



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For more information contact:
Erin Mynatt, Management Assistant
972-838-1380
emynatt@cityofmelissa.com

City of Melissa Awarded 2011 Silver Leadership Circle

MELISSA, TX - The City of Melissa has been awarded the 2011 Silver Leadership Circle Award for online financial transparency by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Comptroller launched the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle program in December 2009 to recognize local governments across Texas who strive to meet a high standard for financial transparency online.

The program spotlights those local governments that are:

- opening their books to the public;
- providing clear, consistent pictures of spending; and
- sharing information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more information.

The Leadership Circle awards designees with a certificate reflecting their Circle Award level: Gold, Silver, or Bronze. The City of Melissa was awarded the "Silver" Leadership Circle Award and will continue to identify and strive for an even greater level of financial transparency. Financial transparency is an ongoing goal for any government entity. The Comptroller encourages and applauds local governments across Texas that are stepping up efforts to give taxpayers a transparent look at where their money goes.

Some of the areas the City scored in include: the availability of the budget, and comprehensive financial report online and the establishment of a "Financial Transparency" webpage that makes it easy for residents to find all financial documents in one place. In addition the City was recognized for transparency in other non financial matters such as online access to elected officials, availability of public information requests online, and easy access to key documents in three clicks or less.

The City of Melissa values financial accountability and to that end the information provided on our website supports our goals of transparent government, good stewardship and open communication. The City continues to expand upon its efforts in transparency and has increased the focus on communication to the community. Please visit www.cityofmelissa.com where you can "stay connected" through a variety of communication avenues including a weekly electronic newsletter, facebook, and twitter to stay on top of the latest happenings in the City of Melissa.

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