

March 13, 2013

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Sunshine Review, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to government transparency, announced that the City of Burleson's website was one of the winners of the fourth annual Sunny Awards.

The City of Burleson earned a Sunny for the third consecutive year. The award, which honors the most transparent government websites in the nation, went to 250 government entities. Other Texas winners include the McKinney Independent School District, City of Houston, City of Huntsville, City of Keller, City of Laredo and City of New Braunfels.

Burleson earned an A- for the 2013 Sunny. The minus was for not disclosing if the City engaged in lobbying activities or if it is a member of a government lobbying association. The total cost of lobbying activities or membership dues was also not available. The City of Burleson is a member of the Texas Municipal League, which is considered a lobbying association. The dues for TML administrative services are \$3,931, which is based on the City's population. The City's 2012 population was 38,130 residents.

"The City of Burleson knows the importance of promoting transparency in everything we do," City Manager Dale Cheatham said. "We are honored to receive a Sunny Award and will continue to empower citizens by providing the necessary information to keep them informed on the actions their government is taking on their behalf."

For the 2013 awards, Editors at Sunshine Review analyzed more than 1,000 qualifying government websites and graded each on a 10-point transparency checklist. Editors looked at content available on government websites against what should be provided. They sought information on items such as budgets, meetings, lobbying, financial audits, contracts, academic performance, public records and taxes. The winners of the Sunny Award all received an "A" grade during the extensive grading process.

"The Sunny Awards recognize governments that make transparency a priority. The winners of the Sunny Awards are cities, counties and school districts that proactively share the public information that empowers citizens and keeps government accountable to the people," said Michael Barnhart, President of Sunshine Review. "We would like to congratulate the City of Burleson for being a

champion for transparency and serving as a leader to every state and local government around the nation.”

Eight states earned nearly half of the 247 Sunny Awards given. The leading states were Florida (25), Virginia (19), Illinois (19), California (12), Georgia (12), Kansas (11), Oklahoma (10) and Colorado (9). In addition, 35 counties, 22 cities and 42 school districts from all over the country earned the coveted “A+” grade.

The Sunny Awards announcement falls during the annual celebration of “Sunshine Week,” March 10-16, a period that celebrates the efforts of activists and the strides taken towards open government.

Sunshine Review is a nonprofit organization dedicated to state and local government transparency. Since its inception in 2008, Sunshine Review has analyzed the websites of all 50 states and more than 7,000 state and local entities.

The City of Burleson earned an A in the 2011 Sunny Awards and an A+ for the 2012 Sunny Awards. The City of Burleson website is www.burlesontx.com.