



# 2008 Annual Awards Program

## Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

**Deadline for Nominations: March 14, 2008**

Complete this form and attach to your descriptive narrative.

### SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (select only one)

- Community Health and Safety
- Community Partnership
- Community Sustainability
- Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: Coalition of Small Police Agencies (C.S.P.A.)

Jurisdiction where program originated: Cities of Clyde Hill, Issaquah, Medina, Normandy Park and Snoqualmie

Jurisdiction population: Clyde Hill - 2,810; Issaquah - 24,710; Medina - 2,950; Normandy Park - 6,435; Snoqualmie - 8,600

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2007 to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: March Year: 2003

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, September 2008. (Each individual listed MUST be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Gwendolyn Voelpel, City Admin, City of Black Diamond; <sup>Mitch</sup> Wasserman, City Admin, City of Clyde Hill;

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Leon Kos, City Admin, City of Issaquah; David Cline, City Admin, City of Lake Forest Park;

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Rich Conrad, CM, City of Mercer Island; Doug Schulze, CM, City of Normandy Park; Bob Larson, CA, City of Snoqualmie.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of person who should be contacted with questions regarding the nomination:

Doug Schulze

Title of nominator: City Manager Jurisdiction of nominator: City of Normandy Park

Street address: 801 SW 174th Street

City: Normandy Park State/Province: Washington

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## **Coalition of Small Police Agencies** **King County, Washington**

The Coalition is made up of twelve independent small police departments representing fifteen municipalities. In total, these agencies employ approximately 170 commissioned officers serving a combined population of over 90,000 residents. The Coalition began to form in 2001 in response to regional decisions that were being made which did not take into account the impacts, needs and limitations of the smaller agencies. As a result the small agency Chiefs' began to regularly meet for over a year to form a common message and present a larger voice in county wide issues that affect all agencies large and small. The outcome was that the King County Chiefs Association took notice and along with the King County Sheriff hosted a Regional Criminal Justice Summit to define, prioritize and work toward reducing the inefficiencies that encumber our criminal justice efforts. Items such as transporting prisoners, cooperative court agreements, and jail availability were just a few of the items identified and action taken to improve those systems. Had it not been for the efforts of the Coalition the summit along with its ongoing efforts simply would not have materialized.

As the Chiefs met in those formative years they realized that together they could marshal a significant amount of manpower, equipment and expertise. These resources not only could be used during times of emergent need but to help one another in keeping pace with the ever increasing requirements placed on law enforcement. In cooperation with our insurance carriers and city attorneys a Mutual Aid, Inter Local Agreement was agreed upon and approved by all the

City Councils. Volunteers have taken the positions of chairman and vice-chairman to formulate agendas and coordinate tasks. All the Chiefs meet once a month to deal with a variety of issues in common and set planning priorities. Additionally the Chiefs have identified a coordinator who meets with all the department training managers once a month to identify training needs for the agencies.

In 2003 and 2004 the focus was to implement a training program to meet the needs of the small agencies in areas that are extremely difficult or cost prohibitive for a small agency to achieve. The two primary areas of training the Coalition focused on were Active Shooter Response and an Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC).

Active Shooter Response training is a course of instruction that is based on the lessons learned from the Columbine and other school shooting tragedies. This course provides a common framework for all officers regardless of jurisdiction. For a small agency it is highly likely that every officer from the Chief of Police, to the newest officer in the department, may be called upon to respond. Therefore every member of the department needs to be trained to meet this professional standard. The average tuition cost per student for this 16 hour course ranged from between \$250 and \$350. This cost along with any associated overtime costs had severely restricted the small agencies ability to meet this training need.

Every C.S.P.A. member is assessed annually a basic training fee of \$250. This fee essentially buys supplies to conduct a variety of training. The funds are managed by one of the member cities Accounting Department. No additional tuition fees were charged for training opportunities including Active Shooter Courses and because several opportunities to attend training are scheduled, the overtime costs were limited. The agencies have saved training costs in excess of \$20,000 since implementing this program in 2003.

Four hours of EVOC training per officer is extremely costly and needs to be presented periodically. This training is essential due to the fact that numerous claims against cities are traffic accident related. Constraints are that there are few locations where training can be performed safely, distances to go to some tracks are burdensome, and track rental is expensive. For these reasons many of the smaller agencies had not been able to send officers to this type of training for several years.

Beginning in the fall of 2003, C.S.P.A. members have pooled resources and rented a local track, Pacific Raceway for four days each year. By pooling our efforts and grant money provided by our insurance pools and the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission we were able to cover the costs of the training, which was approximately \$5,500 annually. Included in the costs that were covered by these funds were 90% of all the instructors' salaries for the period they provided training. Annually the Coalition conducts additional training sessions in the areas of legal updates, radar operation, taser use, first aid, driver safety and many other subjects.

In the spring of 2004 the Coalition took top honors as "Municipal Achiever of the Year" at the annual Association of Washington Cities gathering. We won these honors due to our efforts towards the award category of "Doing A Lot With A Little".

During the spring and summer of 2004 we pooled our instructors and conducted a Reserve Academy that successfully provided over 240 hours of instruction to each of the 22 graduates. This was a significant achievement in demonstrating our ability to meet the training standards established by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Training has not been the only endeavor of C.S.P.A. Over the last couple of years the Coalition conducted DUI Emphasis Patrols. Several of the agencies participated resulting in many DUI arrests and traffic infractions that improved traffic safety in those areas.

Large scale mutual aid requests have been very limited; however, a south county member asked for and received assistance from 5 Coalition members who provided 90 man hours over a 3 day period in early 2004. The assistance provided was invaluable in conducting search warrants and meeting the associated security needs in this rapidly evolving investigation. In addition some member agencies were able to provide officers to support a Presidential visit to Medina, Washington.

In 2005, the C.S.P.A. began efforts to train and equip a Major Crime Investigative team. This group draws upon the investigative skills from personnel throughout the member agencies. Additionally, the State Legislature has

appropriated funds for the Coalition, three different times, totaling \$300,000 that is used to help support this team. We have already developed relationships with the King County Prosecutor's Office as well as the revamped Washington State Crime Scene Response Team. Both of these groups have expressed enthusiasm in working with C.S.P.A. in this cooperative process.

The C.S.P.A. members continue to learn from the partnership and improvements will continue to be made. During the planning and implementation of the C.S.P.A., it quickly became clear to participants that city management and legal counsel needed to be involved. Inter Local Agreements and mutual aid agreements required the support of city management and approval by each of the city attorneys. In addition, legislative bodies from each of the local governments needed to approve the Inter Local and mutual aid agreements.

The success of the C.S.P.A. also required all members to focus on breaking down barriers, avoid battles over turf and truly engage in a collaborative partnership. Traditionally, law enforcement agencies in King County operated independently and cooperation between agencies was uncommon. The Coalition of Small Police Agencies' future appears to be certain in that we will band together to work as professionals in solving problems, taking action when necessary, and serving the public need.

**Participatory Cities:** Algona, Black Diamond, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Medina, Normandy Park, Pacific, Mercer Island and Snoqualmie. **Associated Cities\*:** Hunts Point, Yarrow Point and Carnation.

\* = A city that contracts for police service from one of the Participatory Cities