



Community Services
City of Beverly Hills
455 N. Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210-4817
310.285.2530
www.beverlyhills.org

For Immediate Release
June 27, 2016
Contact: Dana Beesen
310.285.2530
dbeesen@beverlyhills.org

Beverly Hills Wins Livability Award from U. S. Conference of Mayors *National Award Recognizes Ambassador Program*

Beverly Hills, Calif. – The City of Beverly Hills has been awarded the City Livability Award from the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) for the Ambassador Program. The national award was presented to Mayor John Mirisch at the USCM annual meeting in Indianapolis this past Saturday. The Livability Award honors city governments for developing programs that enhance the quality of life in urban areas. Out of a pool of 150 applicants, the City of Beverly Hills received first place honors in the small city category (max 100,000 population). The Ambassador Program was developed by the Human Relations Commission and is administered and monitored by the Human Services Division.

The Ambassador Program is a solution to a common conundrum faced by cities across the nation – how to strategically coordinate local government, private and non-profit entities to address homelessness and improve community quality of life. The Ambassador team provides services 7 days a week, 21 hours a day in the business triangle and on South Beverly Drive. The team focuses on hospitality and safety services, and coordinates closely with the City's Changing Lives and Sharing Places (CLASP) homeless outreach team. Referrals from Ambassadors helps the CLASP team quickly link homeless individuals with the local and regional social services available to address their needs.

“The City of Beverly Hills is thrilled to receive the 2016 City Livability Award and we thank the U.S. Conference of Mayors for such a distinguished honor,” says Mayor John Mirisch. “I am especially pleased that more communities will learn about the good work we are doing in Beverly Hills to provide for the needs of people who live, work and visit in Beverly Hills, including our homeless population. Our Ambassadors’ consistent presence and knowledge of those in need has allowed for efficient coordination of outreach and services to the homeless, producing a 50% decrease in the number of people found in our annual homeless count this past year. The Ambassadors’ presence on our City streets has led to a reduction in aggressive panhandling and provides a sense of safety and enhanced quality of life.”

A local celebration will take place at the Beverly Hills City Council meeting on July 5 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

For more information on the Ambassador Program, go to the City’s online webpage: www.beverlyhills.org/ambassador. To report unusual activity or maintenance issues while in the Beverly Hills business triangle or city parking structures, please call the Ambassador Hotline at 424-302-1487.

###