

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 City of Port Orange

Nominated by City of Port Orange

(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 _____

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 Shannon M. Lewis

Title Assistant City Manager

Government City of Port Orange

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E-mail Address smcbridelewis@port-orange.org

AWARD CRITERIA (REQUIRED)

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

Signed *Kenneth W. Parker*
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.

AWARD CRITERIA

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: 1,195
Number of words

DEVELOPING SUPPORTIVE MATERIAL

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**:

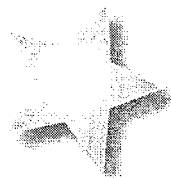
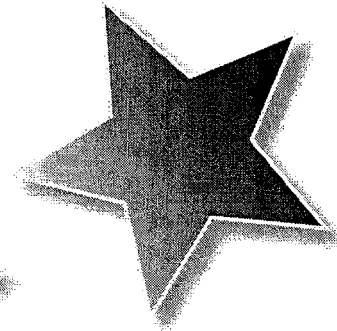
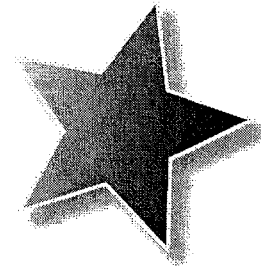
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

2007

FLORIDA CITY OF EXCELLENCE

AWARD NOMINATION



SUBMITTED

BY THE

CITY OF PORT ORANGE

PORT ORANGE – SHAPED BY CHOICE, NOT BY CHANCE

Port Orange is a forward thinking, progressive city devoted to quality services and facilities, sound fiscal judgment, and “out-of-the-box” thinking to creatively solve challenges in the most effective and efficient manner. *Shaped by choice, not by chance* is more than just a motto—it is the foundation of Port Orange's vision.

Governance

City Council members have collectively served the citizens of Port Orange for 41 years, demonstrating their commitment to the community and to the continuity of programs and services beyond a single term. Mayor Allen Green has served 24 years.

A documented “Vision” for Port Orange was created in 1992 with input from all stakeholders; however, the first oral vision was developed in 1979. The Vision is the guiding principal for City Council policy decisions, budget development and departmental operations.

- Performance measures are assessed every two months by the City Manager and staff.
- Performance benchmarks are integrated into the annual budget and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- The City Council has established partnerships with all levels of educational institutions, community groups and intergovernmental agencies to improve Port Orange.
- The City recently separated capital project bidding components to take advantage of favorable market conditions and save dollars associated with site development.
- The Port Orange Division of Emergency Medical Services was honored as the 2007 Top EMS Provider in the State of Florida.

City Leadership

Port Orange is fortunate to have a stable and receptive governing body, City Manager and staff. Kenneth W. Parker has been the City Manager in Port Orange for 23 years and senior staff members average over 12 years with the City. This tenure has allowed for mentoring of new employees and development of the next generation of leaders within the organization. Some examples include:

- Developing a Student Government program reaching over 350 high school students annually;
- Developing a Youth Advisory Board; and
- Providing quality internship opportunities.



Intergovernmental Cooperation

Port Orange strongly believes in partnering with other agencies. Noteworthy examples of intergovernmental cooperation include:

- Implementation of a regional emergency communication center with the cities of New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater, Ponce Inlet and South Daytona to improve efficiency and retain qualified employees.
- Development of a closest unit response agreement for fire and emergency medical services with 9 cities and the County of Volusia.
- Development of interconnects with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure water service during scheduled or emergency outages.
- Restoration of Rose Bay, a Florida Outstanding Water, in conjunction with St. John's River Water Management District, the Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corps of Engineers, state and federal legislators and Volusia County.
- Development of school concurrency with Volusia County Schools and others.
- First in the county to implement joint-use agreements for recreational facilities

Citizen Outreach and Involvement

Through its Vision and the commitment of the City Council and staff, citizen outreach and involvement is vital and welcomed. The City utilizes a variety of forums to inform residents of information, upcoming events, and opportunities through:

- POG-TV, a 24-hour City television station showing live City Council meetings, board meetings, and original programming;
- Quarterly city newsletters;
- Award-winning website and message board;
- District and neighborhood meetings;
- Project "tailgate" meetings to discuss upcoming construction projects on site;
- New resident breakfast meetings to familiarize new residents with the City Council, City Manager, departments, events and programs.

Citizens are encouraged to participate in advisory boards, task forces, special events, budget workshops, surveys, City Council meetings, Coalition of Homeowners meetings and other volunteer opportunities such as the Citizen Emergency Response Team and Volunteers In Police Services.



The City regularly participates in activities with the Chamber of Commerce and numerous community groups. During the past year, individual staff members volunteered their time and raised over \$37,000 for charity programs to benefit citizens of Port Orange.

Technology

Port Orange has committed to the use of innovative technology to provide better and more efficient services to its "customers." The City's adage is *Government On-Line, Not In-Line*, and has changed the way it does business to accommodate the community's growing desire for on-line services. Customers can pay water bills, check the status of the building permits, and request inspections on-line. The City recently completed a cellular tower to allow for wireless meter reading and provide leasable space to other vendors. The City Center Complex is now a hot spot where people can access free wireless internet. All patrol cars and fire apparatus have wireless connections, automatic vehicle locators and laptops to conduct business in the field.

Innovative Programs and Services

The City of Port Orange solves problems by viewing them as opportunities and challenges itself to find unique ways to offer programs and services to its residents. Examples include:

- **Acquiring over 15,000 acres of conservation land for the City's wellfields and recharge area.**
 - Set up a wetland banking mitigation program, and gopher tortoise relocation area on site.
- **Emergency Management**
 - Developed partnerships with all local contractors for equipment during disasters and a local food distribution company for pre-planned emergency meals.
 - Developed city sheltering program
 - Led development of emergency response and recovery teams which have become a statewide model (in conjunction with the State Division of Emergency Management, Florida League of Cities and others).
 - Approved interlocal agreements with Naples and Panama City for disaster assistance.
- One of the first cities to implement **Fair Share Agreements** to ensure development paid for its impacts to the road system.
- **Cambridge Improvement Program**
 - The City has redesigned the stormwater system in a 320 acre area to alleviate flooding and will purchase over 20 homes in an area of repetitive flooding. Total project cost is in excess of \$20 million.



- The City partnered with a community group to develop a concession stand concept into the multi-use **Lakeside Community Center** that is now utilized for community and City events.
- Through POG-TV, the City is recording **oral histories** of Port Orange from local historians, veterans, residents, former Mayors and others for broadcast.
- The City developed a CRA to undertake a large redevelopment project called **Riverwalk** in the downtown area of the City that will open the riverfront to the public and create a mixed-use project for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors.
- Annually, over 350 students from two high schools take part in **Student Government Day**, now in its 20th year, working with City staff on real projects that culminate in a day of mock City Council meetings.
- Instituted **Neighborhood Investment Grants**.

Fiscal Management

Port Orange has been awarded the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 22 consecutive years. Additionally, the City has:

- Developed a fee for wetland and gopher tortoise mitigation credits.
- Initiated special assessment districts to fund specific enhanced benefit projects.
- Was one of the first in the nation to develop a separate Stormwater Utility and use fees for a stand alone bondable revenue stream.
- Stand-alone General Obligation Bond rating of A+.
- Linked budget development to performance measures.
- Acquired nearly \$10 million in grant funding this fiscal year.

All budget information is made readily available to the public.

Word Count: 1,195

