



CITY OF DORAL

Office of the City Manager

Letter to Council

LTC No.: 037-2019

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Albert P. Childress, City Manager

Date: July 1, 2019

Subject: All-America City Award Silver Recipient

This Letter to Council (LTC) is to inform the Mayor and City Council-members of the City's participation in the 2019 All-America City Award and Conference held in Denver, Colorado and the outcome of the competition.

Since 2018, it was a goal of the City's Administration to apply for the prestigious recognition that shines a spotlight on the incredible work taking place in communities across the country and celebrates the best in local innovation, civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration. In 2019, the City's Administration saw an opportunity to apply and exhibit our projects and initiatives that promote health, inclusivity, cross-sector collaboration and meaningful change. This would be the first time that the City of Doral applied for the All-American City Award.

Annually, over 500 applications nationwide are submitted to be considered for the All-American City Award. The City of Doral was able to submit an application that showcased the City to be selected as a finalist. The work then continued to put together a comprehensive presentation that fit the criteria, strategically select members for the team and handle all the logistics of attending the conference. These tasks were spearheaded by Public Affairs and Parks & Recreation.

The City of Doral was able to identify 25 volunteers that represented a cross section of the community and of the diverse staff. The Team included, the Mayor and Vice-Mayor, a representative of almost every City Department, six (6) residents and three (3) business owners. Once the Doral team of (25) was confirmed, the preparation for the ten (10) minute

presentation began with numerous hours of rehearsals with the group to learn our lines and practice all aspects of the presentation. After the presentation, the group had to be prepared for a ten (10) minute Q&A portion that covered the City's application. A total of (7) evening rehearsals took place in Doral and (3) more once the group arrived in Denver. We also worked with the community to obtain sponsorship to cover the expenses of the trip. Our gracious sponsors included: Codina Partners, Downtown Doral, Florida East Coast Industries, Top Golf, New York Life, Omega Learning, United Martial Arts. We thank them for recognizing the value in our City's participation.

From June 20, to June 23, 2019, all the finalist communities attended the conference for the final phase of the All-America City competition in Denver Colorado. Teams of residents; nonprofit, business, and government leaders; and young people from communities across the country came together for (3) days. A representation of all type of cites were selected as finalist. Some Cities with very small populations, to Cities with over 1.5 million residents.

At the All-America City Awards event, these teams connected and shared insights with peers, learned from national thought-leaders, and presented the story of their work to a jury of nationally recognized civic leaders. The largest team had 86 members. The event included workshops, panel discussions, receptions, networking opportunities, and community presentations to a jury of national experts. The transformational experience equipped, inspired and supported leaders and communities to achieve more than we ever believed possible.

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, it was announced how all the All-America finalists placed. The City of Doral was identified as a silver recipient, an accomplishment that those who participated in were very proud. It was all an amazing experience that truly showed just how fortunate the City of Doral is. Learning about issues other cities are challenged with such as: food deserts, opioid crisis, and vast homelessness, shows us what a remarkable and blessed community we have. From our elected officials, city staff, residents, and businesses – the work everyone does to make Doral the premier place to live, work, learn and play is undeniable.

c: Barbara Hernandez, Parks & Recreation Director
 Maggie Santos, Communications & Protocol Manager
 Ashley Barcena, Recreation Marketing & Sponsorship Coordinator