

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**City of North Port, Fla., Maintains APWA Accreditation Status**

**KANSAS CITY, MO. – June 18, 2018** – The City of North Port, Fla., Public Works Department has been awarded on May 14, 2018 the prestigious American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation designation. The APWA Accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry, as contained in the APWA *Public Works Management Practices Manual*. The City of North Port Public Works applied for Re-Accreditation in December 2017. The agency first achieved accreditation in May 2014.

The City of North Port Public Works Department will receive the Accreditation award from APWA Region IV Director Doug Layton at a presentation ceremony during the Commission meeting on September 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor at 4970 City Hall Boulevard, North Port, FL 34286.

The Accreditation of the City of North Port's Public Works Department indicates the department met all applicable Accreditation documentation and practices over time. In a statement from Director Juliana Bellia, "The awarding of the APWA Accreditation shows we have dedicated ourselves to the efforts of continuous improvement and excellence. We are extremely proud to receive this honor. The heroes of this prestigious APWA award are the public works staff whose mission is to provide services and programs that contribute to making North Port a great place to live and work."

The City of North Port Public Works' Department became the 91<sup>st</sup> agency in North America to be awarded Accreditation, and the 9<sup>th</sup> agency in the State of Florida. In addition to the City of North Port, he accredited agencies in Florida include Hillsborough County, Wellington, Miami Beach, Okaloosa County, Sumter County, Gainesville, Lakeland, Largo, Fort Myers, Coral Springs, Port St. Lucie and Pinellas County.

For the North Port review, a team of public works professionals from Bowling Green, Ky.; Georgetown County, S.C.; and Kansas City, Mo., completed a thorough evaluation of operations during their April 2018 site visit.

For more information about the North Port Public Works Department, contact Director Juliana Bellia at [jbellia@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:jbellia@cityofnorthport.com) or Accreditation Manager Libby Fuste, [lfuste@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:lfuste@cityofnorthport.com). For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Accreditation Manager Tracy Quintana at [tquintana@apwa.net](mailto:tquintana@apwa.net). For APWA media queries, please contact Jared Shilhanek, Sr. Marketing & Communications Manager, at (816) 595-5257 or [jshilhanek@apwa.net](mailto:jshilhanek@apwa.net). For advocacy-related media queries, contact Emily Dowsett, Government Affairs Media Manager, at (202) 218-6736 or [edowsett@apwa.net](mailto:edowsett@apwa.net).

***About APWA***

*The American Public Works Association ([www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net)) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.*

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