



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **CITY OF WINTER PARK RECEIVES NATIONAL PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARD**

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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**WINTER PARK, Fla., a nationally recognized Silver Circle Award and National Merit Award winner (April 24, 2007)** – The American Planning Association (APA) has awarded the City of Winter Park the “2007 National Planning Excellence Award for Innovation in Neighborhood Planning in Honor of Jane Jacobs” for the revitalization of the Hannibal Square neighborhood.

The APA National Planning Awards are considered by planners across the nation to be the profession’s highest honor. The tradition began more than 50 years ago to recognize outstanding community plans, public education efforts, and individuals for their leadership on planning issues. Winter Park’s Planning & Community Development Director, Jeff Briggs, and Senior Planner Lindsey Hayes, AICP, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Winter Park on April 17, at the APA conference in Philadelphia. The City of Winter Park’s significant planning accomplishments will also be highlighted in the April issue of *Planning* magazine.

According to Jeff Briggs, “Winter Park didn’t receive this award because such attractive private sector redevelopment happened. We received the award because of what the city accomplished, and because we didn’t leave the community behind.” During the past several years, the City of Winter Park has worked diligently to reach out to residents in order to understand the needs and wants for their community. The city created an extensive plan to preserve and enhance the traditional character of the neighborhood, while also defending it against commercial encroachment. These planning efforts have begun to show amazing results in Hannibal Square with many character enhancing projects such as the addition of the Community Land Trust, the Heritage Center, the spray ground, and the Railroad Avenue apartments. These projects will provide a sense of community for generations to come.

Carol Rhea, AICP, Chair of APA’s 2007 National Planning Awards Committee said, “Redevelopment of the Hannibal Square neighborhood shows that revitalization does not have to lead to gentrification. Winter Park also shows how affordable housing can have style and personality. All in all, this is an outstanding example of restoring a historic community that can be emulated by others.”

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park Planning & Community Development Division, please visit the city’s official Web site at [www.cityofwinterpark.org](http://www.cityofwinterpark.org)

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