For Immediate Release
Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Contact: Michael Wallace
(804) 646-2772
Michael.Wallace@Richmondgov.com

City of Richmond Receives Several Digital Achievement Awards

Richmond, VA – The city of Richmond Department of Information Technology (DIT) was recognized for several digital achievements as e.Republic's Center for Digital Government announced its 2010 Best of the Web and Digital Government Achievement Awards. The Digital Government Achievement Awards recognize outstanding agency and department websites and projects at the application and infrastructure level. The city received awards for the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Debt Setoff System in the Government-to-Government category, Land Use Projects Parcel Mapper in the Government-to-Citizen City Government category, CommonCents – Employee Budget Feedback Process in the Government Internal category, and an honorable mention for the city's Traffic Accidents and Hazards web page in the Government-to-Citizen category.

"Congratulations to the hardworking employees of the city's Department of Information Technology for receiving this national recognition," said Mayor Dwight C. Jones. "DIT is responsible for administering, developing, implementing and supporting complex and critical technological systems for 38 city government agencies, to include police, fire, 911, public utilities, public works, financial operations, payroll, Richmondgov.com website, and much more. It is a testament to their work ethic of not only fulfilling the status quo, but pushing the envelope in developing new technologies and systems for internal customers as well as the residents of the city of Richmond."

The RPL Debt Setoff System utilizes provisions within the Virginia Set-Off Debt Collection Program by submitting overdue book fines as well as charges for lost books. City DIT resources work with Richmond Public Library staff to automate the fine process and save staff hours in processing billings for non-returned items. RPL estimates this system will save $47,000 annually in administrative costs, and as of June 1 the recovered amount for 2010 is $17,854.

(more)

The Land Use Projects Parcel Mapper contains familiar property information while also providing residents with current land use-related projects throughout the city and combines the use of both consumer mapping (Microsoft's Bing Maps), and the city's new GIS-based approach for managing land use projects.

Mayor Jones' CommonCents initiative is designed to include employee feedback in addressing the city's fiscal year 2011 budget shortfalls. Within a two week period, DIT provided a web application to allow employees the opportunity to provide feedback under the CommonCents initiative. The goal of creating efficiencies in government through the CommonCents program resulted in more than $2 million in savings.

The city's Traffic Accidents and Hazards web page provides advanced traffic mapping capabilities for the entire metro Richmond area. The site permits users to view active incidents within a separate map display window, select a single incident to display, or choose from predefined areas of the City of Richmond, Henrico and Chesterfield counties to display all active incidents within the metro Richmond region.

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. The Center is a division of e.Republic, Inc., the nation's leading publishing, research, event, and new media company focused on information technology for the state/local government and education sectors.

# # #