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**Public Policy Forum announces
16th annual “Salute to Local Government” award winners**
More nominations than ever before

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin – *Wednesday, May 28, 2008* – Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum, a nonpartisan research organization focusing on regional issues, has announced its 2008 “Salute to Local Government” award winners.

“There are countless examples of good government going on throughout our region that are giving value to taxpayers and boosting our economy and quality of life,” says Rob Henken, Forum president. “This year’s group of award winners comes from a list of entries that is significantly larger than we have ever had before – a real indication that people in government are thinking – and acting – creatively and collaboratively.”

The awards will be presented at the Public Policy Forum’s 16th annual *Salute to Local Government* breakfast on **Thursday, June 19, 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.; Forest County Potawatomi Community; Helen Bader Foundation; HNTB; Marshall & Ilsley Corporation; Milwaukee Public Television; Quarles & Brady, LLP; SC Johnson: A Family Company; Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP; and We Energies.

The number of award categories was expanded this year to six (from five) and several categories were redefined. In addition, the Lifetime Achievement Award was renamed the James R. Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2008 recipients are:

“Excellence in Problem Solving”

City of Milwaukee – Department of City Development

The city of Milwaukee has reduced the overall permit processing time with the creation of the ePermit program. The new system is an online permit application process allowing contractors to apply and pay online for permits that do not require a plan review.

“Effective Use of Technology”

Milwaukee County Treasurer’s Office

A number of changes in the treasurer’s office resulted in improved quality of service and reduced operational costs. By consolidating tax records with the register of deeds, a one-stop real estate records center for the public was created. In addition, the public also now has access to on-line property tax records and an on-line electronic payment option.

“Managing for Results”

Hamilton School District

The district implemented a plan to improve academic achievement, address the issue of aging facilities, and increase community satisfaction. The plan included research-based instruction and assessment practices, collection and utilization of data in decision-making, promotion of community engagement, and prioritization of financial resources.

“Inter-governmental Cooperation”

Walworth County Board of Supervisors & the 15 school districts of Walworth County

Walworth County and its school districts have made special-needs education a priority. More than \$17 million was spent to construct the Lakeland School in Elkhorn to provide special needs children throughout the county with first-rate educational opportunities.

“Private-Public Cooperation”

Milwaukee Center for Independence and Milwaukee Public Schools

The FUEL4U Breakfast Packaging Program is the result of collaboration between the Milwaukee Center for Independence and Milwaukee Public Schools. It provides students with a nutritious meal to help them maintain positive attitudes, improve attention, and reduce absenteeism.

“Government Transparency/Ethics”

School District of Elmbrook

Following the defeat of a school construction/renovation referendum in 2007, the district worked with a team of “no” voters and “yes” voters to craft a revised plan based on more realistic specifications and greater openness regarding the needs of the district. Significant transparency efforts were initiated, including a citizen analysis process, publicizing meetings on government access cable television and open dialogue between the citizen team and meeting attendees. In 2008, the revised plan was passed.

“Norman N. Gill Award”

Barry Bateman
 Director
 General Mitchell International Airport
 Milwaukee County

Since 1982, Barry has overseen the growth of Mitchell International Airport. Because of Barry’s leadership, foresight, and perseverance, Milwaukee’s airport continues to set passenger records and achieve national recognition as a passenger-friendly facility. Today, almost eight million passengers pass through Mitchell International. During Barry’s tenure, facility renovation projects totaling more than \$300 million have been completed, including a new terminal, a 16-gate addition, a cargo ramp and building expansion, and several parking additions. Currently, a security checkpoint and gate expansion, baggage claim remodeling, and a ticket counter reconfiguration for baggage security are being undertaken. Barry also has guided the airport through a successful master plan process and a noise compatibility study. Barry also is responsible for the administration and operation of Lawrence J. Timmerman Airport, the county’s general aviation facility. Prior to coming to Milwaukee, he spent eight years in Las Vegas as the assistant director of aviation at McCarran International Airport; before that he was administrative assistant at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, Barry’s

hometown. Barry is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives, Airports Council International, holds a commercial pilot license, is a certified flight instructor, and an Accredited Airport Executive (AAE). He has degrees (BA and MBA) from the University of Kentucky. He is married to Jeanne and has two daughters, Heather and Ashley.

“James R. Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award”

James R. Ryan (posthumously)

On November 6, 2007, the community (and the Forum) lost a statesman and gentleman when James R. “Jim” Ryan passed away. He was a longtime leader in government and civic endeavors. At the time of his death, Jim was president of Penfield Children’s Center, the village of Hales Corners, and Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, and executive director of the Wisconsin Initiative for Infant Mental Health. Prior to that, he worked for Racine County’s Human Services Department as a child welfare supervisor; was president & CEO of the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center, where he started “Flight for Life”; and served as a Milwaukee County Board supervisor. The Ryan Commission, of which he was chair, helped in setting up the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission. In addition, Jim was a Forum trustee since 1995 and participated on several of the Forum’s committees and research panels.

“Leader of the Future Award”

Steven J. Schaer
City Planner
City of West Allis

Thanks to Steve, the city of West Allis is being renewed and re-energized. He has helped transform a struggling industrial community into one of contemporary urban living. His work has enhanced the livability of neighborhoods, created new architectural standards, and built partnerships with the private sector. Under Steve’s guidance, the city has adopted a new sign code, big-box standards, historical preservation code, outdoor and recreation plan, permitted outdoor dining, and streamlined the planning process with Web-based tools, such as GIS mapping. He was instrumental in the creation of seven tax increment financing (TIF) districts within the city. As a result, the city has benefited from more than \$200 million in new development. Steve is on a regional development team that has obtained \$35 million in tax credits to facilitate industrial and commercial development in distressed areas within Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties. He joined the city in 1995 as a planner and became city planner (manager of planning and zoning) in 2002. Steve is an American Institute of Certified Planner (AICP) and a member of American Planning Association. He has a bachelor’s degree in geography from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a master’s in urban planning, also from UWM. He is an avid bicyclist who has helped obtain more than \$1.5 million in grants for the Cross-town Connector Commuter Path. Steve is married to Christina and has two children, Samuel and Ava.

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.