

2006 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)

X Mayor of the Year

Name of Individual Nominated Mayor Frank C. Ortis
Nominated by City of Pembroke Pines
(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 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]

Person Completing Nomination Form

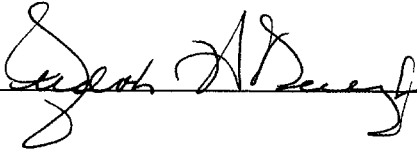
Please print or type.

Name Gordon J. Keibler
Title Deputy Director, Public Services Department
Government City of Pembroke Pines
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Address gkeibler@ppines.com

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.

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 18, 2006**:
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

**2006 Florida League of Cities
Cities of Excellence Awards
Mayor of the Year Nomination**

**Mayor Frank C. Ortis
Nominated by the City of Pembroke Pines**

*This award honors a mayor for outstanding civic commitment, leadership, public outreach and service to the city during the past year. Nominations for the award must be made by a majority vote of the nominated city's commission. 1200 word narrative, up to 10 pages of supportive information. Show how the mayor displayed outstanding **Initiative, Integrity, Vision, Innovation, Leadership, Commitment***

Over the past decade, Pembroke Pines' population more than doubled to 151,000. Frank Ortis has been a resident of Pembroke Pines since 1977 and has served the community during this challenging period.

Since his first civic appointment in 1994, Ortis has provided visionary leadership, identifying challenges and shaping solutions. After two terms as a Commissioner, he was elected Mayor in 2004. For 12 years, Mayor Ortis spearheaded initiatives that became national models. Not coincidentally, Pembroke Pines was named an All-America City by the National Civic League in 2004 and was spotlighted last week as one of only four Florida communities on the *Money/CNN* listing of "Best Places to Live" in America. These are significant accomplishments in light of the City's struggles with surging growth – and are a testament to Mayor Ortis's vision, initiative and leadership.

Initiative

Mayor Ortis spearheads local emergency response and recovery capability. Last fall, Hurricane Wilma tore through Pembroke Pines. The City lost power and communications, suffering damage to thousands of structures. Streets were choked with debris. Fuel and generators to power wastewater treatment were in short supply. A significant challenge for the general population, this was a critical threat to the senior citizens who live in the City's apartment towers and the 15,000-resident Century Village.

Ortis sprang into action immediately, working with the EOC and FEMA. Century Village resident Adele Berger remembers, "He was just unreal – he brought food and ice to people in City trucks, and set up a food distribution site right outside. I don't think he slept for days." Then he vowed that Pembroke Pines would become its own first line of defense. Over the past year, the City completed construction of a field kitchen that serves 20,000 meals daily. Wastewater treatment facilities now have back-up power. Solar traffic signals are ready. Contracts for debris removal, ice, food and water are in place. Fuel storage capability has doubled.

Integrity

Mayor Ortis works for important causes throughout Broward County and the nation.

Sister Margaret Johnson, Director of Schott Communities serving the hearing-impaired, says, "Mayor Ortis is a generous leader who models a big heart, a soaring spirit and a sense of outreach that is not restricted to geographic city boundaries... I've watched Mayor Ortis over the years. He isn't a watcher, he is a doer. He isn't afraid to roll up his

sleeves... At meetings, he performs as a gentleman, allowing all to speak their minds, respecting divergent opinions...”

Ortis gives generously of his time and talent to nonprofits and professional organizations:

-Workforce 1 – board member for 10 years. Workforce 1 assists job seekers, employed workers in improving skills and businesses in finding employees. This year, Ortis helped launch a Youth Employment Program for 600 and provided job-training grants to 1,000 County residents.

-United Way of Broward County – chaired the County and Municipal Government campaign. Pembroke Pines raised \$87,000, almost \$50,000 for hurricane relief.

-Schott Communities – Ortis led volunteers to increase proceeds at the 2006 fundraiser.

-Broward League of Cities – just completed 2005-06 term as President

-Florida League of Cities – currently the 2nd Vice President

-US Conference of Mayors – elected this month to the Advisory Board

Vision

Mayor Ortis leads residents to embrace plans for City Center. Taking action against piecemeal development, Ortis and the Commission purchased a 133-acre property adjacent to City Hall. This property, then zoned commercial/industrial, provided a unique opportunity to shape a city center and address sprawl. City Center will offer affordable residential, commercial, park land, a new Civic Center and a central square. After 12 charrettes held during the master-planning process, the project reached a

milestone this month, when the Commission approved the Affordable Housing element. City Center is projected to bring \$170 million in revenues to the City over 30 years.

Innovation

Pembroke Pines Charter Schools Make the Governor's A+ Grade System-wide in 2006.

Broward County's schools have been critically crowded since the 1990s, and Pembroke Pines was on the front lines of this shortage. The Commission offered to donate land and build schools to be leased back, but the School District declined. In 1997, with the School Board's assent, the City established Florida's first municipal charter system providing a full, public, tuition-free education. The System has four elementary schools, two middle schools, and a high school, serving 5,200 students. Last June, the Pembroke Pines Charter School System received the Outstanding Achievement Award in the national US Conference of Mayors' City Livability competition. One competition judge observed, "This is a very creative program that addresses a very serious societal problem - a good example of thinking outside the box. There was a tremendous mobilization of resources with an extremely successful result."

Leadership

Mayor leads community to provide a wide range of human services.

-Not one to succumb to the "Not in My Backyard" defense when faced with a critical community need, Ortis has worked tirelessly to build a home for the **Susan B.**

Anthony Recovery Center, a nonprofit providing transitional housing and services for substance-addicted women and their children. This past year, the Recovery

Center opened its new facility in Pembroke Pines at the **Forman Human Services Campus**. The City's \$9 million investment will be repaid over seven years

-The **Forman Human Services Campus** is the site of a former State Mental Hospital, and this blighted 283-acre site is being redeveloped in partnership with the **Department of Children & Families** and the City. The Forman Campus is also home to 396 rental apartments for seniors, four DCF homes, a Veterans residence and 19 private and nonprofit Health Services lessees.

Commitment

Affordable housing complex for seniors opens. Mayor Ortis has championed services for seniors throughout his tenure. To meet the critical need for affordable senior housing, Pembroke Pines just opened its second complex of 394 affordable rental apartments for seniors, tripling the units owned, managed and rented by the City. Complementing the 190 units located at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, the new apartments are located in the Forman Health Park.. With free transportation, comprehensive services and a multi-generational community center planned, this project addresses myriad regional needs. It is also an important component of Pembroke Pines' innovative master plan to redevelop the former State mental hospital property into a thriving community campus. *This project is just one example from the past year that illustrates Mayor Ortis' commitment to providing a better quality of life to people from all sectors of the community.*

The climate of cooperation and vision fostered by Mayor Ortis, along with involved citizens and responsive government, has brought about rewarding partnerships with forward-thinking regional institutions. Area seniors have invaluable resources. People of all ages enjoy educational and cultural opportunities at our Academic Village campus. Our municipally-run Charter School System is a model for cities everywhere and our community is pioneering programs to support all its schools. We enjoy 29 beautiful parks and terrific recreation programs. The arts are thriving, and opportunities for local events and performances have broadened with the recent opening of the River of Grass Cultural Arts Center. Taxes remain low. Pembroke Pines is thriving, thanks in large part to Mayor Ortis's exceptional service to the community, and we wholeheartedly recommend that he be named Florida's Mayor of the Year!

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