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For immediate release

**Public Policy Forum announces 18th annual
“Salute to Local Government” award winners**

Record number of nominations submitted

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin – *Wednesday, June 2, 2010* – Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum, a nonpartisan research organization focusing on regional issues, has announced its 2010 *Salute to Local Government* award winners.

“There are many examples of good government throughout our region providing value to taxpayers and enhancing our quality of life,” says Rob Henken, Forum president. “In fact, a record 51 nominations were submitted this year, and the Forum takes great pleasure in being to able to recognize several of these outstanding achievements.”

This year’s *Salute* includes a new awards category designed to give special recognition to governments that implemented innovative responses to the economic downturn.

“The combination of plunging property values and sales tax revenues – combined with greater need for certain government services – wreaked havoc on local government budgets, and it’s particularly appropriate to honor government leaders who responded effectively,” says Henken.

The awards will be presented at the Public Policy Forum's 18th annual *Salute to Local Government* breakfast on **Thursday, June 17, 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 Baker Tilly; Ehlers & Associates, Inc.; Helen Bader Foundation; Marshall & Ilsley Corporation; Milwaukee Public Television; Quarles & Brady, LLP; SC Johnson: A Family Company; and We Energies.

The 2010 recipients are:

“Innovative Response to Economic Downturn”

City of Milwaukee

During 2007 and 2008, more than 7,000 Milwaukee homes filed for foreclosure and more than 3,000 homes were sold at sheriff's sale. In response, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett convened the **Milwaukee Foreclosure Partnership Initiative (MFPI)** to develop and implement a centralized and comprehensive strategy to address the causes and consequences of foreclosures. The MFPI includes representatives from lenders, government, realtors, housing and neighborhood agencies, developers, and academia. Successes to date include creation of a court-based mediation program – the **Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program (MFMP)** – for borrowers and lenders, launch of a permanent Homeownership Consortium to promote sustainable homeownership, an increase in the number of foreclosure intervention counselors to assist Milwaukee homeowners, and support of state and local legislation to preserve vacant properties and protect tenant rights during foreclosure. The MFMP is administered by Marquette University Law School's Dispute Resolution Program, which serves as the impartial broker among the parties involved.

“Effective Use of Technology”

Milwaukee Public Library & City of Milwaukee

The Milwaukee Public Library worked with the City of Milwaukee's Office of Environmental Sustainability, We Energies, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and Focus on Energy to create a **“green” roof** on 30,000 square feet of the Central Library annex. Replacing the traditional roof with a vegetation system is expected to reduce storm water runoff and energy costs for heating and cooling the library. Renewable energy also is part of the project with photovoltaic solar panels generating electricity from sunlight. The roof is accessible to the public, making it an energy efficient destination.

“Inter-governmental Cooperation”

Villages of Shorewood and Whitefish Bay

The villages of Shorewood and Whitefish Bay collaborated through the creative use of annexation, tax incremental financing, and a brownfield remediation grant to transform three vacant parcels of land bisected by municipal boundaries. Design and development of **The Cornerstone** was facilitated by a design review board comprised of both communities. Also, the villages worked with both school districts to assure fair agreement on district boundaries. The mixed-use, four-story building on the corner of Kensington Boulevard and Oakland Avenue is scheduled for completion late in 2010 and will serve as the “cornerstone” for the gateway into Shorewood and Whitefish Bay.

“Private-Public Cooperation”

Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc.

Created in 2008, the **Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc.** (www.swwtwater.org) is made up of government entities, special purpose districts, non-profit organizations, local residents, and representatives of business, agriculture, and academia to achieve healthy and sustainable water resources throughout the 1,100 square-mile Greater Milwaukee Watersheds. The partnership was created in part because of the Public Policy Forum’s recommendations in its 2006 report, *Clean Water, Healthy Future: A Framework for Achieving an Integrated Water Resource Management Strategy in the Milwaukee Region*.

“Leader of the Future Award”

Liza Drake

Health and Human Services Crisis Intervention Supervisor, Walworth County

Walworth County’s crisis intervention program for persons with mental illness was in trouble when Liza Drake was named its supervisor in 2007. It ranked second in the state for Chapter 51 emergency detention holds per capita and had been targeted for elimination. But under Liza’s leadership, the 24/7 program has experienced a turnaround. It is now certified to provide emergency mental health services under HFS 34 standards and is able to recoup Medicaid funds. Liza is recognized for her successes in program design change, fiscal management and responsibility, program outcomes, and her dedication to building community relationships.

“James R. Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award”

David Berousek

Retired Fire Chief, North Shore Fire Department

During his tenure as fire chief of the North Shore Fire Department from 1995 until 2010, “Chief Dave” was instrumental in developing the North Shore Fire Department as a model of regional cooperation in the delivery of emergency services. Dave was the first appointed chief of the consolidated department. Under his leadership, the department reduced the Insurance Services Organization Rating in its seven member communities, and enhanced paramedic services in the North Shore with a First Responder Program used as model throughout Milwaukee County.

“Norman N. Gill Award”

Richard E. Maslowski

City Administrator, City of Glendale

For 30 of his 38 years in public service, Dick has been city administrator for the city of Glendale. In that capacity, he also is executive director of the Glendale Community Development Authority, which has facilitated more than \$800 million in new development, including Coventry Office, Apartments and Library; Woodfield Suites; Estabrook Corporate Park; the Silver Spring redevelopment project; the Glendale Technology Park; and the Bayshore Town Center. In his tenure with the city, Dick has worked with five different mayors and dozens of alderpersons. According to Glendale Mayor Jerome Tapper, he “has moved the city forward to the place it is now as a progressive community with a positive environment for business, a great school system and residential neighborhoods that are safe and affordable.”

The record number of nominations also prompted the Forum to recognize the following entities with Honorable Mention awards:

- The Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture for its “Stay Local – Play Local” program in the “Innovative Response to Economic Downturn” category.
- The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee and Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation for their “Make Your Money Talk/IDA Program” initiative in the “Private-Public Cooperation” category.
- The Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County for their successful partnership in the “Private-Public Cooperation” category.

Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum (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.