

Remarks for Mayor Finkbeiner
Friday, April 3 1 p.m.
All-America City
22nd Floor

Good afternoon.

You are probably all wondering why we are hearing about these three social programs within the City of Toledo. It is because this trio of programs is now considered by the National Civic League as ranking among the best in the nation.

We are here today to announce that Toledo is a finalist for the 60th All-America City Awards. Thanks to the involvement and dedication of these men and women with us today, Toledo has being recognized nationwide as one of America's citizen inspired cities. Being selected as a

finalist indicates that the National Civic League has spotlighted Toledo as a model for the rest of the country.

All-America City is perhaps the highest award a city can receive. It is only awarded to those communities whose citizens exemplify collaboration, civic engagement, and finding creative solutions to the challenges facing them.

Toledo has previously been named an All-America City in 1950, 1983, and 1998.

From June 16-19, these men and women, and a delegation representing Toledo will journey to Tampa, Florida to present why our City is indeed an All-America City.

It is not a coincidence that Toledo has been nominated for the most prestigious civic award in America during the midst of one of the most economically challenging periods we have ever faced.

The three projects you have heard about earlier have made a difference in the City of Toledo by helping lower our crime rate by 19% in the last three years, by helping our young people become the leaders of tomorrow, and by helping transform barren, empty lots into lush, vibrant gardens.

The All-America City judges look for those cities that choose not to wallow in the pain of their challenges, but fight vigorously to find solutions.

Yes, we do have a serious financial problem. So do many other communities across America. But with the mettle and courage Toledoans live with, and expect from their Mayor and City Council, we will rise to the occasion – rise to the level of what is expected of an All-America City – and solve our fiscal challenge. That is a characteristic that has always defined Toledo.

Additionally, we are calling upon you – the citizens of Toledo – to be a part of our All-America City delegation. If you are interested in contributing your skills and talent to our delegation, please contact Lesa James at 419-245-1004. We are looking for those citizens who fervently believe that Toledo IS an All-America City, and want

to deliver this message to the entire country.

To send our delegation to Florida, we will be hosting a series of events over the next few weeks. By participating in these events, you will be helping send a talented, passionate team of ambassadors that will show America – and, indeed, the world – what Toledo is made of – resourcefulness, compassion, innovation, and mental toughness. These traits define the three projects we will be presenting – and make us an All-America City once again.

Thank you.