

Council Policy



Freedom of the City of Rockingham

Objective

To enable the City to honour exceptional individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Scope

The Council acknowledges the importance of recognising exceptional contributions by individuals within the community through the bestowing of an honorary award at the local level.

The “Freedom of the City of Rockingham” is an award used to honour individuals who, through their personal endeavours and commitment, have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Statement

Eligibility

A nominee for the conferral of ‘Freedom of the City of Rockingham’ should ordinarily –

- have been resident of the City of Rockingham for a minimum of 20 years; and
- have given distinguished service to the community, preferably in more than one capacity; and
- have made a valuable contribution to the community of the City of Rockingham. A valuable contribution could include three or more terms of office as a City of Rockingham Council Member, 20 or more years association with a local sporting or community association and/or extensive evidence of volunteering with the community;
- display the highest personal integrity and outstanding leadership; and
- be able to demonstrate a community benefit impact.

Note: Serving Council Members of the City of Rockingham and State and Federal Parliament are ineligible for conferral.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible nominees will be judged on their record of service to the community using the following selection criteria –

- Length of Service in a field (or fields) of activity
- Level of commitment to the field (or fields) of activity
- Breadth of service and organisations represented and the impact of that service
- Benefits to the City of Rockingham community (specifically) and more broadly the State and Nation resulting from the nominee’s endeavours
- Personal leadership qualities (including inspiring and mentoring others)
- Special achievements of the nominee.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations for the Award of Freedom of the City of Rockingham may be made by individuals or organisations and are to be –

- a) made in the strictest confidence without the knowledge of the nominee.
- b) sponsored by a Council Member of the City of Rockingham, with support in writing of at least three other Council Members.

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- c) submitted to the Chief Executive Officer in writing using the Nomination Form prepared for that purpose.

The Chief Executive Officer (in consultation with the Mayor) is to verify the content of the nomination and will prepare a confidential report to an ordinary Council meeting with a recommendation to support or not to support the nomination.

Council is to consider the confidential report and a decision to confer the status of 'Freedom of the City of Rockingham' is to be made by absolute majority vote.

Prior to conferring the title the nominee must be advised of the nomination and the obligations and entitlement of the title, and the nominee must confirm their willingness to accept the award.

Awarding the Title

Once a nomination has been accepted by Council, the nominee and any person(s) or organisation(s) involved in the nomination are to be informed of the decision and a suitable press statement is to be released.

The formal conferring of status is to be carried out at a reception held by Council. This may be a special reception for this purpose, or the ceremony may form the focal point of any other suitable reception hosted by Council. The decision on the occasion and format of the ceremony shall rest with the Mayor, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

Entitlements

The successful nominee shall receive a framed certificate and a name badge which confirms their status. A person being awarded the Freedom of the City and their guest shall be invited to attend the following civic functions –

- Any future function awarding the title
- Australia Day Awards
- Annual Civic Reception
- Pioneers Luncheon
- Volunteer Receptions
- Official 'Opening' ceremonies.

Conduct

Recipients of Freedom of the City of Rockingham are to conduct themselves in a manner befitting of the honour at all times following conferral, including when attending a City of Rockingham function or representing the City. They should refrain from making critical or disparaging remarks about the City, the Council or past or present Council Members and employees.

Council is entitled to withdraw the award where the conduct of a conferee reflects adversely on the City's reputation. Such a withdrawal shall be through a confidential report provided by the Chief Executive Officer and by an absolute majority vote.

Definitions

Absolute majority means absolute majority as defined in section 1.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA).

Legislation

Nil

Other Relevant Procedures / Key Documents

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Council Policy – Functions Hosted by Council

Responsible Division

General Management Services

Review Date

31 August 2029