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MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES 'BRIGHT IDEAS' AWARD THROUGH HARVARD UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

The Village of Buffalo Grove is a member of the Municipal Partnering Initiative, along with more than 30 municipalities in Cook and Lake Counties.

Buffalo Grove, Illinois – A Harvard University program has recognized the Northern Illinois Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI), which includes the Village of Buffalo Grove and more than 30 municipalities in Cook and Lake County. The Bright Ideas Award was accepted January 18, 2017 on behalf of MPI by the Village of Glenview, who established the program in 2010 and provides ongoing organizational support for the initiative. The award acknowledges the very best in governmental innovation, and was presented by the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

MPI is a cooperative venture in which local governments purchase shared services and commodities, including municipal projects such as curbs and sidewalk improvements, asphalt patching, road resurfacing and a variety of other projects. The goal of MPI is to control costs while leveraging the power of joint purchasing, in addition to achieving the highest levels of efficiency and best practices in local government.

Over the last seven years, MPI has been the catalyst for 25 joint bidding projects, resulting in a total savings of up to \$2.6 million for taxpayers living in the participating municipalities. In 2016, the Village of Buffalo Grove and several other MPI members participated in a joint bid for cross-connection control device testing, which saved Buffalo Grove 40-percent compared to previous year pricing.

“We are proud to be a part of such a forward-thinking group that is jointly working for the benefit of all of our stakeholders,” said Buffalo Grove Village President Beverly Sussman. “The success of MPI is a direct result of the cooperation and hard work we have achieved with our many government partners.”

To be considered a Bright Idea, programs must be in the process of launching a project or currently in operation, have sufficient operational resources and be administered by one or more governmental entity. MPI is the fifth cohort recognized with this award, which is given to all levels of government including school districts, city, county, state and federal agencies, tribal nations and public-private partnerships.

MPI was previously recognized with the 2012 Outstanding Achievement in Innovation Award from the Alliance for Innovation, a Community Partnership Award in 2012 from the International City/County Management Association, and a Local Transformer Award in 2015 by Transform Illinois.

For more information and for a full list of Bright Ideas Award recipients, visit <http://innovations.harvard.edu>.

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About the Municipal Partnering Initiative:

The Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI) is a voluntary program that began in 2010, and today includes more than 30 municipalities in Lake and Cook Counties, who participate in joint bidding projects to save tax dollars while preserving and improving service levels. MPI works on principles similar to the power of bulk purchasing, and members compile lists of community needs annually and divide the projects based on geography and budget. The different member communities participate in projects that meet their individual needs, and rotate which municipality takes the lead on bidding the projects. Since it was formed, MPI has resulted in more than 25 projects in Lake and Cook County combined, resulting in a total savings of up to \$2.6 million between 2011-2015 for participating members.