



News Release
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FINANCE DEPARTMENT HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS BUDGET AWARD FOR 25TH YEAR

Sarasota, FL: The City of Sarasota Finance Department was honored recently with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association for an impressive 25th consecutive year. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and was bestowed for the City's annual financial plan for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

“To earn this professional award one time is an honor, but to be recognized for a quarter of a century is extraordinary,” said City Manager Tom Barwin. “Our Finance Department works diligently every day to instill trust with the community, particularly with the annual budget, and this award is a significant achievement recognizing their high caliber professional efforts, reflecting a generation of commitment and excellence in local government.”

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is given to governmental entities which help make complex government budgets more user friendly for taxpayers. Four categories must be met or exceeded: policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device.

While the Finance Department works as a team on the budget throughout the year, Deputy Finance Director Kelly Strickland, Budget Manager Michelle Valentich and Susan Dodd, Assistant to the Finance Director, were instrumental in producing the award winning document.

“We appreciate the support of all the departments in the City,” said Finance Director John Lege. “Over the year, we work closely with staff and with their assistance, ultimately, we’re able to produce a quality budget document like this.”

Nearly 18,000 government finance professionals are served by the Government Finance Officers Association in the United States and Canada. Approximately 1,400 received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

For more information contact Finance Director [John Lege](#): 941-954-4185.

Sarasota is a diverse community located on Florida's Suncoast with 53,000 year round residents, several internationally recognized cultural arts venues, stunning sunsets along Lido Beach, a 45-hole municipal golf course at the historic Bobby Jones Golf Club, and Major League spring training baseball with the Baltimore Orioles. Learn more about us at www.SarasotaGov.com

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