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**For immediate release**

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**Public Policy Forum announces  
17<sup>th</sup> annual “Salute to Local Government” award winners**

**MILWAUKEE**, Wisconsin – *Monday, June 8, 2009* – Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum, a nonpartisan research organization focusing on regional issues, has announced its 2009 “Salute to Local Government” award winners.

“There are many examples of good government throughout our region providing value to taxpayers and boosting our economy and quality of life,” says Rob Henken, Forum president. “The Forum takes great pleasure in being to able to recognize several of these outstanding achievements.”

The awards will be presented at the Public Policy Forum’s 17<sup>th</sup> annual *Salute to Local Government* breakfast on **Thursday, June 18, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Italian Community Center, 631 East Chicago Street, in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward.**

The *Salute* breakfast is sponsored this year by Ehlers & Associates, Inc.; Potawatomi Bingo Casino; Helen Bader Foundation; Marshall & Ilsley Corporation; Milwaukee Public Television; Quarles & Brady, LLP; SC Johnson: A Family Company; Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP; and We Energies.

The 2009 recipients are:

**“Excellence in Problem Solving”**

*Milwaukee County - Milwaukee Courthouse Self Help Center*

The center was created because of the growing number of litigants without attorneys. In the area of family law, for example, nearly 80% of cases have at least one unrepresented litigant. The center helps such litigants with forms, by answering procedural questions, and by providing referrals to community services. Amy Wochos is the legal director for the Milwaukee Courthouse Self Help Center.

**“Effective Use of Technology” & “Managing for Results”**

*(categories combined)*

*Village of Bayside – Communication Program/Performance Measurement System*

The Village of Bayside maximizes the use of online technology in keeping its residents, employees, and neighboring communities informed of its activities. As part of the information delivery system, the village has created an intensive and well-defined performance measurement system to provide greater fiscal responsibility and aid public officials and citizens in their decision making.

**“Intergovernmental Cooperation”**

*City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County – Supportive Housing*

In response to a lack of safe and affordable housing in Milwaukee County for low-income persons suffering from mental illness, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker pledged to work together to address the problem. After initially creating a Special Needs Housing Action Team to assess the issue and make recommendations, the city and county established a permanent City/County Commission on Supportive Housing. The two governments also have worked jointly to help housing developers acquire financing, social service funding, property, entitlements, and political support. Thus far, two housing projects have been completed with five others near completion or under consideration.

### **“Private-Public Cooperation”**

*Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture – Revitalization of Bradford Beach*

MillerCoors and Milwaukee County Parks shared a desire to revitalize Bradford Beach, which had fallen into disrepair. A \$500,000 donation from the beer company influenced other Milwaukee companies and philanthropists to support the effort also. The donated funds will be used over time to enhance the environment of the beach and other areas along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

### **“Government Transparency/Ethics”**

*Milwaukee County – Code of Ethics Study Committee*

Milwaukee County Supervisor Joe Rice drafted and introduced a resolution creating the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics Study Committee to review the county’s existing patchwork code, compare it to similar codes in other jurisdictions, and develop revisions and recommendations to improve it. The committee’s recommendations – which included adoption of user friendly, easy-to-understand regulations – were enacted by the county board and signed by the county executive in July 2008.

### **“Norman N. Gill Award”**

Ralph Voltner, Jr.  
City Administrator  
City of St. Francis

Since 1974, Ralph has served the citizens of St. Francis as a public official. In 1981, he was appointed city administrator – the municipality’s highest appointed position – with responsibilities that now include director of finance and budget, director of economic development, personnel director, purchasing agent, labor negotiator, and city treasurer. His innovative approach to funding and development has left his mark on many projects and improvements. Perhaps his greatest achievement has been his leadership on the development of the Lake Parkway, a vital transportation link to downtown Milwaukee and Mitchell International Airport. Thanks to Ralph’s efforts, St. Francis is now a modern urban community with an attractive lakefront, a healthy business climate, a well-developed transportation infrastructure, numerous recreational facilities, low crime, and no general obligation debt. Ralph also is the current chairman of the Airport Noise Advisory Committee. He received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Marquette University in 1974.

**“James R. Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award”**

Christine Nuernberg  
Mayor  
City of Mequon

Christine was elected mayor in 1998 and re-elected in 2001, 2004, and 2007. From 1991-1997, she was with ARC Milwaukee (a non-profit serving individuals with developmental disabilities) first as development director and then as executive director. Prior to that, she served on the Mequon-Thiensville School District board and on the Ozaukee County board. She also has a long record of volunteer service with the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park Board, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Milwaukee River Revitalization Council, among others. Christine has a bachelor of science degree in political science and a master's in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a master's in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum ([www.publicpolicyforum.org](http://www.publicpolicyforum.org)) – which was established in 1913 as a local government watchdog – is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of government and the development of southeastern Wisconsin through objective research of regional public policy issues.