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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
AT THE ALL-AMERICA CITIES AWARDS DINNER
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WASHINGTON, D.C.

What a joy it is to join USA Today -- an outstanding, innovative paper -- and the Citizens Forum, in celebrating this year's All-America Cities. I'd like to add my personal congratulations to the nine distinguished winners of this year's awards. What tremendous contributions you have made to the cities of America! And a special word of appreciation should go to the other 84 entrants -- while they may not be represented here tonight, they are truly winners in their own communities.

Our purpose tonight, of course, is to recognize award-winning projects in varied U.S. locations, honoring those who made them possible. Everyone involved in this program--especially the nine honorees--can be very proud of what has been achieved.

From my own personal experience I can tell you that the urge to improve the cities in which we live is contagious. This is true not only at my Department, but it's also true in my family. My mother is bound and determined to see the Salisbury, North Carolina, railway station restored to its original condition. I became invigorated with that zeal three years ago when we began the public/private partnership to bring Washington's Union Station back to its former glory and grandeur -- to the transportation hub it once was and the commercial center we envision. We're right on track.

The awards tonight are intended to be reminders of the standards a city hopes to live by -- and live up to. And believe me, by participating in these community efforts and helping to solve tough problems, citizens in each of the winning cities have made a difference -- a positive difference -- in the lives of many people.

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I'm happy now to announce the nine winners:

Brooklyn Center, Minnesota: -- Where even the Mayor is a volunteer! This city has developed innovative programs to resolve juvenile problems and community disputes and for developing more affordable housing.

Cleveland, Ohio: -- The first city to be named a winner three times in five years -- for reversing the economic and population decline of one of the country's most distressed areas, Cleveland's east side.

Grants Pass, Oregon: For grassroots fund raising and efforts in restoration, expansion of water resources and educational progress. As Mayor Jane Reyneke -- elected the town's first female Mayor in 1984 -- says, "The town has just been lit up by a positive spirit."

Highland Park, Illinois: -- A city where cooperation has kept their downtown area vital and thriving. This city is receiving an award tonight for a preservation ordinance encouraging private rehabilitation and visionary use of cable television for public access.

Jackson, Michigan: For starting an alliance to foster development of small business and retrain today's work force for a secure future, and for its emphasis on "wellness" programs for citizens of all ages. More than 5,000 Jackson County residents rallied to serve their community.

Kansas City, Missouri: For exemplary citizen involvement in directing the use of public and private funds to restore business and commercial activity in abandoned inner-city neighborhoods. As one committed citizen remarked, "At first, people just couldn't see how we could do any good, but we told them 'believing is seeing.'"

Lynchburg, Virginia: For its single-family home construction project for low-income families, a loan program that helps families break out of the welfare cycle, and for its success in environmental preservation. Residents have a lot to celebrate during this city's 200th birthday.

Mililani Town, Hawaii: For aggressive citizen action that forced cleanup of the community's contaminated water supply and a commitment to protect water for homes yet to be built. As one resident said, "People can make a difference."

Normal Heights, California: Out of the ashes of San Diego's worst residential fire ever -- where 70 homes were destroyed -- came a plan for careful rebuilding that encourages open spaces and avoids high-density development.

Please join me in a round of applause for all our winners. We can all take great pride in what they have accomplished.

Thank you very much.

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