

**2014**

## **Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award (MDAYA)**

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### **MDAYA Guidelines**

The **Mayor's Disability Advocate of the Year Award (MDAYA)** 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 Houston community awareness of issues related to disabilities.
- Working towards dissolution of one or more barriers to people with disabilities.
- Being the voice for those who have difficulty or cannot represent themselves.

Selected from Houston each year are **two adult disability advocates** (one with a disability and one without), and **one youth disability advocate**. At the discretion of the MDAYA selection committee, **one posthumous** award may be given.

**All** awards are based on the virtue and impact of their work using the following criteria:

**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.

**Youth Advocate** - recognizes a young person no older than 18 years of age for outstanding work in the community. This work should include selfless volunteer work exhibiting leadership qualities that will inspire our youth to become future leaders and advocates for the disability community.

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**MDAYA Nomination Criteria**

*All nominations must* include the attached Nomination Form and a biography which highlights volunteer services performed by the nominee.

- 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 (October) at Houston's City Hall.
- Award recipients may be asked to do media interviews.
- DEADLINE to submit nomination form: **SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**
- Nominees are not eligible if they
  - a. are currently serving on the Houston Commission on Disabilities;
  - b. are currently working in the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD); or
  - c. have received the award within the last four years.

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**MDAYA NOMINATION FORM**

**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 MOPD at [mopdmail@houstontx.gov](mailto:mopdmail@houstontx.gov) or call 832.394.0814.*

**Individual Nominee**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work (Cell) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work (Cell) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**Submit via U.S. Mail or email the complete:**

- Nomination form (mandatory)**
- Narrative statement / Letter of Recommendation (mandatory)**
- Other Supporting materials**

Nominee will not be considered if all materials are not submitted.

DEADLINE to submit nomination: **SEPTEMBER 30, 2014**

**Send To:**

City of Houston/ Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

**Attn: Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities**

1475 W. Gray St., Ste. 180

Houston, TX 77019

Or e-mail questions to [mopdmail@houstontx.gov](mailto:mopdmail@houstontx.gov)