



City of Hollywood, Florida
Office of Community and Public Relations

PRESS RELEASE

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Hollywood Receives Award of Excellence for Summer Youth Program

HOLLYWOOD, FL –On October 16, 2006 the City of Hollywood's Department of Housing and Community Redevelopment was awarded with the Award of Excellence for the Summer Youth Program by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) at its annual conference in Atlanta.

Hollywood is one of only 24 communities across the country that was selected to receive this prestigious designation.

The Summer Youth Program provides opportunities for high-school students in low and moderate income neighborhoods to become more cognizant of the various aspects of the community in which they live. The young people learn about public safety by visiting the Police Department, homeland security by experiencing the thrill of activity at an active U.S. Coast Guard station, city government by spending time with city departments and local leaders, and the environment by learning about how our water and wastewater are handled, said Hollywood's Director of Housing and Community Redevelopment Neal Herst.

"The students who participate in the Summer Youth Program benefits from the experience of helping people in need," said Herst. "We are proud of this program because it provides a positive direction for our young people -- who are our leaders of the community."

The second component of the program provides the youth with the opportunity to help needy families in their own neighborhood by making visible improvements to homes owned by low income elderly, and single parent households.

(MORE)

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Finally, the students are taken to a youth leadership training seminar at Universal Studios in Orlando to learn how other young people of similar circumstances address community issues.

The program was created locally by the Department of Housing and Community Redevelopment and is recognized throughout the nation as an innovative way to engage the youth of the community.

For more information about the Summer Youth Program, please contact Neal Herst in the Housing and Community Redevelopment Department at (954) 921-3271.

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