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For immediate release

**Public Policy Forum announces 19th annual
“Salute to Local Government” award winners**

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin – *Thursday, June 2, 2011* – Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum, a nonpartisan research organization focusing on regional issues, has announced its 2011 *Salute to Local Government* award winners.

“While it’s not often that you hear about it, there are many examples of strong government performance throughout our region, and of hard-working and innovative government leaders who are providing value to taxpayers,” says Rob Henken, Forum president. “The Forum takes great pleasure in being to able to recognize several of these outstanding achievements.”

This year’s *Salute* continues an awards category developed in 2010 to give special recognition to governments that implemented innovative responses to the economic downturn.

“Local governments are still reeling from the double whammy of plunging property values and sales tax revenues, and many will soon be facing significant losses of state aids,” says Henken. “It’s particularly appropriate to honor government leaders who respond effectively to such fiscal challenges.”

The awards will be presented at the Public Policy Forum's 19th annual *Salute to Local Government* breakfast on **Thursday, June 23, 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Italian Community Center, 631 East Chicago Street, in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.**

The *Salute* breakfast is sponsored this year by Baker Tilly; Ehlers & Associates, Inc.; Helen Bader Foundation; Marshall & Ilsley Corporation; Milwaukee Public Television; Potawatomi Bingo Casino; Quarles & Brady, LLP; SC Johnson: A Family Company; and We Energies.

The 2011 recipients are:

“Innovative Response to Economic Downturn”

Village of Bayside

The Village of Bayside implemented a series of “green” initiatives to enhance energy efficiency, promote environmental stewardship in the community, and provide leadership in enhancing environmental friendliness. While accomplishing each of those goals, the initiatives also produced substantial savings for village taxpayers and helped village officials weather the impacts of the economic downturn. Two of the primary areas of focus were the village’s facility energy consumption reduction initiative, which helped produce a 39% decrease in energy costs during the past three years; and its collection services efficiency enhancement initiative, which produced a savings of nearly \$97,000 in 2010.

“Effective Use of Technology”

Milwaukee Municipal Court

After more than three years of planning and thoughtful implementation, the Milwaukee Municipal Court successfully made the conversion to electronic case files on January 1, 2011. Citations now come to court as an electronic – rather than paper – case file. In addition to allowing the courts to eliminate three full-time positions and making court operations more efficient and effective, the availability of electronic case-related documents allows judges to hold court sessions at any community location with an internet connection. The project also serves as the foundation for planned online services to further enhance public access.

“Intergovernmental Cooperation”

City of Milwaukee and City of Greenfield

The South 27th Street corridor from Oklahoma Avenue to College Avenue is a significant commercial district in the City of Milwaukee and the neighboring City of Greenfield. In recent years, however, this area has experienced an increase in vacancy rates, a decline in the infrastructure and deteriorating commercial storefronts. As part of an effort to address this problem, the City of Milwaukee and the City of Greenfield joined forces to form the first

intergovernmental Business Improvement District (BID) in the State of Wisconsin. The BID is combining resources from both municipalities to carry out a series of activities to enhance the historic commercial corridor affectionately known as “Historic 41”.

“Private-Public Cooperation”

Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District and Bucyrus International

Oak Creek High School is facing space issues as enrollment grows. After considering a possible referendum for high school expansion, the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District also looked into the possibility of launching half-day "academies" for students in businesses that would be a good match for its Project Lead the Way pre-engineering program. The district approached Bucyrus International, which agreed to house a STEM Academy at its new Oak Creek location. Students will be bused to Bucyrus at the start of the school day and spend half their day learning math, science, and engineering from district teachers, while also having the opportunity to interact with Bucyrus employees and observe Bucyrus programs and projects.

“Leader of the Future Award”

Guy Smith

Chief of Operations, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture

As the Milwaukee County Parks Department’s Chief of Operations, 29-year-old Guy Smith manages 900 full-time and seasonal employees with an expenditure budget of \$18.7 million. In his almost six years in the Parks, Guy was promoted from Trails Coordinator to Deputy Regional Manager to Chief of Operations. As chief, Guy has worked to expand the department’s relationship with the Urban Ecology Centers located in Washington and Riverside Parks, which focus on environmental education and stewardship for youth of all ages. Program awards under Guy's direction and leadership include a 2010 Feddy award for best trail system, numerous Shepherd Express “Best Of” awards for the Oak Leaf Trail, and several national trail recognitions by the National Park Service.

“James R. Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award”

Thomas A. Brophy

Retired Director of Community Relations for the Medical College of Wisconsin and Health and Human Services Director for Milwaukee County

Tom Brophy has been an influential figure in Milwaukee’s health and human services arena for more than 40 years, working for 30 years for Milwaukee County and the past 12 years as Director of Community Relations for the Medical College of Wisconsin. At the county, Tom began his career as a social worker and rose through the ranks, eventually serving as Administrator of John L. Doyle Hospital and Director of Health and Human Services. At the Medical College, Tom not only helped advance the institution’s public and community health mission, but also spent extensive time volunteering on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including Community Advocates, Milwaukee Academy of Science, and St. Charles Youth and Family Services. Tom also has been a prominent member of several important human services task forces and committees, including the Milwaukee County Health

Policy Task Force, the Badger Care Coordinating Network, the Partnership for Healthy Milwaukee, and the Homeless Continuum of Care Coalition. Tom retired in 2010.

“Norman N. Gill Award”

Michael J. Daun

Deputy Comptroller, City of Milwaukee

Mike Daun has worked for the City of Milwaukee’s Comptroller’s office for the past 30 years, including the past six as Deputy Comptroller. His long list of achievements includes playing key roles in the development of the city’s general obligation short-term variable rate debt program and commercial paper program; his work to strengthen the city’s internal audit function; developing the protocols for the Comptroller’s analysis of Tax Incremental Financing and other economic development proposals; and helping city government maintain its strong bond ratings with outside credit agencies. Milwaukee Alderman Michael Murphy, who chairs the city’s Finance and Personnel Committee, praises Mike for “providing fiscal guidance for the city with due diligence and remarkable insight.”

The substantial number of outstanding nominations also prompted the Forum to recognize the following entities with Honorable Mention awards:

- Racine County, the City of Racine and the Villages of Caledonia, Mount Pleasant and Sturtevant, for their successful efforts to create a joint dispatch center in the “Intergovernmental Cooperation” category.
- The City of Cudahy and Metropolitan Associates for their “Senior Housing Complexes Emergency Planning” initiative in the “Private-Public Cooperation” category.
- The Hunger Task Force for its work with county, state and federal agencies to open self-help technology centers for online FoodShare applications at two Milwaukee County locations in the “Private-Public Cooperation” category.

Milwaukee-based Public Policy Forum (www.publicpolicyforum.org) – which was established in 1913 as a local government watchdog – is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of government and the development of southeastern Wisconsin through objective research of regional public policy issues.