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Hawthorne Mayor Honored with Statewide Municipal Official of the Year Award

Matthew Surrency Receives the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award

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Hawthorne Mayor Matthew Surrency was named Municipal Official of the Year and presented with the Florida League of Cities' E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award at the League's annual conference in Orlando last week.

"Mayor Surrency is a true supporter of Home Rule," said outgoing Florida League of Cities President Leo E. Longworth as he presented Surrency with the award. "He has a passion for our local communities and the families who call them home, and he's committed to protecting their right to self-govern. We're honored to recognize his service and the contributions he's made to so many cities."

Presented annually, this is the League's most prestigious award. Named for Supreme Court Justice E. Harris Drew – the man who coined the League's motto: Local self-government, the key to American democracy – it recognizes and honors local elected officials who have made lasting and worthwhile contributions to the citizens of Florida through their efforts and dedication in the performance of their duties at the local level.

"This really is an honor," said Surrency as he was joined on stage by his wife and children along with the Florida League of Cities officers to accept the award. "Especially when you consider all those public officials who have received this award before me, they're all upstanding public servants and legends of our association."

"I know that nothing is accomplished alone," Surrency continued. "I receive this amazing honor only because of the support from my wife, family, community, commission, staff and other leaders around the state. I don't take this recognition for granted and I'll forever remember this. Thank you."

Surrency was first elected to the Hawthorne City Commission in 2009 before being appointed mayor in 2011, a position he has held ever since. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida League of Cities as well as the National League of Cities, is a past president of the Florida League of Cities and just finished his term as president of the Florida League of Mayors. He has been a member of numerous committees; has served on the board of directors for several local, state and national groups related to local government; and is a six-time recipient of the League's Home Rule Hero Award.

In addition to his service with the city, Surrency is also an active volunteer with several organizations benefitting local youth and has spent almost 20 years coaching sports for young people.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities. Florida's cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The League is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy. For more information, visit floridaleagueofcities.com.