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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Springfield recognized for wide array of accomplishments**

Springfield Mayor Bob Stephens announced at Thursday's Good Morning Springfield! event, an effort to recognize Springfield's unique set of national accolades. Good Morning Springfield! is a monthly breakfast event hosted by the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

The City's Public Works and Environmental Services departments were the latest in a string of City of Springfield Departments to receive national accreditation. Public Works and Environmental Services were accredited by the American Public Works Association – an honor only 1-2 percent of city departments across the country receive.

“We often reference the unique ability of Springfield's organizations, businesses, and leaders to collaborate and find common solutions. We believe that type of collaboration leads to higher quality services and better quality of life for our citizens. This could not be achieved however, if we did not have high-quality organizations to begin with,” Mayor Stephens explained.

Springfield is the only city in the country to receive a unique set of accolades that also includes national accreditation in police, fire, emergency management, and the zoo. In addition, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board is a National Gold Medal Award winner, recognized by the National Recreation and Park Association.

“We researched other cities and their national accreditations and recognition, and found out we were pretty unique,” Stephens said. Miami-Dade was the only city/county that matched Springfield, Missouri honor for honor. That is, until the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce won the “Chamber of the Year” award in 2012. “This gives us the right to say that no other city has this unique set of accomplishments.”

“Miami-Dade, eat your heart out,” Stephens concluded.

The City's Public Information Department provides information about the accolades on its website at [www.springfieldmo.gov/awards](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/awards). Organizations are encouraged to provide information about their national and international awards and achievements by sending an email to [city@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:city@springfieldmo.gov).

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