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Coconut Creek City Manager Joins First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House to Celebrate Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties

[Coconut Creek, FL] – Coconut Creek City Manager Mary Blasi and Parks and Recreation Supervisor Janet Hull joined First Lady Michelle Obama and representatives from the National League of Cities (NLC) and several federal agencies at the White House today for a celebratory event honoring the achievements made by local elected officials participating in the Let’s Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC) initiative.

The First Lady announced that 500 cities, towns and counties, including Coconut Creek, have committed to the five goals in the LMCTC initiative since July 2012. LMCTC is a key part of the First Lady’s Let’s Move! Initiative, and helps local elected officials, their staff and communities ensure all children grow up healthy and have the ability to reach their full potential. NLC works in partnership with Let’s Move! and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide assistance to local elected officials.

Coconut Creek is part of a growing national movement to build healthier communities and ensure that the health and well-being of young people today and that of future generations is a priority. Coconut Creek has adapted the goals of Let’s Move into recreational programs for residents and employees. Some programs include summer camp, aftercare, dance, and Day of Play. See below for specific goal information.

“Since the City’s inception in 1967, offering recreational activities have remained a priority,” stated Coconut Creek Mayor Becky Tooley. “Over the years, our outstanding Parks & Recreation staff has implemented hundreds of programs to help keep our community active and healthy. We are honored to be recognized for our efforts by First Lady Michelle Obama.”

At today’s event, the First Lady also recognized the 52 communities that have achieved gold medals in each of the five goal areas, which include providing healthy school meals, opportunities for physical activity during and outside of school, and healthier early care and education programs.

“This groundbreaking milestone of reaching 500 communities brings us closer to the goal of providing every American with the opportunity to live in a community that prioritizes the health and well-being of their residents,” said National League of Cities President Ralph Becker, mayor, Salt Lake City, Utah.
“These local policymakers, representing small and large communities from across the country, are transforming their communities into healthier places.”

The 500 cities, towns and counties honored at today’s event come from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. To date, approximately 80 million Americans live in a city, town or county participating in LMCTC.

**Coconut Creek Goals & Successes:**

Goal 1: Start Smart Start Early-promotion of the Let's Move Childcare (LMCC) program. SILVER. LMCC is promoted through the City’s website.

Goal II: MyPlate GOLD. MyPlate stickers are placed on all city vending machines and break rooms. MyPlate is also promoted through programming.

Goal III: Healthy Servings for Students. SILVER. Let's Move is promoted through some local schools, The City provides resources for free food programs, The GOLD status will be determined at the end of September.

Goal IV: Healthy Food Policy: BRONZE. (GOLD is in near future.) The City will provide healthy food and beverage options at city meetings and events.

Goal V: Playspaces. GOLD. See healthycommunitieshealthyfutures.org for medal details.

For more information on the achievements by LMCTC communities, visit www.healthycommunitieshealthyfuture.org/spotlights/.

NLC works in partnership with Let’s Move! and HHS, with support from USDA, the National Association of Counties and other nonprofit organizations, to provide assistance to local elected officials as they implement policy and program changes to improve access to healthy, affordable food and provide opportunities for physical activity for all children. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides generous support to NLC to provide technical assistance to local elected officials working to create healthier communities and prevent childhood obesity, including those participating in LMCTC.

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