



**Commentary  
For  
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**Presented by John C. Maingot  
Mayor  
City of Longwood, Florida**

Word Count (425 words)

My name is John C. Maingot. I am the current mayor of Longwood, serving my third term. I would like to discuss what is involved in being the Mayor of Longwood.

Besides being one of the smallest cities in Seminole County, Longwood has a different method for choosing its Mayor. The City Charter states that the 5 elected commissioners chose the mayor from among themselves at the first meeting in May. Based on my accomplishments during 2007 and 2008, I was nominated for the Mayor of the Year in 2008. I was eventually chosen as 1 of 6 finalists for the entire state - out of 411 Florida Mayors. To my knowledge, I am the only Mayor in Seminole County to have achieved this honor.

Besides fulfilling the ceremonial duties of a mayor, such as chairing Commission meetings and signing contracts, I believe that one of the most important functions is to be the public face of Longwood government by providing leadership in words and actions. Leadership also means building consensus at Commission meetings to arrive at meaningful decisions; as well as anticipating future challenges and developing appropriate solutions in concert with the Commission and the Administration. The Mayor projects the future vision of our City as realized by the collective participation of the Commission and the Community.

Communication is another important function of the Mayor which is demonstrated by maintaining on-going discussions with the City Administrator; while listening to the concerns of our citizens, ensuring that they have every opportunity to participate in the decision-making process of City government.

Communication is also of the utmost importance when the Mayor represents the City at area-wide meetings with other elected officials throughout Central Florida in matters concerning the present and future interests of Longwood.

The mayor acts as a goodwill ambassador by becoming involved in activities for our youth and senior citizens; judging science fairs, participating in the D.A.R.E. program; and attending 100 year old birthday parties. I am the founder of the Longwood Carolers, who perform yearly at nursing homes and the hospital.

The mayor also provides oversight to future projects including: Commuter Rail with its associated transit-oriented development; mixed use projects that incorporates the live, work, and play concept; the widening of S.R. 434 and its impact on our economic viability; and the renovation of Reiter Park, which will provide enhanced Community leisure activities.

Being the Mayor of Longwood is time-consuming, but very rewarding. I feel honored to represent such a small but vibrant city.

I am the Mayor, John C. Maingot...and Longwood matters!