

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 Mayor Michael C. Blake
Nominated by City of Cocoa
(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 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@cocoafl.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: 813
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**:

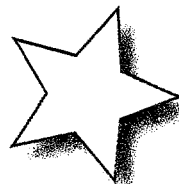
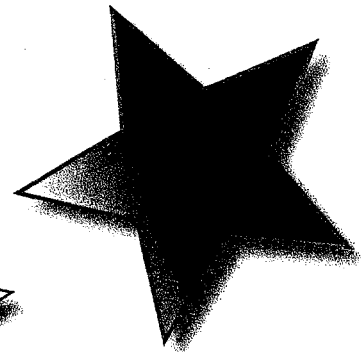
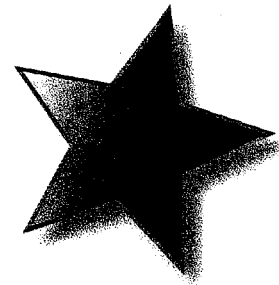
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

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

MAYOR OF THE YEAR

Mayor Michael C. Blake of the City of Cocoa was nominated by a member of our City Council and unanimously support by our Council as a whole. Elected in November 2004, he has shown great commitment and love for the City he serves so devotedly. He holds the distinction of being the first African American to serve as the Mayor of Cocoa and as the President of the Space Coast League of Cities.

- **Initiative:**

The poorest census tract in Brevard County is located within the corporate limits of the City of Cocoa. Aware of the needs of many of our citizens, Mayor Blake organized "Volunteers in Action," a group of citizen volunteers that actively participate in the community. To date they have established and participated in the following:

- 1) Annual Turkey Drive – Over 300 turkeys are provided each year at Christmas to citizens in need and to community churches to feed the homeless. Mayor Blake organized the first Annual Turkey Drive in 2004 in less than 30 days.
- 2) Spring Fling – Free community event (held in two locations in the City) providing a barbeque lunch and children's activities. Mayor Blake and the Fire Department do all the cooking! (See attached flyer).

3) Toy Drive – Mayor Blake and his Volunteers in Action stepped up to the plate immediately when the Police Department determined they could no longer organize a toy drive. They will be assisting the Office of the City Clerk in providing holiday gifts, to children ages newborn to seventeen, for over 500 families.

- **Integrity:**

Mayor Blake is committed to doing the right thing. He follows the City's Charter and Council's Rules of Procedure to a tee. If he is unfamiliar with an issue, procedure or matter at hand, he will consult with the City Attorney, City Clerk or City Manager for additional information.

- **Vision:**

Mayor Blake supported the development and implementation of the City's local non-ad valorem fire assessment prior to the Florida Legislature's tax reform. The City of Cocoa received \$650,000 in additional revenue for the funding of fire operations in FY 2006-2007, and projections for FY 2007-2008 are estimated at \$670,000.

He also supports and actively encourages the City's annual "Team Building Sessions." Each year Council holds a session, assisted by Marilyn Crotty of the Institute of Government, to establish the City's long and short term goals relating to economic development, public safety, taxes, housing, and growth.

He travels to Washington D.C. annually to speak to legislators and their aides in an effort to obtain funding for needed projects for the City.

- **Innovation:**

Mayor Blake has proven his ability for innovation when it comes to providing for and serving the citizens of Cocoa through his special programs and events.

- **Leadership:**

City of Cocoa Council Meetings have extended far into the evening and early morning hours for many years. Mayor Blake has taken his Chairmanship role seriously, and with skill and leadership has reduced meeting times drastically. We very rarely exceed a meeting time of 2 ½ to 3 hours.

He is a teacher by profession, and his eighth grade students often attend and participate in City meetings and events. He impresses upon his students the importance of municipal government and invites them to participate in the local process.

He has gained the respect of City employees by working side by side with them, and has been known to dig a ditch or two and even clean out sewer pipes. He is always will to listen to employee concerns, and he visits City employees injured on the job.

In addition, he was unanimously elected by the Board of the Space Coast League of Cities to serve as its President when the Vice President (and incoming President) of the organization was unable to serve. What better testimonial to his leadership skills?

- **Commitment:**

Mayor Blake is committed to the citizens and community of Cocoa.

He has participated in the annual Ujima celebration in Provost Park by acting the part of Santa Claus for the past 10 years.

In August of 2006, he personally financed a "Hot Fun in the Summertime" event for our citizens. This was a family-oriented party held in Cocoa's Riverfront Park.

He is a member of Civ Mil, Florida League of Mayors, and served as the Treasurer to the Florida Black Caucus in 2006.

He has a special affinity for the elderly in the community, and celebrates with each citizen on their hundredth birthday and presents them with a key to the City.

In closing, Mayor Blake is a big man with a big voice, both figuratively and literally. He has earned the respect of both citizens and employees through his efforts to help the community and through his ability to make tough and unpopular decisions for the betterment of the City of Cocoa.