



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ
Parish President

Parish Finance Department Wins Excellence Award Third Straight Year

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GONZALES – The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the industry’s top honor for financial reporting to the Ascension Parish Department of Finance for the third straight year.

Chief Financial Officer Gwen LeBlanc said her department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the department’s comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR).

“Our finance department has shown once again that they continue to operate with consummate professionalism,” Parish President Tommy Martinez said. “And garnering awards like this one shows that they are highly regarded by their peers in the industry.”

This certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and receiving this award represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, according to a release by GFOA.

“I’m proud of the work and dedication that my department continued to demonstrate as we prepared this report,” LeBlanc said. “I extend my appreciation to President Martinez and the Parish Council for their support that they continue to bestow on the finance department.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to see if high standards were met by the parish finance department including “demonstrating a constructive ‘spirit of full

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disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read (the report)," according to the GFOA release.

LeBlanc said the award not only is an additional factor to improve the parish's bond rating, but also provides the citizens of Ascension Parish the confidence that their public funds are maintained at the highest level of accountability.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals. Ascension Parish Government joins eight other parish governments in Louisiana receiving this award.

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