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News Release

For Immediate Release

Public Works, Environmental Services gain APWA accreditation

The City of Springfield's Public Works and Environmental Services have achieved accreditation from the American Public Works Association (APWA). The APWA accreditation program recognizes governmental agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry.

Public Works and Environmental Services received the accreditation award as presented by APWA Board Director - Region VI Larry Stevens, P.E., PWLF, at a presentation ceremony at tonight's City Council meeting at Historic City Hall.

The APWA accreditation indicates that Public Works and Environmental Services staff are dedicated to concepts of continuous improvement and in-depth self-assessment of department policies, procedures and practices.

"We are now one of 85 public works agencies in the United States and Canada and four in Missouri that have this accreditation," said Public Works Director Phil Broyles, in a staff memo. "Fewer than 1 percent of all agencies qualify for this accreditation."

Public Works designs, builds and maintains the City's streets, sidewalks, and stormwater system and maintains public rights-of-way and Hazelwood Cemetery. The department employs about 250 people in seven divisions.

The Environmental Services Department's responsibilities include treating wastewater at two wastewater treatment plants, operating a landfill, operating three community recycling centers, safely disposing of the City's hazardous waste, protecting water quality in and complying with regulatory permits.

Environmental Services safely disposes of an average of 200,000 tons per year of solid municipal waste, recycles 3,700 tons of recyclable materials annually, disposes of 28,600 pounds of hazardous waste per year.

With this accreditation, Springfield/Greene County is the only municipality in the nation with a Gold Medal Award-winning parks and recreation department, American Chamber of Commerce Executives Chamber of the Year award and accreditation in law enforcement, fire, emergency management and public works.

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About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.