

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 MIKE ANDERSON

Nominated by CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH

(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 _____

Nominated by _____

(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 CAM JOHNSON

Title PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Government CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH

Address 107 MIRACLE STRIP PARKWAY SW FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548

Telephone Number (850)833-9505 Fax (850)833-9640

E-mail Address CJOHNSON@FWB.ORG

Nomination Certification

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

Signed *Helena A. Spencer*
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: 1165
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:**

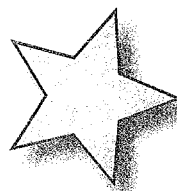
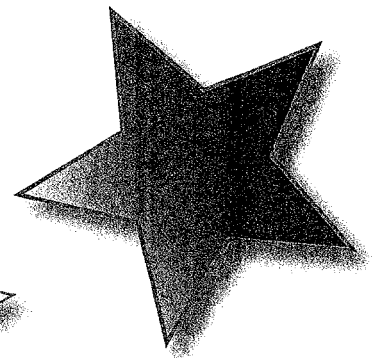
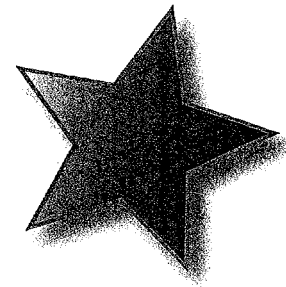
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



**Florida League of Cities
Cities of Excellence
Mayor of the Year Award**

Name: Mike Anderson
Title: Mayor
Jurisdiction: City of Fort Walton Beach

Mike Anderson spent four years on the Fort Walton Beach City Council as council member in Seat 7. He ran for mayor in 2005 to represent the citizens on a larger scale. He feels his experience as a council member allows him to better serve the citizens of Fort Walton Beach. As mayor, he knows he can better champion issues such as traffic, growth management, and property tax reform.

Mayor Anderson is a dedicated public servant who volunteers his free time in a variety of ways at the state and local levels. He is currently a member of the Florida League of Cities Home Rule Council, President of the Okaloosa County League of Cities, and First Vice-President of the Northwest Florida League of Cities. As a member of these organizations, Mayor Anderson spends a considerable amount of time discussing issues with lawmakers that are important to the City.

Mayor Anderson is also a member of the Government Affairs Committee of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Committee for a Sustainable Emerald Coast, Federal Action Strike Team, and is on the Board of Directors of the Emerald Coast Marine Institute, Shelter House, and the Okaloosa School Foundation (Take Stock in Children). As a retired senior program analyst for Eglin Air Force Base and a retired Air

Force Officer, Mayor Anderson is an invaluable liaison between the City and the Air Force. He understands the unique military missions and can effectively communicate the City's needs to the Air Force. He is an active member of the Vision 2015, and the Eglin Installation Growth Executive Committee which is in response to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) suggestions at Eglin Air Force Base. The Committee is responsible for the assessment, planning, implementation and coordination to accommodate the growth coming to the base.

While Mayor Anderson spends a good deal of his time representing the citizens of Fort Walton Beach in places like Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., what he does at home in Fort Walton Beach is even more impressive. He spends so much time working in his office, some employees joke he should start collecting a pay check. Mayor Anderson is always the first to volunteer to represent the City at a local event, whether it is welcoming airmen home from overseas, thanking area businesses for what they provide to the City, or congratulating residents for having the best looking lawn in their neighborhood. His management as the presiding officer of City Council meetings displays his abilities as a leader of leaders.

Another passion of Mayor Anderson is the City's youth. He has introduced several youth programs to the City of Fort Walton Beach over the last two years. The City started a Summer Youth at Work Program, the Student Award for Civic Excellence and a Youth Committee program. He also works closely with the City Changers, which is a program designed to engage local and out-of-area youth in projects to better the Fort Walton

Beach community. Projects like re-roofing and re-painting homes and yard maintenance for residents in need of assistance.

The City's Summer Youth at Work program was developed after Mayor Anderson learned about a similar program in Ohio where a group of young people did meaningful summer work within the municipal government during their summer break. He felt this program was something the City should do to involve youth in the City. The City offers students, ages 14-18, the opportunity to participate in the Summer Youth at Work program, which provides meaningful work experience and career development sessions in the City's Parks and Recreation Department during the summer vacation. The career development sessions include visits to a bank, a college, and seminars on interviewing skills and resume writing. The program has been so popular with the kids, most return the following year.

In the fall of 2005, Mayor Anderson began a new program to recognize the City's high school seniors for their hard work. The Student Award for Civic Excellence (Student ACE) award goes to two students each month, one from each of the City's high schools. Awards are presented the second City Council Meeting of the month. He wanted to develop an award that spotlighted students not just for academic or athletic success, but also for leadership within their school and the Fort Walton Beach Community. Twelve students received the award in the first year, and fourteen received it during the 2006-2007 school year. The students and school administrators often comment on how much

they appreciate the program that rewards students for their willingness to take on leadership roles in the community.

Another program Mayor Anderson introduced to the City of Fort Walton Beach is the Fort Walton Beach Youth Committee. While at a National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C. in 2006, Mayor Anderson heard about a successful youth program in Hampton, Virginia. He wanted to provide youth a similar voice in our city government and thought this model could be implemented in Fort Walton Beach. The Fort Walton Beach Youth Committee is a city sponsored committee composed of high school aged youth who want a voice in city planning. The response and enthusiasm on the part of the students attending initial organizational meetings has been overwhelming. They are anxious to hit the ground running at their first official meeting this fall. The goal of the committee is to provide more youth friendly activities and programs in the City, as well as to get the kids involved in local government at an early age.

In addition to implementing these new programs at the City, Mayor Anderson is also a mentor in the Take Stock in Children Program. For over a decade, Mayor Anderson has been mentoring children not just inside the City limits, but throughout Okaloosa County. His dedication to the students was recognized in the Spring of 2007, when Mayor Anderson was presented with the *Award of Excellence in Mentoring - Local Government Mentor of the Year* by the Florida Mentoring Partnership. During his award presentation at a recent City Council meeting, Florida State Senator Don Gaetz praised Mayor Anderson saying "When it comes to helping kids succeed, no one has done more to

benefit the children of this community than Mayor Anderson. Quietly, without any fanfare, and not asking for public notice, he has gone on to change the lives of young people in Okaloosa County; giving hope where there was none before.”

While he has a lot on his plate, Mayor Anderson continues tirelessly, and with in good humor, to perform his duties for all the residents of the City of Fort Walton Beach. This is one reason why he was presented with the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce’s *Chairman’s Award* in 2006. Mayor Mike Anderson is deserving of the Florida Cities of Excellence Mayor of the Year Award because he puts all his time, energy and heart into working for the people of Fort Walton Beach, exactly what a mayor is elected to do.