



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Jennifer Miller, Director of Finance

**Date:** July 9, 2013

**Reference:** Presentation of 2013 Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle Gold Member Award

**2030:** Sustainable City Government

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### Introduction:

The Comptroller of Public Accounts launched the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle program in December 2009 to recognize local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online. They are spotlighting those local governments that are:

- opening their books to the public
- providing clear, consistent pictures of spending
- sharing information in a user-friendly format that lets taxpayers easily drill down for more information.

The Comptroller awards Leadership Circle designees with a certificate reflecting their Circle Award level: Gold, Silver or Bronze.



“Gold” highlights those entities that are setting the bar with their transparency efforts.



“Silver” encourages those who are making progress.



“Bronze” inspires those who are just beginning their transparency efforts.

Transparency is a broad term that, quite literally, means something that can be seen through. When talking about transparency in terms of government spending, the Comptroller is referring to a government opening its books to the public so that taxpayers can see exactly where their money is going. Transparency ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently by ensuring all decisions are made in the open and on the record. Transparency means that citizens can review and question policymakers' decisions, examine documents, root out inefficiencies and hold officials accountable for the way tax dollars are spent.

**Analysis:**

Through the efforts of Cayce Lay, Budget Coordinator and Sharon Logan, Community Information Officer, the City of Coppell recently rose in the ranks from Silver to Gold by continuing to post budgets, financial reports and by adding check registers online. The City's efforts will be reviewed annually to ensure that we are complying with all of the requirements of the program in order to maintain our Gold designation.

**Legal Review:**

This agenda item did not require legal review.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact from this Agenda item.

**Recommendation:**

The Finance Department recommends acceptance and approval of this agenda item.