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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lafayette's risk management measures protect City interests and conserve resources

City Manager Gary Klaphake named 2011 Safety Manager of the Year

LAFAYETTE, Colo June 22, 2012 –The City of Lafayette operates 14 municipal facilities, sponsors over 70 public events, and employs 450 people, creating a considerable potential for accidents, injuries, and public claims. According to the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), an active loss prevention program can help a municipality improve employee and public safety, conserve resources, and enhance reputations. In Lafayette's case it can also lead to state-wide recognition.

Lafayette embraces a city-wide safety culture and vigilantly manages risk in all areas of operation. In addition to decreased incidents, insurance rates, and liability, another result of this cultivated philosophy is evident in the many awards and acknowledgements received by the City. The most recent recognition earned is the 2011 CIRSA Safety Manager of the Year, awarded to City Manager Gary Klaphake on June 20 at the Colorado Municipal League Annual Conference.

According to the nomination, Klaphake sets an example for others by adhering to safety policies and procedures, fully supports the efforts of the risk manager and safety committee, promotes safety among employees, and inspires a culture in which safety is considered a value and an integral part of all operations.

City Risk Manager Sarah Hayes secretly nominated Klaphake for the award. "Gary would have humbly frowned on the idea of applying for the award, so I applied for him," explains Hayes. "Managing risk is truly a culture that's created from the top down. Our employees and the public are safer, and the City is in a better position because of his involvement."

Other recent accomplishments include exemption status from a 2011 safety audit and two consecutive Loss Prevention Awards for 2011 and 2012 recognizing the highest loss control audit score and lowest loss ratio.

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About the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA): A member base of 230 agencies participates in the CIRSA organization. CIRSA helps to ensure members obtain affordable coverage and continually improve operations to minimize risks and exposures. Additional information can be found at www.CIRSA.org