

## 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 City of Pembroke Pines  
Nominated by City of Pembroke Pines  
(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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(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

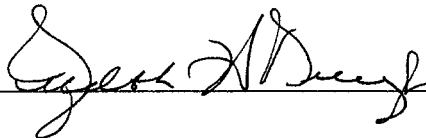
Please print or type.

Name Gordon J. Keibler  
Title Deputy Director, Public Services Department  
Government City of Pembroke Pines  
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E-mail  
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### 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 City of Excellence Award**

**City of Pembroke Pines  
Nominated by the Pembroke Pines City Commission**

In 10 years, Pembroke Pines' population doubled to 151,000. Despite growth-related challenges, we made huge strides. The climate of cooperation fostered by involved citizens and responsive government has produced innovative projects, improving quality of life in every neighborhood. In 2004, Pembroke Pines received the All-America City award for citizen-driven initiatives, and we continue to strive for excellence.

**Governance/Administration – efficiency; performance measures**

With our millage rate among the lowest of full-service cities in Broward County, we:

- incorporated strategic financing and streamlined design-build techniques to complete projects on time, under budget
- eliminated redundancy with multiple-use facilities
- established partnerships with well-respected institutions, enriching resources.

In 2005, the Commission adopted a Performance Management system linking our mission to goals, objectives, and service processes, assessing progress quarterly and annually.

**City Leadership – a collaborative team**

The goal of the Commission and staff is to lead, provide public forums and translate citizens' needs into viable programs. Our team is stable and collegial: Mayor Frank

Ortis is a 10-year Commissioner; Charles Dodge has been city manager for 17 of 29 years with the City. High employee retention rates indicate a team that operates creatively and efficiently in a stimulating environment.

An example of exemplary leadership is 2005's *Building Our Future* campaign. After only three months of public education meetings conducted by collaborative teams of staff, commissioners and the Mayor, this \$100 million general obligation bond passed decisively.

#### **Intergovernmental Cooperation – partnerships**

- Elected officials and staff sit on **Leagues of Cities, Metropolitan Planning Organization and South Florida Regional Planning Task Force.**
- Broward County** provided \$2,100,000 for River of Grass Arts Center.
- The City is working with **Broward County** on the City Center mixed-use development.
- Florida Communities Trust** grants provided acquisition match dollars for parks.
- Miramar-Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce** spearheads business development.
- Area Agency on Aging** provides state and federal funding to the Senior Center.
- The Forman Human Services Campus, site of a former State mental hospital, is being redeveloped with the **Department of Children & Families**. The Campus houses senior apartments, DCF homes, a center for substance-addicted women and 19 private and nonprofit Health Services lessees.

**Citizen Outreach and Involvement – a sense of “city-hood”; opportunities and encouragement for citizen participation**

-**City Commission meetings**—community members are encouraged to speak their minds. Meetings are broadcast on the City’s cable channel.

-**Town Meetings**—Commissioners host well-attended district and homeowner association meetings, spurring citizens to get involved.

-100 active **Homeowners Associations**

-**City Advisory Boards**—18 boards and committees with 175 diverse members.

-Southwest Broward, Latin, African-American, Florida-Israel and Puerto Rican

**Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, Prestige Club**

-**Mayor’s Economic Summit** and Long-range Planning Council

-**Thousands volunteer** at Senior Center, City departments, schools, parks.

**Technology – tools to aid employees and citizens**

-Pembroke Pines’ online “**Citizen Response Form**” facilitates communication with staff, incorporating attachments and assigning tracking numbers. In a survey, 85% of the respondents had computers and 90% of those had Internet capability.

-The City’s Technology Steering Committee is currently evaluating an “I-Net” internal communications system that may reduce costs and streamline communications.

**Innovative Programs and Services – reflecting the goals and mission**

The City’s motto, “Join us and progress with us,” reflects a progressive culture striving for the highest quality of life, utilizing cost efficiencies in every way practicable. As a result, the City has developed many nationally-recognized, innovative programs:

**1. Academic Village**, with 10,000 students, offers educational, recreational, and cultural resources. Completed in 2002, the 80-acre Village is accessible to 550,000 residents in eight nearby cities. Partners include:

- Broward Community College
- Florida International University
- Pembroke Pines Charter High School,
- River of Grass Arts Center,
- Southwest Regional Library,
- Sports facility,
- 30-acre wetlands.

**2. Services and Affordable Rental Housing for Seniors** – In a survey, elder citizens requested comprehensive support services and affordable housing. The City first developed the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center and Affordable Rental Apartments on 10 acres near city hall. When the Focal Point site reached capacity and the apartment waiting list grew, the City developed a second rental complex. Phased construction took place over 11 years:

1995            53,000-sf Senior Center, transportation hub - \$6,000,000

1998	190 apartments at Southwest Focal Point Senior Center - \$10,000,000
1999	Commerce center
2000	Handicap-accessible pool - \$585,000
2005-06	396 apartments at Forman Human Services Park - \$30,4000,000

We offer free transportation, health services, nutrition programs, adult/Alzheimer's day care, social services, referrals, counseling, recreation and leisure, serving 700 clients daily. The Senior Center is a popular gathering place, encouraging multigenerational use.

-**Nova Southeastern University** provides geriatric and eye care.

-**Schools** provide volunteers and intergenerational programming.

-**300 community volunteers** serve.

-The City and **Broward County Transit** run a 33-bus network to support **Broward County Meals on Wheels, ADA/Paratransit**, and local routes for all ages.

-The commercial center leases to **doctors and commercial enterprises**

-**Barry University's Nursing School** provides student nurses.

-**AARP** runs a job placement program.

### 3. **Education is a priority in Pembroke Pines:** 27% of our population is under 19.

Pembroke Pines' tuition-free public school alternatives include:

-**Broward County School District.** 20,000 Pembroke Pines children attend District schools. They have eased crowding, building two new high schools.

-**FSU Charter Elementary Professional Development School**, in partnership with the City, serves 600 students with a science-focused curriculum, teacher training and a program for autistic children.

-The **Pembroke Pines Charter School System** was founded as a proactive response to explosive growth. The County School District (270,000 students in 31 cities) could not build enough schools to accommodate the City's needs. In 1997, Pembroke Pines established Florida's first municipal charter system providing a full, public, tuition-free education. The System has four elementary schools, two middle schools, and a high school, serving 5,200 students. All schools are accredited and rated A+ based on FCAT scores.

**4. Building Our Future Bond.** Last year, residents passed a \$100 million general obligation bond to address:

- Traffic Flow
- Parks Facilities
- Visual Arts Center
- Community Centers with Senior/Youth Programs
- Open Space Acquisition
- Economic Development

**5. City Center Mixed-Use Downtown** - Taking action against piecemeal development and community fragmentation, Pembroke Pines purchased a 133-acre property adjacent to City Hall. This property, then zoned commercial/industrial, allows the City to shape a downtown. City Center will offer affordable residential, commercial, park land, a Civic

Center and a central square. After 12 charrettes and the master-planning process, the project reached a milestone this month, when the Commission approved the Affordable Housing element. City Center is projected to bring \$170 million in revenues to the City over 30 years.

**Fiscal Management – accountability; communication of financial condition**

Each year, the City asks for citizen input on its budget through two widely advertised public meetings. The budget is online. The City also:

- Earned the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the ninth year and the GFOA Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Award for the 21<sup>st</sup> year.
- Implemented an in-house paperless web-based database to streamline the budget process.
- Negotiated with a local bank to earn 50 basis points above the State Board of Administration rate, earning \$178,000 over the year.
- Increased the maximum equity allocation of the General Employees Pension Plan, generating additional income of \$1.53 million this year.
- Re-negotiated the ICMA plan administration fee, resulting in \$260,000 in employee savings annually.

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