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Tigard Mayor Receives James C. Richards Award

EUGENE, Ore. – The prestigious James C. Richards Memorial Award was presented Friday evening to Tigard Mayor John Cook during the League of Oregon Cities’ 93rd Annual Conference in Eugene. The award is given to elected city officials who serve the citizens of Oregon through an exceptional personal investment in intergovernmental affairs.

Mayor Cook has served the city of Tigard, supported the work of the Washington County and the Metro Region, and worked collaboratively with mayors statewide and nationally - all with distinction, excellence, and the highest of ethics. As a leader, he has successfully navigated the many challenging issues facing cities. Whether it’s sanctuary and immigration, finances, planning, or partnering with other jurisdictions, Mayor Cook builds consensus and partnerships while making sure all voices are heard and all perspectives considered.

Mayor Cook’s many accomplishments include the following:

- Serving as co-chair of two regional committees that helped successfully pass two ballot measures: a levy for the Washington County Cooperative Library Service, and approval for the city to continue participating in the study of potential light rail in the SW Corridor.
- Membership on Metro’s Southwest Corridor Steering Committee, giving residents a knowledgeable advocate for public transportation and an understanding of the project’s potential to improve traffic congestion in the region.
- Playing a key role as negotiator and spokesperson for Tigard’s water infrastructure project with Lake Oswego. The Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership built a state-of-the-art water system that went online in late 2016 and now delivers a clean, safe, long-term water source to more than 19,000 customers in the Tigard Water Service Area, including the cities of Durham, King City and Tigard, and to unincorporated Washington County.
- Hosting a monthly ‘Fireside Chat’ – sitting down with residents in Tigard’s Main Street coffee shop, a “fireplace” app running on his iPad, and talking about anything they wish.

About the James C. Richards Memorial Award

James C. Richards was a city councilor for Bay City and was the administrative officer for Tillamook County. His many years of involvement in intergovernmental affairs serve as a model for others and is the standard by which nominees are evaluated.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon’s incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.