



News from Mayor Ron Dellums

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Oakland Public Works Director Honored as One of Nation's Top Ten

Oakland, CA — Mayor Dellums is pleased to announce that the City of Oakland's Public Works Director, Raul Godinez II, has been named as one of the *National Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year for 2009* by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Mr. Godinez received the national award today at a banquet sponsored by the APWA Northern California Chapter.

"I congratulate Mr. Godinez and the entire staff of the Public Works Agency for this great honor," said Mayor Dellums. "Public Works staff are on the front lines everyday paving our streets, fixing our sewers and keeping our infrastructure intact; they play an important role in the health and vitality of our city. This award recognizes the great work being done by Mr. Godinez and his staff for the residents of Oakland."

APWA, an international educational and professional association, is the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the world. One of the most prestigious awards presented by the APWA is its Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year designation. It seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professional from Canada and the United States.

National APWA President Noel Thompson said, "Raul Godinez exemplifies the best among public works leaders. His everyday behavior at work, in the community and with family provides quality examples for those who want to excel in their endeavors. We are fortunate to have him in our midst. "

The National "*Top Ten*" award was the second honor Mr. Godinez received this year. In April the Northern California Chapter of the APWA recognized him as a *Public Works Leader of the Year* for the twelve Bay Area and northern coastal counties.

Mr. Godinez recently led the agency through a rigorous, two- year APWA accreditation process. Oakland became the third, out of nearly 550 public works agencies in California, to get accredited in the 10 years the accreditation program had been in existence.

Additionally, Director Godinez implemented seven strategic initiatives to focus the agency on improvement: emphasizing relationships, enhancing customer service and satisfaction, improving image and visibility, nurturing volunteer opportunities, safety first, succession planning (Growing Our Own) and commitment to continuous learning.

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Some direct outcomes from these strategic initiatives are the creation of the Public Works Agency Customer Call Center, an enhanced Safety Training program, the implementation of Cityworks work management system, and a Technology Learning Center to adequately bridge staffs' computer skills for the requirements of the new work management system.

He has also successfully challenged his management team to pursue Rapid Results Initiatives or mini-projects that could be implemented within 100 days, via cross-functional, results-oriented teams with short time frame to deliver outcomes. His team has also completed several seasons of the "Pothole Blitz," where several thousands of potholes get repaired in a concentrated time period.

Under his direction, the agency has greatly enhanced and strengthened its role in emergency response as "first responders." He believes good emergency response depends on good emergency planning and preparedness, and has ensured that staff is trained and up-to-date with State and National Incident Command and Emergency Response protocols.

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For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:

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