ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR JERRY L. DEMINGS TO RECEIVE CFHLA’S HIGHEST HONOR

Orlando, Fla (December 17, 2021) – The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) will be recognizing Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings as the association’s 2021 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award recipient on Saturday, December 18th.

This award is named after the first CFHLA Board of Directors Chairperson, Charles Andrews, and it is presented at our annual CFHLA Hospitality Gala. It is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by CFHLA, and it recognizes their achievements and contributions to Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry, as well as the community at large.

Throughout the pandemic, Mayor Demings has continued to show tremendous leadership, perseverance, and dedication to the betterment of our community. Plus, he has been a consistent champion of the Central Florida hospitality industry through various efforts including:

- The formation of the Orange County Economic Recovery Task Force, with the strategic focus on creating recommendations for re-opening Orange County. This phased approach included recommendations from local businesses and residents, in order to help ease restrictions, revitalize our tourism and hospitality industries, and establish proven safety procedures for all residents and visitors.

- Ensuring the safety of employees, residents and guests, Orange County has proven it can continue to host world-class events for our community. This includes the Orange County Convention Center’s efforts in receiving the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) STAR accreditation — the gold standard of safe venues. This accreditation has helped the Orange County Convention Center continue to be one of the safest and busiest venues in the United States, by hosting over 117 events in FY 2020 – 2021. Additionally, Central Florida has seen visitation steadily increase since early 2021 and consumer confidence continues to strengthen within the region.

- Oversaw the distribution of nearly $80 million in local CARES funding that went directly to small businesses in Orange County. In total, almost 8,000 Orange County small businesses received small business grants and many of these businesses were in the hospitality industry. These much-needed grants were utilized to cover rent, help business owners meet employee payroll, cover needed personal protective equipment (PPE) and other unexpected expenses businesses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Furthermore, Orange County’s rapid deployment of COVID-19 tests and vaccines was made possible by nurturing strong, collaborative partnerships including the hospitality industry.
industry. It also was one of the first Florida counties to lower the COVID-19 vaccine age requirement in response to growing need, as well as creating a mobile vaccination program for our underserved communities.

Throughout his entire career in public service, Mayor Demings has consistently shown his leadership and support for Central Florida’s Hospitality Industry, and CFHLA sincerely thanks Mayor Demings for all of his efforts. On behalf of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, we are honored to present him with the 2021 Charles Andrews Memorial Hospitality Award at the December 18th CFHLA Hospitality Gala.

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association’s mission is to advance tourism and the community through hospitality. As the world’s largest regional lodging association, CFHLA represents approximately 80 percent of the more than 125,500 hotel rooms in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties, and the nearly 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit www.cfhlao.org.

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