



**PARTNERSHIP OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

COLLABORATE • INNOVATE • LEAD

To: Partnership of Douglas County Governments

From: Communications Subcommittee

Subject: Partnership Award

Civic Engagement is a priority initiative for the Partnership in 2008. Knowing that to move a community toward a Civic Engagement model is a process not an event, there is an assumption being made by the Communications Subcommittee that while 2008 is the first year of the initiative, this approach to governance will be alive beyond 2008.

Along that line of thinking the Subcommittee then acknowledged that the Partnership of Douglas County Governments is a model of Civic Engagement. With collaboration at the root of the Partnership of Douglas County Governments, we are a prime example of what successful communities across the County are doing. As Chris Gates said - "Collaboration has gone from being a nicety to a necessity. Successful communities across the County are communities that aggressively collaborate.....they consider collaboration a fundamental tenant of how they operate, how they do work and how they partner with other people."

Therefore as the Partnership is a model of Civic Engagement and Civic Engagement is an organizational priority for each member, the Subcommittee recommends that the Partnership award should honor the tenets of Civic Engagement - not in a self-congratulatory way, but in ways that recognize the citizen role in effective civic engagement.

There was unanimous acceptance that Commissioner Worley was the energy behind the creation of the Partnership and its sustenance since it was founded in 2001.

Therefore the recommendation is that the Award should be named the Melanie Worley Civic Engagement Award honoring her for creating the environment that led to the creation of the Partnership and then led us to a focus on civic engagement.

This annual citizen award - in which each Partnership member organization would nominate a citizen who embodies the tenets of civic engagement - would allow us to recognize citizen leaders in our communities, localizing the award - and the news-worthiness - for each community.

Next Steps

If the Partnership supports this direction, the Committee will then take the next step of developing Award criteria, etc.