

2006 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 _____

Nominated by _____
(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)

Name of Individual Nominated _____

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

Name of Individual Nominated Finance official
Kennie Hobbs, Jr.

Nominated by CITY OF LAUDERHILL
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated _____

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

Please print or type.

Name Jane Sullivan
Title Grant Writer
Government City of Lauderhill
Address 3800 Inverrary Boulevard; Suite 306; Lauderhill, Florida 33319
Telephone Number (954) 730-3000 Fax (954) 730-3025
E-mail Address jsullivan@lauderhill-fl.gov

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

Signed *Juciel Higgins*
City Clerk

The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominations/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.

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:**

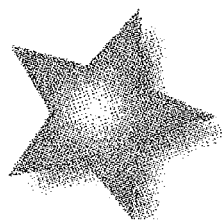
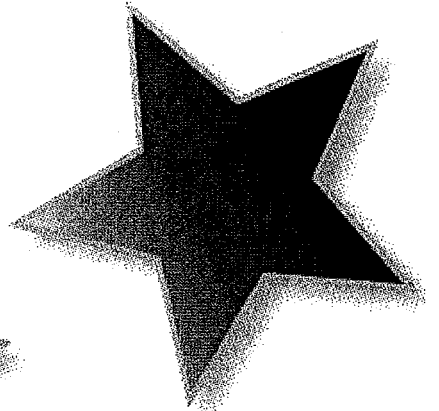
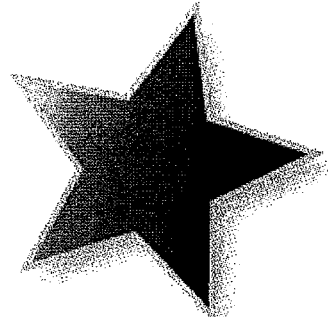
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**2006 Florida Cities Of Excellence Award
Nomination For
City Finance Director Of The Year
Kennie Hobbs, Jr., Finance Director
City Of Lauderhill**

Kennie Hobbs, Jr. the Finance Director for the City of Lauderhill began his career with the City of Lauderhill in 1989 as a part-time employee right out of high school. His accomplished career and educational goal attainments are an inspiration to other city employees, and he has been instrumental in mentoring his staff to seek higher educational degrees resulting in their career advancement. In keeping with his recognition as an exemplary professional role model, Kennie has gained further recognition with his respective peers through memberships in the Florida Governmental Finance Officers Association, Zeta Alpha Lambda Chapter – Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Treasurer), Public Housing Authority Directors Association, Florida Association of Redevelopment & Housing Officers and National Association of Redevelopment and Housing Officers.

During 2005, the City of Lauderhill gained an additional 6,000 residents through the annexation of two (2) unincorporated areas referred to as West Ken Lark and St. George. These communities had the option of annexing with another city, forming its own city, or annexing with the City of Lauderhill. Kennie designed an in-depth financial analysis and a presentation explaining the process and options for the community residents. Over the course of eight (8) neighborhood workshops, positive citizen relationships were set with the community as they had direct access to the City of Lauderhill's Finance Director, Kennie Hobbs, to voice their concerns and receive detailed information regarding the annexation.

Another milestone for the City of Lauderhill attributable to Kennie's innovative financial management practice was his approach to leveraging funds for city improvements. To

accomplish this, he revised the City's Capital Improvement Plan to include projects phased over a five (5) year period, that would provide park improvements, health and safety enhancements, roadway improvements, greenways and open spaces and pedestrian-friendly development. This in-turn allowed for a seamless transition into Lauderhill's first General Obligation Bond (GO) – "Lauderhill Great Neighborhood Bond" that would provide the means to complete our capital improvement projects with minor impact. For example: scaled to property values, the bond would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead exemption an extra \$187 a year for 20 years. Once again, Kennie commitment to provide citizens of Lauderhill with detailed information through his open-door policy and his many community presentations resulted in the City's overwhelming vote to pass the bond.

Kennie Hobbs has been an integral part of both the Police Pension Plan and the Managerial and Confidential Pension Plan, since their inception in 1994 and 2003 respectively. Both plans were formerly a part of the City of Lauderhill General Employees Pension Plan until their separation. Kennie was charged with the task of performing a cost-benefit analysis on the creation of additional plans, and negotiating service contracts with plan professionals.

Currently, Kennie acts in the capacity of liason between the City and the Board, for the Managerial Pension Plan, with regard to financial interpretation and advice. As the Finance Director, he is heavily relied upon for his expertise when it comes to assisting the City's Management in making informed decisions on any pension related matters such as benefit calculations, cost sharing and investments. In addition to this, Kennie has served on the Police Pension Board for the past 13 (thirteen) years. During his tenure he has held the position of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. He has also obtained the Certified Public Pension Trustee (CPPT) designation, which is a (3) three-part certificate program with basic,

intermediate and advanced courses, given by the Florida Public Pension Trustees Association (FPPTA).

Another area where Kennie is heavily involved is in the formation of the Lauderhill Housing Authority. The City of Lauderhill has a large number of Section 8 units concentrated in a mile and a half square radius, known as "Central Lauderhill". The majority of these rental units are deteriorated, and lacking in exterior maintenance and landscaping, and as well as lacking the amenities of other non-subsidized units such as playgrounds and pools. Many of the units have numerous code enforcement and minimum housing violations, in which the respective landlords are negligent in following up on these concerns.

In 2002, the City Commission passed a resolution declaring the need for a housing authority, due to the existence of "unsafe and unsanitary dwellings within The City of Lauderhill". Kennie helped research the concept of forming a new authority within the City, to help improve the neighborhoods and assist residence in finding safe affordable housing. Following this, the Mayor appointed a Board, and the Lauderhill Housing Authority was officially formed in October of 2004. The Board of Commissioners appointed Kennie as the first, Executive Director of the Housing Authority.

Over the past year, Kennie initiated a meeting with the local HUD Field Office to discuss the concerns of the Authority and the City, with respect to obtaining the necessary approval to operate a federally-subsidized housing program. The idea is being met with resistance from the Field Office and other area authorities, and will be an on-going topic until resolved. In March, Kennie and other City and Board Officials, represented the Housing Authority in Washington D.C., while gaining support for the Authority in meetings with our U.S. Senators and

Congressman. The certification of the Lauderhill Housing Authority has been a matter in which Kennie has shown initiative and unwavering dedication from start to finish.

In conclusion, Kennie's commitment to provide innovative solutions benefit the community he serves as well, and his initiative to personally mentor potential talent has inspired the Mayor and City Commission to highly recommend him for this award.