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News Release

For Immediate Release

Public Works Employee Wins National Award

City of Springfield Public Works employee Jonathan Gano has been named the Young Leader of the Year for 2010 by the American Public Works Association.

The APWA, which includes 29,000 industry members across the Americas, selects the annual award recipient based on the individual’s initial commitment and leadership potential in the field of public works.

Gano, 35, is currently serving as the Interim Assistant Director of Public Works/Operations. He has been Superintendent of Streets since 2007 until being asked to serve in the interim position.

He joined the City in 2004 as an Operations Supervisor in the Streets Division and also has served as Assistant Director of Streets and as a Professional Engineer.

“This is great news,” said Phil Broyles, Co-interim Director of Public Works. "Jonathan is a natural leader who uses his experience, training, and talent to advance his profession, and the improvement of the City's infrastructure."

During his tenure with the City, Gano has supervised more than $40 million of public works construction projects. He also served as the project manager for the City’s response to the 2007 and 2008 ice storms, overseeing the collection of more than 1.5 million cubic yards of tree limbs during the $15 million, FEMA-backed effort.

Gano is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served in the U.S. Army from 1996-2004 as a combat engineer before being honorably discharged at the rank of Captain. He received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from West Point in 1996 and his master’s degree in engineering management in 2001 from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

He also is a member of the 2008 Leadership Springfield class and a member of the Board of Directors for the Missouri Chapter of the APWA.

The City of Springfield has a distinguished record of APWA award recipients with retired Public Works Directors Marc Thornsberry, Dave Snider and William Hodges and retired Traffic Engineer Earl Newman receiving recognition as Top 10 Public Works Leaders during their respective award years. This is the first time a Springfield Public Works employee has received the Young Leader of the Year Award, which will be presented at the APWA’s International Congress in late summer.

For more information, contact: Jonathan Gano, 864-1961; or Phil Broyles, 864-1902.