



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2012

CITY OF DANIA BEACH AND NORTHWEST GARDENS PROJECT WILL RECEIVE 2012 SMART GROWTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (September 20, 2012) - Smart Growth Partnership, a Broward-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocacy and education to promote livable, sustainable and green communities, will present their 2012 Southeast Florida Awards for Smart Growth Excellence on Friday, September 21, 2012, during the Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors® South Florida 20/20 event to be held at Nova Southeastern University (for more information, visit: <http://r-world.com/southflorida2020/>). Two Smart Growth Excellence Awards will be presented to the City of Dania Beach. The first award is granted in the category of "Smart Growth and Green Building" to the Dania Beach City Center Project. The Center includes the 10,000 square-foot Broward County Library, which received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold rating for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings from the U.S. Green Building Council. The library connects to a green municipal garage via an outdoor public garden plaza. The garage was constructed using recycled concrete and holds a 4,000 gallon cistern that catches rainwater for on-site landscaping. It also provides four electronic vehicle charging stations, parking for hybrid vehicles and bicycle racks.

Dania Beach will receive their second award in the "Community Assets" category for the **Dania Beach City Solar Lighting Project**. This project was undertaken after the city conducted their Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) study that indicated a need for additional street lighting in many of the city's neighborhoods to help deter crime. The city selected energy-efficient light fixtures with an integrated, top-of-pole mounted solar power module that capture the sun's energy. These fixtures, which use LED bulbs, are virtually maintenance-free and have an almost limitless life expectancy.

Jeremy Earle, executive director of the Dania Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, remarked, "We're honored to receive this year's Smart Growth Excellence Awards. They highlight our commitment to environmentally-conscious city development, as well as our investment in alternative energy sources, such as solar energy, as a way to mitigate rising energy costs."

The **Northwest Gardens Project** will also receive a Smart Growth Excellence award. Northwest Gardens is a community within the City of Fort Lauderdale that has been distressed for many decades by high unemployment, poverty, crime and lack of infrastructure. This area was revitalized through a joint project undertaken by The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Carlisle Development Group that used smart growth principles to improve the neighborhood environmentally, socially and economically.

Rebecca Walters, director of research and grant development for the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, explained, "Northwest Gardens is a model of sustainable neighborhood development in South Florida. The project reflects the key principles of Smart Growth which encourages compact development in existing urbanized areas, promotes services and proximity close to residential areas, provides alternative transportation options and ensures access to recreation areas and community resources."

Marianne Winfield, executive director of Smart Growth Partnership, will present the awards and will also announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2013 awards. The competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. The application deadline is November 15, 2012. The application can be found online at: <http://www.smartgrowthpartnership.org/pdf/SmartGrowthApplication2012-2013.pdf>

Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony in Fort Lauderdale in January, 2013. Winfield remarked, "Cities that apply for the Smart Growth Excellence award demonstrate their commitment to environmental sustainability and to fostering a healthy and thriving community for future generations."

EVENT INFORMATION

- WHAT: Greater Fort Lauderdale Realtors® South Florida 20/20
- WHEN: Friday, September 21, 2012/8:00am till 11:30am
****Smart Growth Excellence Awards to be presented at 8:30am****
- WHERE: Nova Southeastern University
Carl De Santis Bldg Atrium & Knight Auditorium
3301 College Avenue
Davie, FL 33314
- RSVP: Media welcome, please contact Jenifer at 561-961-9136
or Jenifer@mangionepr.com to request admission

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Smart Growth Partnership, Inc. is a collaborative of diverse professionals and organizations providing leadership, advocacy, and education to promote livable and sustainable and green communities. To that end, the partnership, which was founded in 2005, supports the principles of Smart Growth for the south Florida region. For more information, and to read the Smart Growth Principles, visit their website at www.smartgrowthpartnership.org

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