

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

Name of Individual Nominated Aner Gonzalez
Title Controller/Internal Auditor Department Public Services
Nominated by City of Pembroke Pines
(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 _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

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

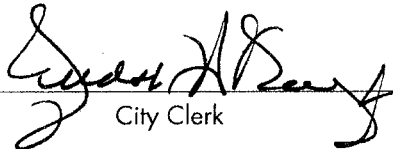
[OVER]

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

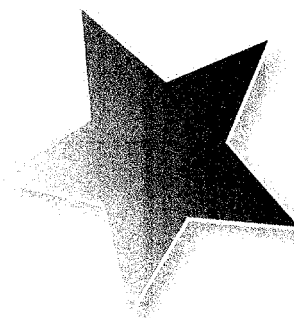
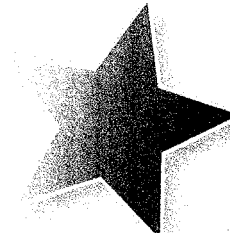
The judges will use the narrative and supportive information to select the award winners. Nominators/nominees are asked not to contact the judges directly.

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
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**2007 Florida League of Cities
City Employee of the Year**

**Aner Gonzalez, Controller/Internal Audit
Nominated by the
City of Pembroke Pines**

Word Count = 909

Aner Gonzalez has been a dedicated employee to the City of Pembroke Pines since 1988. Aner began his government career as the Chief Accountant in the Finance Department where he learned the beat of the City's financial drum. In 1999 Aner transferred to the City's Public Service department for to provide needed fiscal expertise to a growing City department. It is in this department where Aner has become an essential asset to the City of Pembroke Pines.

In 1998 the City of Pembroke Pines opened the first municipally run charter school in the United States. Aner was tasked with the role of managing the finances of this new City venture.

Currently Pembroke Pines has seven charter schools and 5,310 students. As the charter schools have grown so have Aner's duties which also consist of managing day to day business including personnel changes and administrative policy. He also serves as a liaison between the City Manager and the Charter School principals to ensure the needs of our students and teachers are given immediate attention. During the past year, Aner's Charter School duties have involved supervising the implementation of the Florida Retirement System for all Charter School Employees, negotiating a new contract with a Food Service Company to serve meals to the students, working closely with the City Manager to lobby for equitable funding for our Charter Schools, and successfully presenting a balanced Charter School budget to the City Commission which subsequently earned the Government Finance Official Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 3rd year.

Aner's Controller duties also consist of assisting with the preparation of the City budget. Responsibilities include reviewing recommended personnel changes from department heads and revenue and expenditure forecasts for all departments as well as creating the budget for the Public Services, Utilities, and Road and Bridge Departments. This year Aner also worked closely with the City Early Learning Centers on a feasibility study for the implementation of the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program. As a result of this study, two of our four centers will be participating in this State funded program during the upcoming school year. Other financial duties include monitoring the voter approved, 100 million dollar general obligation bond projects. These projects are designed as part of the City's "Building our Future" plan. Aner implemented the creation of a quarterly report that gives details on the financial and construction status of each project along with a narrative and pictures. This report is presented to City Commission and is available to the citizens online so they can see the progress of their tax dollars at work. In addition to the above mentioned responsibilities, Aner also oversees all functions of the City's Accounts Payable Division, Utilities Administration Division, and Purchasing Division.

Over the years Aner's knowledge of the City's financial skeleton along with his enthusiasm to "get the job done" has resulted in the City's administration tasking him with many special projects of the utmost importance to the City. During the past year Aner has done several financial feasibility studies on potential City ventures. Some of the projects include Affordable Housing for our developing City Center, a Broward County Department of Children and Families and City partnered Transitional Housing Program for Foster Care, and the opening of additional charter schools. After Hurricane Wilma struck our City in 2005 Aner and his staff began working on the daunting task of recouping funds from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency for the City's cleanup effort. The recovery expenses associated with Wilma were above \$42 million dollars. Aner has been working directly with FEMA to ensure that we receive the maximum amount of the City's reimbursement from the Federal and State Governments as well as gaining knowledge through FEMA certification courses so he can be prepared to assist City Administration should we encounter another natural disaster.

Aner's passion for the Charter Schools and its students along with his "team player" attitude has earned him a seat on many boards and committees associated with the City. Aner is the Treasurer of the Pembroke Pines Charter School Foundation. This is an organization that awards scholarships to Charter School students and teachers. Last year under Aner's watch, the Foundation generated almost \$150,000 in revenue through smart investments and profitable fundraisers. The biggest fundraiser was Mayor Frank C. Ortis's Golf Tournament for which Aner is the Tournament Chairman. This event alone produced over \$130,000 in scholarship funds due to Aner's constant efforts to find new sponsors. Aner also serves on the Pembroke Pines Affordable Senior Housing Foundation, the City's Investment Committee, the Florida State University Parent Advisory Board, and the Pines Lakes Management Association.

In January of this year, the City Commission voted to create the position of Internal Auditor for the City. This position is challenged with ensuring the integrity of the City by promoting an honest, effective, and fully accountable City government. City Commission chose Aner to take on this challenge. In the past few months Aner has reviewed the financial status of many departments and self-supported programs. He is currently working on an audit of the City's fixed asset inventory and the FP&L Streetlight Inventory and Agreements.

Aner has had an eventful and exciting year with the City. His nomination for City Employee of the Year is extremely well deserved due to his commitment, professionalism, and dedication as a public servant.