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Bartow Vice Mayor Longworth Named 2022 Municipal Official of the Year

*Florida League of Cities presents Leo E. Longworth with the 2022 E. Harris Drew Municipal
Official Lifetime Achievement Award*

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TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)**, celebrating its 100th anniversary as the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, announced that **City of Bartow Vice Mayor Leo E. Longworth** is this year’s recipient of the League’s prestigious E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award.

“I appreciate this, and I’m so humbled. I must give honor to God, who directs my life,” said Longworth after being presented with the award. “I will honor and cherish this – especially the fact that this is being given during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Florida League of Cities. Thank you all so much.”

Presented annually, this award is named for Supreme Court Justice E. Harris Drew, the man who coined the League’s motto: “Local self-government, the key to American democracy.” The award recognizes and honors local elected officials who have made lasting and worthwhile contributions to the citizens of Florida through their efforts and dedication in the performance of their duties at the local level.

Raised in Bartow, Longworth graduated from Union Academy High and joined the Army, where he served his country on a tour of duty in Vietnam. First elected to the City Commission in 1995, Longworth has served the City of Bartow for nearly three decades and is a dedicated advocate for all Bartow residents. Through initiatives, projects and perseverance, he has helped elevate the quality of life for his community. For example, he encouraged continued city-wide focus on diversity, equity and inclusion through increased minority participation in city boards and committees, hosting community events and bringing more members of the underserved community into law enforcement. Longworth also spearheaded the creation of the City’s Mayors Youth Council as well as the first Boys and Girls Club in Bartow.

During his tenure with the City, Longworth has served as Mayor five times and represents the City in numerous regional, state and national organizations, including the Ridge League of Cities, the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, the National League of Cities and the National Black Caucus of

Elected Officials. Longworth is also a past President of the Florida League of Cities and is an eight-time recipient of the League's Home Rule Hero Award.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.