

# 2007 Florida Cities of Excellence Awards Program ▶

Category (Please check one) See Award Criteria for more information. Please print or type. One nomination per page.

Name of Municipality Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Municipality Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated Project \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

Name of Individual Nominated Phyllis Gurley  
Nominated by Sgt. George Edmiston Largo, FL Police Department  
(Name of City/Town/Village)

[OVER]

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

Please print or type.

Name Lester Aradi

Title Chief of Police


Government City of Largo

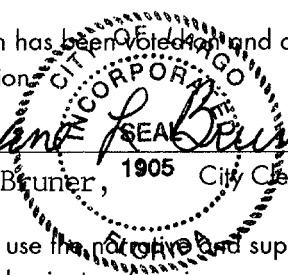
Address 201 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770

Telephone Number (727) 587-6730 Fax (727) 587-6767

E-mail Address laradi@largo.com

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

Signed   
Diane Bruner, 1905 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.

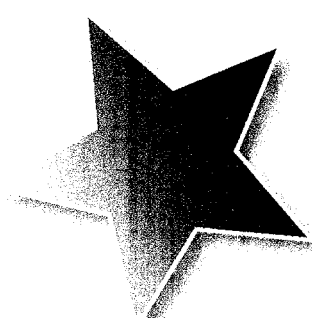
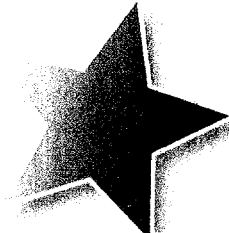
In the narrative, please be clear and concise, using the Award Criteria to support the selection of your nominee. Please type (or print in black ink), up to 1,200 words, double-spaced on white 8-1/2" x 11" paper.

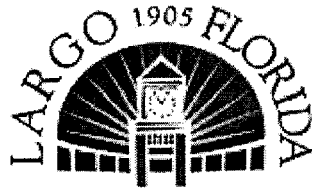
Please include a word count: 1024  
Number of words

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





## City of Largo, Florida

Post Office Box 296, Largo, Florida 33779-0296

Police Department  
Lester Aradi, Chief  
E-Mail: laradi@largo.com

(727) 586-7427  
Fax(727) 586-7497

Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Attn: Florida Cities of Excellence

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Nominations Committee:

As the coordinator for the Largo Police Department's Volunteers in Policing Program, I would like to nominate one volunteer who stands out among the others and deserves the title as City Citizen of the Year. I will outline some of the daily duties of this outstanding citizen volunteer and describe her unselfish dedication to the Largo Police Department. This volunteer is Phyllis Gurley, who has been a VIP (Volunteer in Policing) since July, 2001.

Since joining in 2001, Phyllis has volunteered over 10,200 hours to date and continues to provide volunteer services to her community on a daily basis. Phyllis can be found volunteering for the Largo Police Department on various days throughout the week and throughout the night hours when others would be home asleep. Phyllis has taken the role of keeping this program organized since 2004 when the program director's position was cut from the budget. Phyllis has obtained several certifications from the state to handle certain jobs that would typically be staffed by a police officer or a paid school crossing guard. As you will see, the daily duties and the dedication of this outstanding volunteer will support this nomination.

Some of the daily duties performed by Phyllis are based on the needs of the agency which tend to rapidly

change on a day to day basis. Phyllis wears many hats in this agency and takes the lead in stepping forward to assist at any time or day of the week. Typically, Phyllis can be found at 6:30 a.m. starting her morning off by gathering traffic statistics from the prior day's activities and adding the statistics to our database. She also maintains logs of daily activities of the police volunteers for crime analysis reports and internal monthly reports. She has recently taken on the role of collecting and posting current newspaper articles that pertain to the Largo Police Department's criminal investigations and/or public relations articles. This is a critical task as it relates to criminal investigations to ensure accurate facts are published in press release documents. Phyllis has several administrative tasks which she performs on a daily basis that are critical to our national and state accreditation process. She serves on the accreditation support team which we are currently in the process of renewing in the upcoming months. Phyllis serves as a liaison between the accreditation team and the police administration. She serves in assisting with the static display which is a highlight of what this agency has to offer with public purchased equipment.

When Phyllis is not working in the capacity of administrative support, you can find her on patrol in her Volunteers in Policing fully equipped patrol car, absent a cage. She handles calls for service that are not considered high risk calls. Such calls include, but are not limited to, parking lot crashes, disabled vehicles, traffic control, found property or bicycles, and welfare checks. Phyllis attended the basic VIP academy but also has achieved certification under state curriculum as a Traffic Control Specialist and Certified School Crossing Guard Trainer. She also is a Certified Emergency Response Team member. On her daily patrol duties, it is not unusual for a citizen to contact my office to explain the positive contact they have had with Phyllis at their time of need, such as being broken down on the side of the road and Phyllis there to assist them. Her file includes numerous commendations from the public she serves and from those employees who work with her in the police department. It is not unusual to encounter Phyllis directing traffic in the middle of the night to assist the Traffic Homicide Unit in a roadway closure. In the past six years, Phyllis was not available for VIPER (Volunteer's in Policing Emergency Response Team) call outs only a handful of times. This team is typically called out thirty plus times a year for traffic fatalities, HAZMAT spills, or natural disasters. Officers jokingly say that Phyllis must sleep in her uniform because she is usually first on the scene. These are just a few small examples of her outstanding dedication to this agency and our community.

Phyllis stands out alongside her peers as a true leader and an inspiration for others to follow. Lets face it,

her job is exactly what her title describes, Volunteer. Phyllis goes over and above her title. When a special event calls for volunteer assistance, we ask volunteers to sign up. At times, events become overwhelming and we tend to have difficulties staffing the positions with volunteers. Phyllis takes her position as a volunteer seriously and does not allow events to go unstaffed. She will utilize her personality to encourage others to step forward and assist or she will work a double shift to ensure no position goes unstaffed. She has always kept the VIP program as one of the greatest assets this agency has to offer.

Phyllis is unique to this program because she is the first volunteer to ever exceed 10,000 hours of volunteer service with the Largo Police Department. As a matter of fact, there is no other volunteer in this organization that comes close to her volunteer hours with the tenure she holds. By the time your organization holds its annual awards recognition, Phyllis will have surpassed 11,000 hours of volunteer service. On an average, Phyllis works 180 hours a month. A typical paid city employee works only 160 hours. Phyllis exceeds the work hours of the average paid employee and does so at no cost to the community. If one were to calculate the cost savings of her voluntary work, the savings would be a huge impact to the taxpayers of our community.

The command staff of this organization support this nomination of Phyllis Gurley as City Citizen of the Year. Phyllis has truly been an asset to this organization and the volunteer program itself. Phyllis comes to this agency each day with a smile on her face and a desire to make this agency a better service to the community by her unselfish dedication. For her actions and dedication to this community, I nominate her as "City Citizen of the Year ."

Respectfully submitted,

Sergeant George Edmiston

Traffic Enforcement Unit Supervisor

Largo Police Department

(727)586-7473