

**CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

BRYAN K. BARNETT, MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2009

Media Contact: Tara Beatty
Phone: (248) 841-2545
beattyt@rochesterhills.org

Safety First! Rochester Hills Most Improved in State
Employees Receive Award

Rochester Hills, MI- The Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund has named the City of Rochester Hills as one of two organizations to receive the "Most Improved" award during the annual Loss Control Achievement Awards.

In the past several years Insurance Workers' Compensation insurance claims have trended upwards, creating a situation that demanded action. Under the direction of Mayor Bryan K. Barnett and Human Resources, a Safety Committee was established and challenged with the task of identifying concerns and potential solutions to create a safer work environment.

"The committee has been an overwhelming success as claims in 2009 have dropped over 63% and have resulted in more than \$100,000 reduction in our Workers' Compensation Premiums. They have done an outstanding job in both creating a safer work environment and helping the bottom line," states Mayor Barnett.

A few key changes that have been implemented include, additional employee training, Driving Skills Testing, and also increased awareness of workplace surroundings. "A significant part of receiving this award is the ongoing support from all of our employees. Achieving this award is evidence that we are living up to our mission and we will continue to work hard for our employees and their families, by emphasizing the significance of practicing good safety principles on the job as well as home," states Committee Chair Helen Sultana-Kelly

Established in 1984 the City of Rochester Hills offers a complete and diverse community. Recently voted one of the top 100 best places to live (2009) the City of Rochester Hills is committed to being the preeminent place to live, work and raise a family.

###