



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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For Immediate Release
Monday, June 25, 2007

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2007 CITY LIVABILITY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED *Miami (FL), Davenport (IA), Rock Island (IL) Received Top Honors*

Los Angeles, CA — Mayors Manuel A. Diaz of Miami (FL), Ed Winborn of Davenport (IA) and Mark W. Schwiebert of Rock Island (IL), have been awarded First Place honors in the 2007 **City Livability Awards Program**, sponsored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Waste Management. For the past 28 years, cities have competed for this very prestigious award, which recognizes mayoral leadership for developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities.

Tom Cochran, Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors said: "Our City Livability Awards Program gives the Conference a chance to highlight mayoral leadership in making urban areas safer, cleaner and more livable. It is also an opportunity to showcase the creativity and commitment of mayors and city governments across the country."

Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities with populations of 100,000 were given to Honolulu (HI), Louisville Metropolitan (KY), Oklahoma City (OK) and West Palm Beach (FL). Outstanding Achievement Awards were also given to cities with populations of 100,000 or fewer people to Brockton (MA), Hammond (IN), South San Francisco (CA) and Sugar Land (TX).

Honorable Mention citations were awarded for cities with populations of 100,000 or more to Arlington (TX), Cleveland (OH), Denver (CO), Fresno (CA) and Philadelphia (PA). Cities with populations of less than 100,000 that received Honorable Mentions are Lake Oswego (OR), Macon (GA), Orland Park (IL), Roanoke (VA) and West Hollywood (CA).

"This year's honorees represent yet another group of resourceful and innovative mayors helping to make their communities and the nation a better place to live and work. We heartily applaud their efforts," said Mr. David Steiner, Chief Executive Officer of Waste Management, Inc., a support of the program for 18 years.

The judges were former mayors who selected the winning cities from a pool of over 200 applicants based on mayoral leadership, creativity and innovation, and broad impact on the quality of life for residents.

(Winning programs descriptions next page)

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS FOR FIRST PLACE CITIES

LARGE CITIES

First Place

MIAMI - *ELEVATE Miami* is the successful city-wide integrated poverty reduction strategy. Under the leadership of Mayor Manuel A. Diaz, *ELEVATE Miami* has united and coordinated city-based resources with those in the public, private and nonprofit sectors to provide tools, resources, education, and long-term opportunities to directly impact the needs of families and remediate long term poverty. *ELEVATE Miami* increases livability through poverty reduction by increasing household income, saving and asset accumulation; establishing a talented workforce; enhancing a thriving entrepreneurial sector; and, building the capacity of its community and faith-based organizations. -In 2000, the U.S. Census ranked Miami as having the highest incidence of poverty of any large city in the nation, the result of the large numbers of low-skilled, low-wage workers, failing schools, double digit unemployment and a stagnant economy. These dubious distinctions galvanized Mayor Diaz to tackle poverty and its causes head on, the creation of *ELEVATE Miami* marked the first time a mayor of Miami had articulated, planned and implemented an anti-poverty initiative that would be broad enough to have a major impact.

SMALL CITIES

First Place

DAVENPORT (IA) and ROCK ISLAND(IL) - RiverVision is a far-reaching and broadly participatory waterfront development plan for both Davenport, IA and Rock Island, IL. The program involves two cities in two states planning and implementing a bi-coastal water's edge riverfront and brownfield reclamation project. Still in process, the project will redefine the Quad Cities region, by attracting more visitors and branding the Quad Cities as having one of the most compelling riverfronts in the nation. The RiverVision project is located on the Mississippi River, and the planning process is a unique model for municipal cooperation to achieve both shared regional objectives as well as projects specific to the needs of each city. The RiverVision plan provides a coordinated framework for channeling development and configuring urban public open space to enhance and improve the quality of living in Davenport and Rock Island. The Rivervision initiative is noteworthy in that two neighboring cities through open processes are working together on a revitalization and economic development program rather than competing with each other.

For Programs Descriptions for Outstanding Achievement Awardees and Honorable Mentions, please go to our website www.usmayors.org