



MEMORANDUM

2020 City Council Planning Session

TO: City Council

FROM: Deb Estrada, City Clerk

RE: **2019 Citizen of the Year - Nominations and Selection**

BACKGROUND:

Each year at the City Council's annual Planning Session, Councilmembers nominate and select a Mercer Island citizen to honor as the Citizen of the Year for the previous year. The selected nominee is honored at a Council meeting and a framed photo of the honoree is hung in the Council Chambers lobby to commemorate this distinction. The City Council began recognizing outstanding efforts of citizens in 1990. The past recipients of the Citizen of the Year award were:

1990	Barbara Sweir & Phil Flash	2005	Ben Wolfe (given posthumously)
1991	John Nelson	2006	Kenneth & Margaret Quarles
1992	Dr. Floyd Short	2007	Jim Trombold
1993	Anna Matheson & Delores Erchinger	2008	MI Farmers Market Committee
1994	Pam Eakes	2009	Blair Rasmussen
1995	John Steding	2010	Susan Kaplan and Terry Pottmeyer
1996	Fay Whitney	2011	Michael K. Copass, M.D.
1997	Pat Braman	2012	Fran Call
1998	Mercer Island Clergy Association	2013	Mercer Island Preschool Association
1999	Aircraft Noise Abatement Committee	2014	Roger and Nancy Page
2000	Don Cohen	2015	Nancy Stewart
2001	Eugene Ferguson	2016	Terry Moreman
2002	Jan Deveny	2017	Victor and Laurie Raisys
2003	Myra Lupton	2018	Rino and Lisa Caruccio
2004	Aubrey Davis		

Detailed information about each Citizen of the Year is attached as Exhibit 1.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR POLICY:

The current criteria for nomination and selection of the Citizen of the Year is as follows:

The Citizen of the Year is an annual tradition of recognizing an individual or group (“honoree”) who is otherwise unrecognized for his/her/their contributions to making the Mercer Island community a great place to live and work. The honoree shall be selected based on the following criteria:

- Significant service accomplishments within the past year;
- The quality, scale, and duration of the benefits to the community resulting from the accomplishments;
- The amount of time and energy devoted to the community beyond the scope of normal responsibilities;
- The nature of the challenges faced and overcome by the honoree; and
- The extent of previous recognition received by the honoree (e.g., the nominee is an “unsung hero”).

Councilmembers will make nominations and select an honoree at the annual Council Planning Session. Councilmembers or candidates for Councilmember, are not eligible for nomination. The honoree(s) will be recognized at a Council Meeting and a framed photo of the honoree is hung in the Council Chambers lobby to commemorate this distinction.

Traditionally the honoree(s) participated in and served in guest of honor roles during special event programs. Many of the special events have changed, were eliminated and/or are hosted by outside groups. Recognizing and featuring our honoree(s) throughout the year is a high priority and staff will look for other opportunities to do so.

EXHIBITS:

1. Citizen of the Year Award Recipients History