

Guidelines:
Houston Commission on Disabilities
2009
Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award (MDAYA)

The Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award seeks to recognize and honor the contributions of advocates who, through their volunteerism in the community, have provided a notable effort towards one or more of the following:

- Increasing the awareness of disability issues in the nondisabled Houston community.
- Working towards the resolution of a barrier to people with disabilities.
- One whose voice has effectively represented those who cannot represent themselves.

Each year two disability advocates from the City of Houston will be selected; one with a disability and one nondisabled. (On May 11, 2006 the HCOD added a "Junior" advocate category for individuals 18 years old and under) The MDAYA Selection Committee may at its discretion, in addition to the 2 adult advocate categories and 1 youth advocate category, also recognize a deceased individual with a posthumous award (posthumous category added 06-25-09). The awards are based on the virtue and impact of their work using the following:

Community Advocate (Disabled, Nondisabled and Posthumous)- recognizes the outstanding volunteer efforts of an individual dedicated toward improving conditions and opportunities in the disability community. He/She should be a positive role model whose actions encourage others to follow in their footsteps. In addition to an application, nominations for this award must include a biography highlighting the services rendered by the nominee for which this award is to be presented.

Youth Advocate - recognizes a young person no older than 18 years old for outstanding work in the community. This work should include selfless volunteer work exhibiting leadership qualities that will inspire our youth to become the future leaders and advocates for the disability community. In addition to an application, nominations for this award must include a biography highlighting the services rendered by the nominee for which this award is to be presented.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

- An individual currently engaged in volunteer service that improves the quality of life of people with disabilities in Houston.
- Contribution and/or activity must have been performed in the greater Houston area for a minimum of one calendar year.
- Incomplete nominations will not be considered.
- Award recipients will be asked to attend a recognition event during Disability Awareness month at Houston's City Hall.
- Award recipients may be asked to do media interviews.
- Nominees are not eligible if they:
 - Are currently serving on the Houston Commission on Disabilities.
 - Are currently working in the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD).
 - Received the award within the last four years.

Nomination Form
2009 Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award
Deadline: Postmarked by 08/31/2009

Category (choose only one)

- Community Advocate - Disabled
- Community Advocate – Nondisabled
- Youth Advocate
- Posthumous

Please print clearly or type in the spaces below. If you have questions e-mail jeff.anderson@cityofhouston.net or phone at 713-803-1074.

Individual Nominee

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Nominator

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Nominator's Signature Date

***Submit via mail the completed nomination form, narrative statement, resume, and all supporting materials to: City of Houston, Attn: Jeff Anderson
P.O. Box 1562, Houston, Texas 77251***