



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300 • Post Office Box 1757 • Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757
850.222.9684 • Fax: 850.222.3806 • Website: flcities.com

Florida League of Cities Announces Sanibel Mayor Ruane as 2020 Municipal Official of the Year

Mayor Kevin E. Ruane receives E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award

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CONTACT: Brittini Johnsen

bjohnsen@flcities.com / 850.701.3652

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced that **City of Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane** is this year’s recipient of the League’s E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award. The announcement was made during the association’s virtual annual business meeting this afternoon.

“Mayor Ruane is a dedicated public servant and an outstanding city official,” said **Florida League of Cities President Isaac Salver**, council member for the **Town of Bay Harbor Islands**. “His commitment to local government is evident in his list of experiences and accomplishments. Whether he’s leading the Sanibel City Council, advocating for Home Rule, working toward better water quality for our state or working collaboratively with local, state and federal partners, he’s always committed to local self-government and its success. We’re honored to recognize his service and the many, many contributions he’s made to cities so far.”

Presented annually, this is the League’s most prestigious award. It 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. It 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.

“It’s truly an honor to receive this prestigious award from an organization that I respect greatly and am proud to be a member of,” said **Ruane**, who didn’t know he had even been nominated for the award. “I’m proud to serve the great City of Sanibel and to be involved with the Florida League of Cities for over a decade. I’m also proud of the contributions I’ve made and the accomplishments we’ve achieved during that time. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the League and to serving my residents.”

Ruane has served on the Sanibel City Council since 2007. In 2010, he was appointed as mayor, a position he has held since. Among his many accomplishments in his role as mayor, Ruane led the city council to reduce the city’s total debt from \$47.9 million to \$16.6 million in less than 10 years. In addition to his official role as mayor, Ruane serves as chair of the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund, vice chair of the Florida Municipal Insurance Investment Trust, vice chair of the Florida Municipal Loan Council, a

member of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and a member of several local and state committees. Ruane is also the immediate past president of the Florida League of Mayors and holds a seat on the associations board. In addition, he is a three-time recipient of the Florida League of Cities' Home Rule Hero Award, the 2017 recipient of the Public Service Award from the Everglades Coalition, the 2016 recipient of the Hometown Hero Award and was named "Citizen of the Year" by the Committee of Islands in 2015.

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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.