

Arlington County Tax, Fee Collection System Garners Third National Award

June 02, 2011

- *System streamlined County tax, fee collection*
- *Third national award for system, 11th for Treasurer's office*

ARLINGTON, Va. -- A tax-and-fee collection system that consolidated and streamlined the County's collection operation has earned the 2011 Award for Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The Assessment and Collection Enterprise (ACE) was previously cited for excellence by the National Association of Counties (NACO) and Public Technology, Inc. (PTI).

ACE was initially conceived in 2004 by County Treasurer Frank O'Leary as a holistic system based upon the concept of the "tax-paying entity." Its eventual creation was a collaborative effort of the offices of Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue, the Department of Management and Finance, the Department of Technology Services, and a private contractor named FAST Enterprises. The result, a single system, replaces nine prior archaic systems that lacked any coordination.

O'Leary accepted the award "on behalf of all those who have worked so hard to make this system possible."

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Jeffrey Esser, the Executive Director of GFOA, said "ACE is a wonderful model for municipalities throughout the nation – a tremendous breakthrough."

The GFOA award brings to eleven the number of national awards won by the Arlington Treasurer's office under O'Leary's tenure and adds to the office's nationally recognized stature.

Arlington, Va., is a world-class residential, business and tourist location that was originally part of the "10 miles square" parcel of land surveyed in 1791 to be the Nation's Capital. It is the geographically smallest self-governing county in the United States, occupying slightly less than 26 square miles. Arlington maintains a rich variety of stable neighborhoods, quality schools and enlightened land use, and received the Environmental Protection Agency's highest award for "Smart Growth" in 2002. Home to some of the most influential organizations in the world - including the Pentagon - Arlington stands out as one of America's preeminent places to live, visit and do business.