



## **CITY OF KIRKLAND**

### **Department of Parks & Community Services**

505 Market Street, Suite A, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300

[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Jennifer Schroder, Director  
Michael Cogle, Deputy Director

**Date:** July 11, 2013

**Subject:** Plaza of Champions Nomination of Chris Warren

### **Recommendation**

The Park Board recommends that the City Council accepts the nomination of Emmy Award-winning meteorologist Chris Warren into Kirkland's Plaza of Champions.

### **Background**

Kirkland native Chris Warren has been nominated for induction into Kirkland's Plaza of Champions. Please see the attached application form (Attachment 3) that has been submitted on his behalf.

### **About the Plaza of Champions**

The Plaza of Champions was initiated in 1988 to honor and recognize those groups and individuals in Kirkland who have not only reached the pinnacle of achievement in their chosen field, but have also, through that achievement, contributed in a significant way to our community. This contribution may be in providing state, national, or international recognition for Kirkland and its residents, and/or improving the quality of life for a significant segment of the greater Kirkland community. Honorees are inducted in a public ceremony and have a bronze plaque installed in their honor at the Plaza of Champions in the downtown near Marina Park. A list of past honorees is provided in Attachment 2.

Criteria for recognition and honor are intended to be both broad and flexible. However, the standards set for this tribute are intended to be high. The Plaza of Champions program and associated criteria are outlined in the Kirkland Municipal Code Chapter 3.96. The following criteria are used in selecting Plaza of Champions inductees:

- Local, State, National, or International Level of Achievement
- Identity with Kirkland
- Significance of Achievement

A copy of the specific nomination criteria for the program is included as Attachment 2.

The Park Board has been established as the review panel to consider all nominations. Final acceptance is determined by the City Council. The Park Board reviewed the nomination of Mr. Warren at their meeting of July 10. Upon review, the Board determined that Mr. Warren specifically met the following eligibility criteria:

### I – Level of Achievement

*Level of Achievement must be highest possible in chose field or endeavor.*

In 2008 Mr. Warren received an Emmy Award for Excellence in the category of Anchor (Weather) by the Northwest Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The Northwest Chapter serves television and media professionals in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington.

The Emmy Award is the highest possible level of achievement for broadcast television.

*Conclusion:* The Park Board determined that this award is significant and meets the criteria established for Level of Achievement.

### II – Identity With Kirkland

*Applicant must meet at least 2 of the following criteria:*

- 2.1 Born in Kirkland (No. Mr. Warren was born in Spokane)
- 2.2 Currently Resides in Kirkland (Yes. Mr. Warren maintains a residence in downtown Kirkland)
- 2.3 Lived in Kirkland at least 10 yrs. (Yes. Mr. Warren grew up in Kirkland and graduated from Juanita High School)
- 2.4 Improved quality of life in Kirkland (Information not provided)
- 2.5 Works in or owns Kirkland business (Information not provided)
- 2.6 Other justification (Information not provided)

*Conclusion:* The Park Board determined that Mr. Warren meets at least 2 of the identified criteria established for Identity With Kirkland.

### III – Significance of Achievement

*Applicant must meet at least 1 of the following criteria:*

- 3.1 Recognition of achievement by Kirkland Community (Information not provided)
- 3.2 Peers recognize achievement as outstanding (Yes. Emmy Award is a peer-reviewed and recognized award for excellence in broadcasting.)
- 3.3 Played a key role in group effort (Not applicable)
- 3.4 Achievement improved quality of life (Information not provided)

*Conclusion:* The Park Board determined that Mr. Warren meets at least 1 of the identified criteria established for Significance of Achievement.

In summary, the Park Board has thoroughly reviewed the nomination of Chris Warren and believes that he meets all necessary criteria and is a worthy inductee into Kirkland's Plaza of Champions.

Subject to Council approval, an induction ceremony would be scheduled later this year at a mutually agreeable time.

Attachments:

- 1 – Plaza of Champions Nomination Guide
- 2 – Plaza of Champions Past Honorees
- 3 – Plaza of Champions Nomination Packet for Chris Warren



## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS Nomination Guide

### CRITERIA AND ELEMENTS

An applicant for recognition should satisfy the listed minimum number of the elements from each of the three (3) criteria listed below. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirement listed in Criterion I, must meet at least two (2) of the elements from Criterion II, and must meet at least one (1) of the elements from Criterion III.

In addition, the applicant must also furnish a history of achievements. These achievements must have occurred at least one calendar year prior to submission of the application. The honor cannot be conferred unless the history is provided.

Applicants will be reviewed by the Kirkland Park Board, whose decision will be final.

### CRITERION I

#### LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

The following basic eligibility requirement must be met before a nominee can be considered for possible induction.

#### ELEMENTS:

##### 1.1 Level of Achievement

The level of achievement by the individual or team must be explicitly stated and should be the highest possible level of achievement in fields such as science, education, athletics, the arts (music, drama, literary, fine arts, etc), medicine, debate, etc.

The Plaza of Champions is not intended to recognize **lifelong or enduring** achievement in a particular field unless the applicant has previously received an award for such lifelong achievement.

This basic achievement element also provides the opportunity for nomination of first-time achievements (examples: first Kirkland resident to swim the English Channel, first Kirkland individual or group to participate in a national competition, etc.).

If it is not possible to identify the highest possible level of achievement, the applicant must provide a detailed explanation as to why the achievement is considered to be exceptional.

### CRITERION II

#### IDENTITY WITH GREATER KIRKLAND

Applicant must consider Kirkland to be his/her home or identify with Kirkland in such a way that the Kirkland community recognizes the applicant as a "Kirklander."

At least two (2) of the following elements must be met before a nominee can be considered for possible induction.

**ELEMENTS:**

**2.1 Born in the Kirkland area.**

This means that the parent(s) were residing in Kirkland at the time of the candidate's birth.

**2.2 Currently resides in Great Kirkland area.**

Applicant currently has a Kirkland address. Applicant must live at this address at least six months of the year.

**2.3 Lived in Greater Kirkland area for at least ten years or longer and consider Kirkland their home town.**

**2.4 Has improved the quality of life in Greater Kirkland.**

**2.5 Worked (or has worked) within the community or owns a business in Greater Kirkland area.**

The applicant is a past or present Kirkland area business owner or worker who has contributed in a special way to the community.

**2.6 None of the above.**

An applicant may still be considered even if the preceding elements do not apply. Substantial documentation, however, will be required in this instance so as to demonstrate the applicant's identity with Greater Kirkland.

**CRITERION III**

**SIGNIFICANCE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

The applicant must fully explain the significance of the achievement. It must be further specified if the achievement is the result of an individual or team effort. No individual members of a team will be recognized. The team members, however, may be recognized by name.

At least one (1) of the following elements must be met before a nominee can be considered for possible induction.

**ELEMENTS:**

**3.1 Recognition of the achievement by the Kirkland community.**

Applicant must submit a statement which explains how the community has been affected by the achievement as well as the manner in which the community was informed (e.g.,

press coverage received subsequent to achievement – include press clippings and any other examples of media coverage).

**3.2 Peers recognize this achievement as outstanding.**

Persons in the same field must recognize the achievement as outstanding and worthy of recognition. A statement of endorsement for the applicant from leaders in the applicant's field is expected. The peer group may include a person, or persons, residing outside the Kirkland area.

**3.3 Played a key role in a group effort which without this individual's achievement would not have taken place.**

The candidate formed an organization or group and was instrumental in making it operational. The group or organization benefited the community in a demonstrable way.

**3.4 The achievement has improved the quality of life for a large segment of Greater Kirkland area residents.**

For example, the achievement may have resulted in increased educational or recreational opportunities for area residents.

### **HISTORY REQUIREMENT**

The history and description of the achievements must be in narrative form and in sufficient detail to completely support the conferring of this award. The person or persons writing the history must provide sufficient in-depth history to enable future readers to completely appreciate the significance of the applicant's contribution. Include, if possible, documents, press clippings, photos, or other examples of media coverage related to the achievement.

If the history is written by anyone other than the applicant, it must be read and signed by the applicant (when possible) and thus documented as a true and accurate account. If the award is conferred, the history will be placed in the Kirkland Library to serve as a reference and permanent record of the achievement.

## KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS HONOREES

<u>1988</u>	<b>JoAnne Gunderson Carner</b>	L.P.G.A. Hall of Fame Golfer
<u>1989</u>	<b>Rick Acton</b>	N.W.P.G.A. Champion Golfer
	<b>Dorothy "Didi" Anstett</b>	1968 Miss U.S.A.
	<b>Hot Dog U.S.A.</b>	World Champion Rope-Skipping Team
	<b>1980 Kirkland National Little League All-Stars</b>	3rd Place in Little League World Series
	<b>1982 Kirkland National Little League All-Stars</b>	Little League World Series Champions
	<b>1975 Tyee/Bel-Kirk Senior Babe Ruth Team</b>	World Champions
	<b>Andrew Okada</b>	Collegiate Boxing Champion
	<b>Steven Earl Todd</b>	Champion Wheelchair Athlete
<u>1991</u>	<b>Demetri Corahorgi</b>	Medal of Honor Recipient
	<b>1974 Kirkland National Little League Girl's Softball Team</b>	2nd Place in Little League World Series
	<b>1980, 1990, 1991 Northwest College Women's Basketball Teams</b>	National Christian College Athletic Association National Champions
<u>1992</u>	<b>Julie Ann Gregg</b>	Bicycle Racing Champion
	<b>Chris Sharp</b>	1990 Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism
<u>1993</u>	<b>Rick Colella</b>	1976 Olympic Bronze Medalist - Swimming
<u>1994</u>	<b>1993 Kirkland/District 9 Big League Softball Team</b>	Little League World Champions
<u>1995</u>	<b>Maxine Conover</b>	1958 U.S. National Women's Bicycling Champion
<u>1996</u>	<b>Glen Ethier</b>	1972 International Broadcasting Award and 1973 CLIO Awards for Excellence in Broadcast Advertising
<u>1998</u>	<b>1963 Lakeside Gravel Baseball Team</b>	1963 Connie Mack Baseball National Champions
<u>2001</u>	<b>Randall Garretson</b>	1964 - Junior National Ski Jumping Champion 1964 - Nordic Combined Junior National Champion

(No additional inductees since 2001.)



**KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS  
Nomination Application Form**

Name of Honored Group or Individual:  
Chris Warren

Achievement or Award to be Recognized:  
Emmy for best weather forecast of the year

Date or Dates of Achievement or Award:  
2009

Name of Person(s) Submitting Application:  
Name: Bill Warren  
Address: 13932 93rd Ave. N.E.  
City: Kirkland Zip: 98034  
Phone: 425-821-1468 Email: wmdawg1@aol.com

Relationship to Honored Group or Individual:  
Father

If applicable, list members of Group and their roles:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(attach extra page if necessary)

If applicable, list other key individuals and their roles (coach, parent, sponsor, teacher, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(attach extra page if necessary)

**Agreement**

In submitting this application, I understand that the applicant must meet the required qualifications and that this application will be reviewed by the Kirkland Park Board, and that their decision will be final. I further understand that if this application is accepted, a fee of \$200 will be paid to the City of Kirkland to cover the cost of the plaque, engraving, installation, and maintenance. The plaque will not be installed until all application materials are received and the fee has been paid.

Signed: Bill Warren Date: 5/19/13.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS****Application Form****Criterion I****LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL, OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT**Name of Applicant: Chris Warren

Please explain how the applicant meets this eligibility requirement. Attach extra pages as necessary.

Kirkland native Chris Warren was hired by NWCN and King 5 in Seattle in 2003. He worked for Northwest Cable News during the week and was the weekend weather anchor for King 5 Television. He also filled in as weather anchor for Jeff Renner and Rich Marriott, when they were unavailable. He brought viewers stories from out in the field as a reporter and photographer, and from the newsroom as a news anchor and video editor.

In 2008, Chris Warren won an Emmy for best weather forecast of the year. This was his first major achievement.

The same year, NBC hired Chris to co-anchor a national daily prime time show at their Weather Channel in Atlanta, Georgia ([www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)). Chris will frequently appear on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News as well as MSNBC and CNBC.

In 2010, Chris was recognized again as he was chosen to represent the United States at the Worlds Fair in Shanghai, China, which brought meteorologists from around the world. This weather symposium was sponsored by the Chinese Government.

**KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS****Application Form****Criterion II****IDENTIFY WITH GREATER KIRKLAND**

Name of Applicant: Chris Warren

Please explain how the applicant meets at least two (2) of the elements listed for this eligibility requirement. Attach extra pages as necessary.

Element Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Warren grew up in Kirkland, attending Juanita Elementary, Finn Hill Junior High and graduating from Juanita High School in 1993. He lived in Kirkland for nearly 20 years and considers Kirkland his hometown.

He currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia, but still owns and maintains his condominium in downtown Kirkland.

His parents, Bill and Margy Warren, still reside in their Finn Hill home.

**KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS**

**Application Form**

**Criterion III**

**SIGNIFICANCE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

Name of Applicant: Chris Warren

Please explain how the applicant meets at least one (1) of the elements listed for this eligibility requirement. Attach extra pages as necessary.

Element Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Warren is an Emmy-winning meteorologist from a top 10 TV station in the country. Many Kirkland residents tune into King 5 weather daily, which means Chris has informed locals about the weather with his outstanding award-winning coverage. Chris received press coverage following his Emmy, including on the King 5 station and King 5 online (see attachments).

**KIRKLAND PLAZA OF CHAMPIONS****Application Form****History Requirement**Name of Applicant: Chris Warren

Using the criteria and elements as a guide, please furnish a complete history and description of the achievement in narrative form. Attach extra pages as necessary. Please note that if the history is prepared by anyone other than the applicant, it must be read and signed by the applicant (when possible) and documented as a true account. Please include, if possible, documents, press clippings, photos, or other examples of media coverage related to the achievement.

Please see attached

## History Requirement

Kirkland native Chris Warren is fascinated with how the atmosphere works and he loves to share the whys and hows of weather. This passion has led him to be recognized for his achievements in meteorology.

Chris was born in 1974 in Spokane, Wash. and moved to Kirkland in 1976. He grew up in Kirkland, attending Juanita Elementary, Finn Hill Junior High and graduating from Juanita High School in 1993.

A Washington State University graduate with a major in Communications, Chris received his AMS (American Meteorological Society) accreditation from Mississippi State University and began his career interning at KTVZ Television in Bend, Ore.

After his internship, the station hired him to do reporting, weather and co-anchor their daily morning show. After two years, Chris was hired by KSBY television in San Louis Obispo, Calif. for their weekend weather anchor and news reporter.

Wanting to return to the Northwest, Chris was hired by NWCN

and King 5 in Seattle in 2003. He worked for Northwest Cable News during the week and was the weekend weather anchor for King 5 Television. He also filled in as weather anchor for Jeff Renner and Rich Marriott, when they were unavailable.

He brought viewers stories from out in the field as a reporter and photographer, and from the newsroom as a news anchor and video editor.

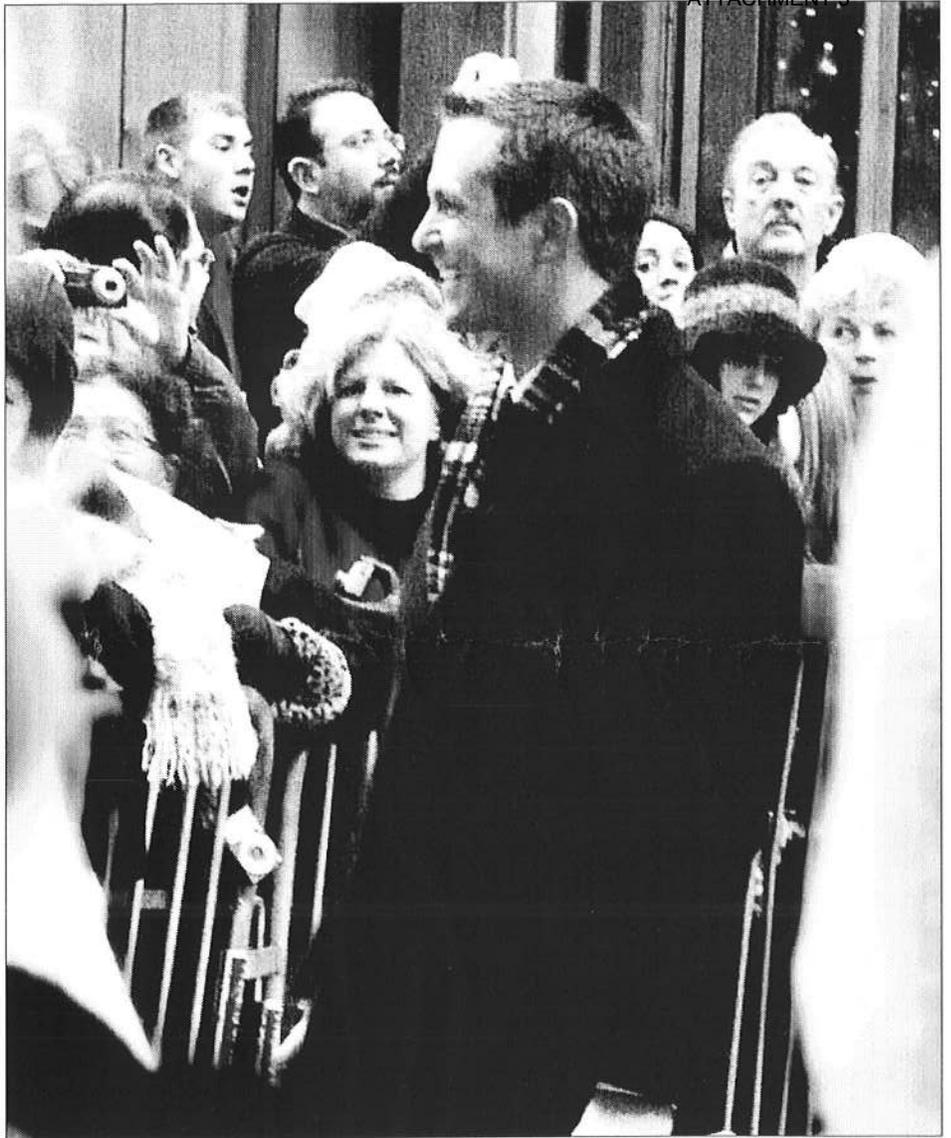
In 2008, Chris Warren won an Emmy for best weather forecaster of the year. This was his first major achievement. He brought his outstanding award-winning coverage to the Kirkland community and to others around the region. His accomplishment was also recognized on King 5 television (and online).

The same year, NBC hired Chris to co-anchor a national daily prime time show at their Weather Channel in Atlanta, Georgia ([www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)). Chris will frequently appear on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News as well as MSNBC and CNBC.

In 2010, Chris was recognized again as he was chosen to represent the United States at the Worlds Fair in Shanghai,

China, which brought meteorologists from around the world.  
This weather symposium was sponsored by the Chinese  
Government.

For additional information and videos, Google "Chris Warren  
weather."



**Above,** Kirkland native Chris Warren frequently appears on the Today Show.