong's vision and leadership have always focused on the needs of all sectors of the community. The **Comprehensive Services and Affordable Rental Housing for Seniors** project addresses the needs identified in a survey of seniors, who named support services and affordable housing as their top two priorities. Commissioners first established the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center as the center for comprehensive senior services in Broward County. The complex, designed to serve the 100,000 seniors living in the County's southwest quadrant, provides 190 units of affordable housing, a community center, a County-wide transportation hub, a commercial center and a handicap-accessible pool and is used regularly by local schools. Serving more than 500 clients daily onsite, the City offers 11 senior services at this one location. The complex provides one-stop-shopping for health support, amenities and housing in a centralized location. Offering social, educational, recreational and health activities, it fosters community, diminishes isolation, and prolongs seniors' independence.

This year, Pembroke Pines opened an additional 240 units at Pines Place. Complementing the 190 units located at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, the new apartments are located in the Forman Human Services Park. With free transportation, comprehensive services and a multi-generational community center planned, this project addresses myriad regional needs. It is also an important component of Pembroke Pines' innovative master plan to redevelop the former State mental hospital property into a thriving human services campus.

3. Mr. Armstrong's leadership in handling the challenges of 2005's Hurricane Wilma helped shape this year's **Emergency Response & Recovery** Project. On October 24, 2005, Wilma slammed into South Florida. This was the first time since the City was incorporated that a storm of this magnitude scored a direct hit. The immediate effect of the storm was that it knocked out power and hampered the ability of the City to provide services for several days. City crews worked around the clock to clear streets and keep wastewater lift stations operating. Florida Power and Light and Southern Bell, worked for weeks to restore services.

Commissioners decided to take the lead in efforts to provide supplies and services to citizens, and paid the upfront costs of these activities. Mr. Armstrong, as a Commissioner, helped direct these efforts. Resolving that Pembroke Pines will be better prepared to respond and recover in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, Commissioners directed staff to improve the City's disaster recovery capability. Over the last six months, the City has:

- 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.

4. Early last year, Mr. Armstrong and his fellow Commissioners shaped a plan to raise funds for capital projects through a low-interest bond. This project, called **Building Our Future**, deployed public education teams of Commissioners, the Mayor and staff to present the General Obligation Bond plan to voters, who passed it decisively. Phase 1, with \$55 million in projects, will be completed over the next year. The phased bond will fund:

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

Last December, Commissioner Armstrong and his wife worked with the Police Department on the **Teddys for Trauma** project. As a result of their efforts, officers in patrol cars now have cuddly bears to comfort children who have been exposed to traumatic situations such as domestic violence or automobile accidents – and in many cases sustained injuries.

Commissioner Armstrong continues to champion **barrier-free housing** initiatives. He helped establish **Charter School System**, which now encompasses four Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools, and one High School, which are all owned and operated by the City of Pembroke Pines. As a Commissioner, he serves as a member of the Charter School Board, providing continued oversight and direction.

Mr. Armstrong is married and together with his wife, Nancy, operates an antique business. He is a graduate of the University of Miami, a U.S. Navy veteran and retired from the U.S. Treasury Department's Internal Revenue Service after a thirty-year career.

Letters of support requested from  
 James Ryan  
 Jack McCluskey (mjackmcc@bellsouth.net)