

2006 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 Samuel S. Goren
Nominated by City of Pembroke Pines
(Name of City/Town/Village)

City Finance Official of the Year

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

City Citizen of the Year

Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

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Person Completing Nomination Form

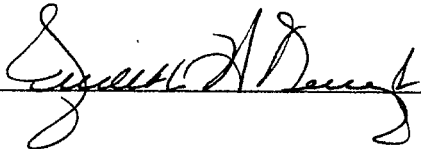
Please print or type.

Name Gordon J. Keibler
Title Deputy Director, Public Services Department
Government City of Pembroke Pines
Address 13975 Pembroke Rd. Pembroke Pines, FL 33027
Telephone Number 954-437-1115 Fax 954-437-1121
E-mail
Address gkeibler@ppines.com

Nomination Certification

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.

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.

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 18, 2006**:

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
2006 Cities of Excellence Awards Program
"City Attorney of the Year" Award**

**Nomination of Samuel S. Goren
Submitted by 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 narrative and supportive materials, show how the official has displayed excellence in these areas: Judgment, Initiative, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism, Commitment, Citizen Relations.

The Pembroke Pines City Commissioners enthusiastically nominate Samuel S. Goren as City Attorney of the Year. "Whatever the issue, Sam Goren has always provided the best legal advice for the City of Pembroke Pines," says City Manager Charles Dodge. Mr. Goren "is one of the most professional individuals that I have ever worked with. His judgment and integrity are beyond reproach."

Sam Goren has served as Pembroke Pines' City Attorney since 1997. Prior to that, he served as counsel as a partner in the firm that provided legal services to the City since 1976. Mr. Goren is also the City Attorney for the Broward County cities of North Lauderdale, Coral Springs and Tamarac and serves as General Counsel for the South Florida Regional Planning Council, Broward County Area Agency on Aging and Broward County Charter Review Commission. He has provided legal services to the Broward County League of Cities pro bono since 1989. A principal in the private practice of Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A., he concentrates in the areas of government, municipal and administrative law, corporate and commercial law, labor arbitration and eminent domain.

Sam Goren is often sought asked to speak to associations such as the Florida Clerks Association, the South Florida Government Officers Association. During the recent controversy over eminent domain matters, Sam served on panels addressing eminent domain issues and represented the government's side of such policies.

Sam Goren has provided invaluable counsel to Pembroke Pines, seeing numerous innovative projects to completion. These are only the projects that have come to fruition in the past year:

New affordable apartment towers for seniors fully rented. Adding to its current stock of 190 affordable apartments for seniors, the City opened a second complex of 394 rental apartments for people 55+ a year ago, tripling the number of units owned, managed and rented by the City. Built to meet the demand demonstrated by the years-long waiting list, the new apartment complex is located in the Forman Human Services Park, a large State-owned parcel master-planned and now managed by the City of Pembroke Pines. With a wide range of services and transportation provided by the City, and with a multi-generational community center planned, this project addresses the lack of comprehensive services, transportation and affordable housing for elder citizens in our region. ***Sam's expert counsel helped Pembroke Pines address the housing crisis and also redevelop the closed State Mental Hospital property. Sam oversaw the successful negotiation of a long-term lease between the State's Department of Children and Families and Pembroke Pines, resulting in the construction of the senior apartments and bustling redevelopment of a moribund property into a thriving health park with a veterans residence, the Susan B. Anthony Center for substance-addicted women and their children, and 19 nonprofit and private health-related tenants.***

City acquisition increases wetland nature preserve to 475 acres. To mitigate the loss of South Florida wetlands to development, the City established a wetlands mitigation bank that combined parcels purchased and donated by developers to form a significant restored wetland habitat. An additional nine acres, purchased by the City last year, are currently being restored. Chapel Trail Preserve, home to 120 animal species, provides viable and sustainable habitat as a wetland, which also cleans water as it seeps into the Biscayne Aquifer. The Preserve offers an Environmental/Interpretive Center, boardwalk and canoe rentals. ***This Wetland Mitigation Bank was the first of its kind in Florida, and serves as a model for other communities, thanks to Sam Goren's initiative and innovative counsel.***

City Center Mixed Use Project Enters Development Phase. In 2002, the City Commission purchased a 115-acre property adjacent to City Hall. The property was zoned Commercial and Industrial, and the Commission's intent was to prevent piecemeal development and community

fragmentation. After the master-planning process and 12 charrettes, the project reached a milestone in August 2006, when the Commission approved the Affordable Housing component. City Center will feature affordable residential, commercial, parklands, restored wetlands, a new Civic Center and a central square – creating a mixed-use, people-oriented city center. The project is projected to bring \$170,000,000 in revenues to the City over 30 years. ***Sam's seasoned judgment and work with the South Florida Regional Planning Council and Broward County provided an invaluable foundation for this complex project. His initiative and commitment helped the City shape and modify project components – with citizen input -- including successfully introducing an affordable housing component.***

Pembroke Pines Charter Schools Win A+ Grades System-wide in 2006. In June 2006, every school in the Pembroke Pines Charter School System received an A+ grade based on FCAT scores on the Governor's Report Card. Last year, the Charter Schools received the Outstanding Achievement Award in the national US Conference of Mayors' City Livability competition. One competition judge observed "The Pembroke Pines Charter School System was founded as a proactive response to surging population growth and an overburdened school district. 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."

When the County School District, which serves 270,000 students in 30 cities, was unable to launch timely plans to meet the City's needs for new schools in the 1990s, Pembroke Pines established its Charter School System (PPCSS), which now has 5,200 students, from elementary through high school. The City built 18 buildings totaling 438,000 square feet on four parcels, hired hundreds of teachers, developed curriculum, and established partnerships with cultural, academic and government institutions. ***The success of the Charter School system relies upon continuing relationships with the local School District and on-going legal assistance***

on a multitude of issues. Sam assisted the City in charting new territory by establishing the first municipal charter school system in Florida. Sam's assistance included:

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

-Helping shape 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.

-Advising the City Commission on how to administer the schools: The Commission serves as the school board and the City Manager is the superintendent.

-Negotiating partnerships with Academic Village partners -- Florida International University, Broward County Library, Broward County Cultural Council and Broward Community College. Sam helped shape an agreement with Florida State University to launch the first City-run FSU Charter Elementary Professional Development lab school, with special programs for children with autism.

Sam is highly regarded in his profession and among his peers. He received the 2006 Lynn Futch Professionalism award from the Broward County Bar Association. He was also named among the *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite in the Government Lawyer field in 2004 and 2005.

Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, who has known Sam Goren for more than 25 years, has only the highest praise for him. She endorses him for the City Attorney of the Year honor, observing, "Sam has given tirelessly to assist local governments. He is held in highest esteem – so much so that he is known as the 'Dean of Municipal Law'."

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