

2007 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 _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY FINANCE OFFICIAL (DIRECTOR OR OFFICER) OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated Walter E. "Ed" Mack
Nominated by City of Cocoa
(Name of City/Town/Village)

CITY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
Name of Individual Nominated _____
Nominated by _____
(Name of City/Town/Village)

[OVER]

Contact Person

The following person will be the main contact if your city's nominee is selected as a finalist.

Please print or type.

Name Joan Clark

Title City Clerk

Government City of Cocoa

Address 603 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa FL 32922

Telephone Number 321-639-7555 Fax 321-637-7203

E-mail Address jclark@cocoaf1.org

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.

Please include a word count: 1043
Number of words

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 10, 2007**:

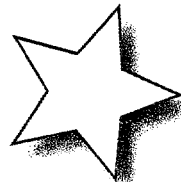
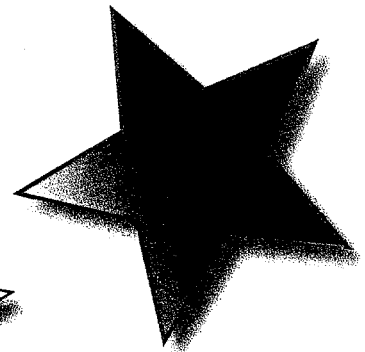
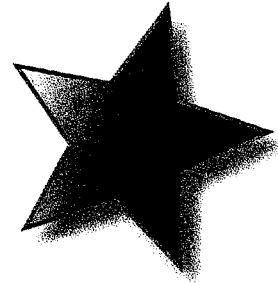
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

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 Excellence Award
Nomination For
City Finance Director of the Year**

**Walter E.(Ed) Mack, Finance Director
Nominated by the City of Cocoa**

Mr. Ed Mack has been the Finance Director for the City of Cocoa since April 2001. Prior to that Ed had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force retiring after 21 years of service, eighteen of those in the financial management arena. He was recognized during his career for outstanding duty performance being presented with the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

Ed has learned the idiosyncrasies of public sector financing quickly and he routinely briefs me on the City's financial condition and the Finance Department, which has resulted in me having a higher awareness of funding and expenditure issues as well as Finance operational topics. Over the past year, Ed has either led or been involved in numerous projects that have made a tremendous impact on the City of Cocoa and the Finance Department.

When the City was faced with diminishing revenues Ed was challenged with finding alternative revenue sources. The one source he came up with was a local non-ad valorem fire assessment. He was a vital part in leading the city team in the development of the first ever City of Cocoa Fire Assessment. This special assessment resulted in the City receiving over \$650,000 in additional revenue for the funding of fire operations and projections for next fiscal year are in the neighborhood of \$670,000.

Ed also established the City's first vehicle lease program and was instrumental in setting up the process as well as getting council "buy-in" on the new concept of procuring police and fire vehicles. Prior to the start of our leasing program vehicles were always purchased and paid for in full, but lean capital funds in several budget years resulted in the City falling severely behind in the replacement of its public safety vehicles. This program has been a tremendous success and has enabled the City to catch up on its critical vehicle replacements.

The City of Cocoa is a regional water supplier for the Central Brevard County area and services Cape Canaveral, Port Canaveral, Patrick Air Force Base and over 75,000 customers. Many of our service areas are sparsely populated which took a tremendous amount of time each month to read the meters. Under Ed's supervision, these areas were converted to radio read meters and what historically had taken two full days to record now only takes three to four hours. An outstanding time saving initiative!

The City is currently in the planning stages for the construction of a new City Hall facility. Ed is the City's focal point for the construction financing team (that consists of the city attorney, bond attorney, bond underwriter, and the city's financial advisor). Working with the City's Financial Advisor, Ed coordinated with all involved parties in the development of a funding timetable for the project. He was also instrumental in the updating of all the city's information in the Preliminary Official Statement and has coordinated with the bond attorney on the development of the Reimbursement Resolution, the Supplemental Bond Resolution and the Continuing Disclosure Statement.

The Cocoa Redevelopment Area (RDA) currently owns the land lease on the old Cocoa Village post office site and the City owns the actual building. As part of the new

City Hall project, the Cocoa RDA intends to purchase both sites (old post office and current City Hall) with aspirations of redeveloping both. Ed, along with the Redevelopment Manager, coordinated the development of an inter-local agreement with the City Attorney, which allowed the RDA to demolish the old post office site and the cost of that demolition will be credited to the future purchase of those sites.

Due to the loss of the General Accounting Manager at the end of the fiscal year, Ed had to take over operational responsibilities of the division. The timing of this departure could have been extremely devastating to the department since the division was just starting year-end close out as well as starting its preparation for the arrival of the City's auditors. Recognizing his own shortcomings, in the knowledge of the complete audit process, Ed developed an audit schedule (starting from data collection thru presentation to the City Council) for the division, which established milestones for assigned personnel to accomplish and resulted in the audit being presented earlier than any of the three previous years.

Recognizing there was a significant deficiency in the Finance Department's filing system Ed developed a centralized system, which is based on the state's system and includes record retention rules on each folder. This concept provides a single location within the department for all financial information and will allow easy access and retrieval of this important data by assigned department personnel.

With the expiration of the contract of the City's previous Financial Advisor (FA), Ed wrote the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the City's new FA and was the chair for the source selection committee. Another outstanding effort.

To meet requirements set forth by GASB 34 to establish a baseline valuation for the entire City's infrastructure, Ed assisted the General Accounting Manager in writing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for that valuation project. This well thought out RFP resulted in detailed proposals being submitted by six potential providers and the project was completed quickly and accurately and enabled the City to meet the established completion due date.

Recognizing deficiencies in the City's travel ordinance Ed along with the Deputy Finance Director, rewrote the existing ordinance making it more user friendly for the traveler to understand as well as making it easier for our staff accountant to calculate benefits due the traveler or money owed back to the City.

Ed Mack is an outstanding Finance Director. His leadership has been instrumental in the City of Cocoa's ability to address the financial challenges it has faced over the past year. Ed is always there when financial advice is needed and he provides straightforward unbiased recommendations to me and the City Council. He is well deserving of recognition as the 2007 Florida League of Cities, City Financial Officer of the Year.