



PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF WINTER PARK RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

WINTER PARK, Fla., a nationally recognized Silver Circle Award and National Merit Award winner (June 27, 2008) – The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has awarded the City of Winter Park the “2008 Community Health and Safety Program Excellence Award” for the city’s Ambulance Safety Initiative (ASI). This prestigious award recognizes innovative local government programs or processes that demonstrate improvement in the community’s safety, health and wellness. City representatives will accept the award at ICMA’s 94th annual conference in Richmond, Va., in September 2008.

The ASI program is the result of several years of dedicated work on behalf of the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department (WPFDR). In 2005, during an effort to purchase new ambulances, the WPFDR quickly found that patients and ambulance attendants were not included in new passenger safety initiatives. Further study showed that during the 1990s, more than 300 fatal ambulance accidents in the United States involved attendants who were not restrained in the rear compartment of the ambulance. In an effort to resolve this problem, WPFDR redesigned the modern ambulance compartment establishing what is now referred to as the ASI project. The innovative thought process to ergonomic design has yielded an ambulance that has made it safer for ambulance attendants to perform their job of saving lives.

According to Winter Park City Manager, Randy Knight, “We are very proud of Chief Jim White and Lt. Andrew Isaacs for leading this effort. Their tireless dedication to helping others by developing the ASI project will help to save the lives of paramedics and patients across the country.”

Founded in 1914, ICMA is the premier local government leadership and management organization. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by advocating and developing the professional management of local government worldwide. In addition to supporting its nearly 9,000 members, ICMA provides publications, data, information, technical assistance, and training and professional development to thousands of city, town and county experts as well as other individuals throughout the world.

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park and the WPFDR, please visit the city’s official Web site at www.cityofwinterpark.org

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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