

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 Jake Williams
Nominated by City of Cocoa
(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 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: 1153
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**:

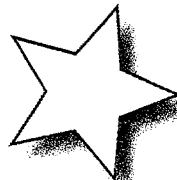
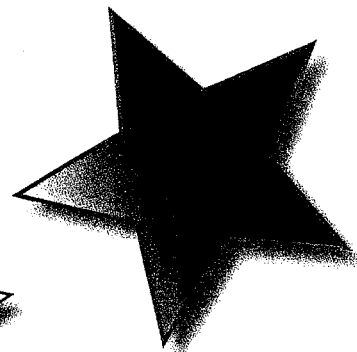
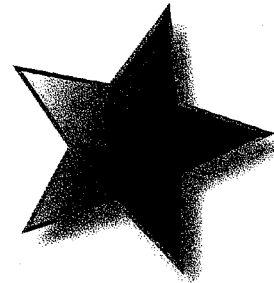
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 (32301)

P.O. Box 1757

Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757



FLORIDA CITIES OF EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD - *Jake Williams*

It is never easy to try and single out just one individual for Council Member of the Year since the function of a Council is to act as a team. This year was no exception; however, there was one person that stood out above the rest. The nominee for the City of Cocoa's Council Member of the Year under the "Florida Cities of Excellence" Award Program is Jake Williams, Jr. Jake was elected as the City's District 2 representative in November of 2004.

There are several reasons why Councilman Williams was nominated by his peers on Council, but the primary reason he was chosen is his unwavering commitment to make the City of Cocoa better. Jake has been a resident of the City of Cocoa for 47 years. He was a dedicated volunteer on the City's Code Enforcement Board for more than six years before running for Council.

The following are some of the other reasons Councilman Williams was nominated as addressed by the Florida League of Cities Excellence Award:

✓ **INITIATIVE:** Jake Williams does not sit back and wait for others to act. He is routinely seen driving around his District and the entire City. He notifies the City Manager of potential areas of concern. Since being on City Council Jake has never discontinued his involvement with code enforcement. As the City Council liaison to the Code Enforcement Board, Jake religiously attends all board meetings. He periodically arranges to meet with code enforcement staff to discuss code related issues as well as to undertake tours of the City. His leadership and support of code enforcement activities have elevated its importance

not just amongst City Council but within the community. Councilmember Williams believes that change can begin due to his actions.

✓ **INTEGRITY:** Councilman Williams supports a system that is built on accountability, yet he is a staunch advocate for allowing staff to do their job. He believes in providing enough flexibility to enable those responsible for managing the City to run their assigned areas more efficiently and effectively as he considers them the experts in their respective field.

✓ **VISION:** One of Councilman Williams' strengths is his ability to see the big picture. While he was elected to represent one specific District, he feels responsible for the growth and improvement of the whole City. Councilman Williams is able to look past the immediate issue to try and find a resolution with long term benefits. As a result of his vision, the City of Cocoa Council approved numerous forward thinking initiatives:

➡ **Fire Assessment:** The City of Cocoa approved a Fire Assessment program a year ago. At the time property tax reform had not become a discussion issue. It was not a popular decision and would not have passed without the support of Councilman Williams. One year later, the City of Cocoa is in a much better financial position due having the assessment.

➡ **Residential Rental Program:** The purpose behind the residential rental program was to ensure that no resident, simply because they rent, was required to live in substandard housing conditions. Jake's efforts and leadership were critical to adoption of this program. In the face of intense opposition from the property management and real estate community Jake never wavered in his support for the program. He took it upon himself to meet with and engage the various special interest groups in opposition of the program. His efforts to minimize conflict

through education led to a number of changes to the ordinance preserving the original intent of the program while reasonably accommodating concerns of the real estate community.

➡ **Sexual Predator Ordinance:** The City of Cocoa is known to have a large share of the affordable rental properties within Brevard County. When other cities began discussing the idea of instituting a Sexual Predator Ordinance, Jake recognized that the City had the potential to become home to large number of sexual predators. Under his leadership the City passed an ordinance to prevent a convicted sexual predator from living within 2,000 feet of a school.

➡ **Property Maintenance Code:** Jake's leadership was instrumental in passing a sweeping reform of the City's antiquated property maintenance code. Drawing from his past experience in serving on the Code Enforcement Board, Jake was able to effectively articulate both the deficiencies and the need for a revision to the code. Jake's leadership was not simply limited to participating in the public hearings but coalescing support within the community. As one of the chief proponents of the property maintenance code he took it upon himself to meet with residents and explain the changes to the code.

✓ **INNOVATION:** Councilman Williams doesn't limit his efforts to helping his constituents; he also looks out for the City's employees. When he heard that the City was trying to establish a wellness program, he took it upon himself to get some donated exercise equipment. This equipment was then given to the City for use by its employees. Another example of Jake's innovation was the creation of the City's Leisure Services division. Previously, the City had a private organization manage our special facilities which created

many difficulties with accountability and responsiveness to our citizens. As a result when the contract ended, Jake supported the City Manager and helped to lead the effort to manage the facilities in house to ensure that the services are provided in an effective and efficient manner while still providing customer service.

✓ **LEADERSHIP:** Councilman Williams is a leader. Many times he is the individual to make the motion on the difficult decisions. He can be counted on to look at the whole picture and make decisions based on the whole City; not just the residents that happen to be in the Council meeting that night. He can always be counted on to provide support to any department or to tackle a problem or issue.

✓ **COMMITMENT:** No one is more committed to improving the Cocoa community than Councilman Williams. He talks the talk, but also walks the walk. He has been instrumental in getting donated items to help the community such as:

- Obtained donated computers and distributed them to one of the Elementary schools in the City that serves a very poor population;
- Set up donation boxes and collected school supplies for needy children in our community;
- Donated exercise equipment to encourage employees to be healthier.

Jake is a team player and is willing to do the work behind the scenes without feeling the need to be given the credit.

In summary, the City of Cocoa is proud to nominate Council Member Jake Williams, Jr. as Council Member of the Year. The City Council unanimously voted to approve the nomination. As a result, City Council and City Administration respectfully submit her nomination for the Florida Cities of Excellence "Council Member of the Year."