

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL

Awards and Presentations

Meeting of March 12, 2009

TO: The Honorable Jeff Danner, Chair, and Members of City Council

SUBJECT: State of Florida School Crossing Guard Program of the Year 2008 Award

Action: Presentation by Mayor Baker of the School Crossing Guard Program of the Year Award to Tom Gibson, Mike Link, Donna Ivory, and School Crossing Guards Claranell Lattimore, Del Ann Wenzelburger, Charlotte Barrows, Charles Touchet, Roy Graf, and Rob Hazzard, and presentation of an Automobile Association of America (AAA) Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence by AAA District Manager, Mark Moore.

Background: The City's School Crossing Program has been in existence since 1958, and is currently administered by the Engineering and Capital Improvements Department under the direction of Tom Gibson and Manager Mike Link. Our School Guard Supervisor, Donna Ivory, has been in charge of this program since 2002. Donna and her staff of 76 school crossing guards safely cross children at 57 locations citywide, serving 37 elementary and middle schools, and over 2,500 students.

In addition to staffing 57 locations citywide each school day with trained crossing guards and safety equipment, Donna is responsible for coordination with the School Safety Committee for requests, studies, and modifications to existing crossings, involving Police, Engineering, Neighborhood Services and Transportation Planning staff to develop and implement necessary changes to maintain safety at crossing locations.

In recognition of the outstanding achievements of our program, including the first "Walk a Child to School Day" and the "Courtesy Promotes Safety" program involving the use of engineering devices, police enforcement, and community feedback and education, the State of Florida Secretary of Transportation has named the City of St. Petersburg as having the School Crossing Guard Program of the Year for 2008.

In addition to the recognition of our program by the State of Florida, Mr. Mark Moore, District Manager of AAA St. Petersburg will present a Certificate of Appreciation for Excellence achieved in the School Crossing Guard Program.