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Florida Civic Advance Announces its 2019 Civic Excellence Awards for Citizen Engagement with Local Government

Tallahassee, Fla. -- The Florida Civic Advance (FCA), a collaborative initiative involving an emerging network of local, regional and statewide organizations committed to strengthening civic life, is proud to recognize two innovative Florida cities that have successfully connected with their residents. The cities of New Smyrna Beach and Ormond Beach are both being awarded with Civic Excellence Awards in the category of “Citizen Engagement with Local Government” for their local civic engagement projects.

“There are so many local initiatives taking place throughout the state that are successfully improving civic life and actively increasing citizen involvement but aren’t being acknowledged or talked about,” said FCA Coordinating Council Chair and AARP Florida State Director Jeff Johnson. “We want to provide a platform to those projects, share their successes and, ultimately, work to replicate them in local communities throughout the state.”

The two cities were announced as co-winners for the following local projects:

- **City of New Smyrna Beach** – Civic Engagement and Coastal Community Resiliency.
- **City of Ormond Beach** – Civic Engagement and the OB Life.

In its inaugural year, this award program recognizes outstanding civic programs, projects or initiatives that successfully promote innovation, excellence and civic awareness in Florida’s local communities. The program has two additional award categories: Intergenerational Civic Engagement; and Voter Education and Civic Service.

In addition to the winning projects, the FCA also announced a list of projects receiving honorable mention in this category:

- **Civic-Con Center** – Empowering Pensacola through Civic Conversation.
- **Broward County League of Women Voters** – “Lock it Up” Gun Safety and Awareness.
- **Martin County Supervisor of Elections** – Count Me In Too! Outreach for Voters with Disabilities and Special Needs.
- **University of Florida/IFAS Pasco Cooperative Extension** – Luggage of Love Program.

The winning project and those receiving honorable mention will be showcased at the FCA Summit, December 12-13, 2019 at St. Petersburg College, Seminole. For more information and registration, visit https://consensus.fsu.edu/Civic-Advance/index.html

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