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For Immediate Release

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Pinecrest Attains Green Government Certification *FGBC Designation Confirms Environmental Stewardship*

(Tallahassee, FL) – The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), a membership-based non-profit organization that administers certification standards and provides education to promote sustainable building, development and business practices, has designated the Village of Pinecrest a certified Florida Green Local Government after it successfully met the sustainability standards established in the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program. Pinecrest achieved 37 percent of the 308 applicable points, earning it a silver-level designation.

Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director, said the designation demonstrates exemplary leadership by Mayor Cindy Lerner and other elected officials who provided the framework and support to move forward with the process that helps to better manage the cost of government. “Their leadership in this effort will help protect and conserve the community’s natural resources, enhance the efficiency of government thus reducing the cost to taxpayers, and raise public awareness about the benefits of environmental stewardship,” Cook said. “Our membership applauds the municipality’s dedication and commitment to the important ideals outlined in Florida Green Building Coalition certification program.”

In order to achieve the FGBC Green Local Government Certification, the Village of Pinecrest staff, led by Village Manager Yocelyn Galiano Gomez , undertook an extensive audit of the functions performed by every department within their government. The criteria included evaluations of energy and water usage, air quality, health issues, land use, recycling and waste disposal, maintenance policies, educational programs, purchasing practices, regulatory policies, and many others. From there teams used FGBC’s program tools to identify methods to improve the sustainability of their business practices and operations.

Cook said that there were significant and tangible accomplishments that will benefit taxpayers and the environment. “Through these efforts, there were reductions in operating costs

and capital outlays, improvements in departmental communication, cooperation, and risk and asset management, a wealth of environmental benefits including measureable CO₂ reductions, and identification of programs that will improve community involvement and enhance sustainability throughout the Village of Pinecrest,” Cook noted.

FGBC’s Green Local Government Certification program is the only one of its type in Florida and is endorsed by the Florida Legislature, the Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors. Cook emphasized that this level of support emanates from the fact that there is a sizeable and compelling return on investment for any municipality that chooses to initiate the process. “Depending upon the population of the community, the cost of this program is between \$2,000 and \$6,000,” she said. “The cost savings and environmental benefits that can be achieved dwarf the initial expenditure.”

In the case of Pinecrest, Cook listed just a few of the significant accomplishments that were achieved. A complete list is available at the end of this news release.

- Adoption of a green building ordinance
- Offering of incentives for green building and development
- Water conservation measures that include green landscaping regulations and rebates to the community for low-flow plumbing fixtures
- Implementation of a green fleet program that includes green vehicle maintenance practices, as well as the use of alternative fuel vehicles
- Recycling initiatives and the operation of a computer and equipment reuse center
- Implementation of an environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP) program for the Village and adoption of green cleaning practices
- Installation of energy efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks and playfields

Since the FGBC Green Local Government Certification program was launched, 41 Florida municipalities have achieved certification, with 17 others registered and in the process of certification. The program is performance based, not prescriptive, and all of the certified governments have found that many of their existing programs and policies contributed to the point total needed for certification. “This program is an opportunity for local governments to establish sustainable practices that can be carried out on a systematic basis, and sets in motion a process that will extend beyond election terms and protect the community for years to come,” Cook said.

Presentation of the award to the Village of Pinecrest officials will be held on September 25, 2012, at 7 p.m. during the Village Council meeting in the Pinecrest Municipal Center Council Chamber located at 12645 Pinecrest Parkway in Pinecrest.

The Florida Green Building Coalition is an independent non-profit organization that was established in 2000 to promote green building in Florida. FGBC's membership is comprised of individuals and businesses from both public and building industry sectors, including research, design, materials, products, construction, inspection, marketing, finance, and sales. For more information about the FGBC Green Local Governments designation visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org.

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Village of Pinecrest Complete List of Green Achievements

- Monitor and track local government energy and water use
- Develop a local government energy and water reduction plan
- Develop and encourage departments to implement an “environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP) program
- Participate in Cities for Climate Protection Campaign
- Purchase alternative fuel vehicles
- Employ green cleaning and maintenance procedures
- Enact green landscaping ordinance for local government buildings
- Budget for publicity and education related to the government's commitment to green and organize green building education for local government staff
- Offer green building or green local government education to the community
- Offer free or discounted green products to the public
- Maintain an active Florida Yards & Neighborhood (FYN) program or other landscaping outreach program for the community
- Offer education of water conservation, organic farming, permaculture and sustainable agriculture within the agricultural sector and community
- Adopt Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) or LEED green standards as official green building standards of the city
- Offer incentives for FGBC or LEED certified commercial and institutional buildings
- Offer incentives for FGBC certified green land developments and homes

- Offer incentives for Energy Star certified green homes
- Conduct a green building awards program and publicize green building projects as case studies
- Require key staff to complete on a bi-annual basis approved course in green building
- Require mitigation for consumption of natural habitat or resources
- Enact and enforce a Florida Friendly landscaping ordinance for new construction
- Enact and enforce a tree preservation or land-clearing ordinance
- Enact a septic system replacement ordinance
- Offer special promotion for local eco-hotels
- Create and promote a green business certification program
- Provide incentives for green redevelopment
- Develop an historic preservation ordinance
- Use alternative fuel vehicles and/or bicycle patrol for urban areas and neighborhoods
- Maintain a green fleet program for the entire local government and utilize alternative fuel for school busses
- Utilize non-lead bullets or trap and collect fragments on firing ranges
- Operate a local government computer and equipment reuse center and recycle end-of-life electronic equipment
- Enacted energy conservation policy so all computers and electronic equipment purchased has conservation features and ancillary equipment is powered off when not in use
- Operate a website dedicated to the Village's green program and provide education content via the website and Village television programs
- Provide the air quality index and water quality testing results on the website
- Provide public transportation route searching and alternative commuting information via the internet
- Create an endangered lands conservation/purchasing program
- Enact open burning regulations
- Require recycling at all local government buildings
- Implement recycling stations for plastic, glass and aluminum containers at all public areas
- Implement energy efficient lighting and controls for outdoor courts, parks and playfields
- Develop and maintain urban area boundaries

- Train and certify staff as certified arborists and employ green landscaping procedures for local government facilities
- Develop a stormwater education campaign for the community
- Involve students in green projects within and outside of the school
- Provide rebates to the community for low-flow plumbing fixtures and enforce watering restrictions during meter reads.
- Provide reusable mugs and/or water bottles to all employees