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Josh Estrada Named City of Perris Employee of the Quarter



Perris Recreation Coordinator Josh Estrada accepts the award of Employee of the Quarter at the Feb. 13 City Council meeting. Estrada is holding his son, Noah, while his wife, Arianna, and daughter, Suzette, pose for a photo. Also pictured are Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Malcolm Corona, City Councilwoman Rita Rogers, Mayor Michael Vargas, City Councilwoman Tonya Burke, City Councilman David Starr Rabb and City Manager Richard Belmudez.

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Perris Recreation Coordinator Josh Estrada was honored Feb. 13 as the Employee of the Quarter during the City Council meeting.

Estrada becomes the first recipient of an award created to honor municipal workers who excel at their jobs while creating a positive work environment and maintaining an outstanding relationship with the public.

Estrada, who joined the City nearly 12 years ago as a part-time guitar instructor, created and organizes major Perris events, including the successful "Take a Hike" series, which has drawn nearly 1,000 participants in the last two years.

Estrada helped develop the City's Trails Master Plan, helped upgrade the City's Skate Park and took part in developing the Perris Youth Advisory Committee. He assisted with the recently completed playground improvements at Foss Field Park, works all City parades, reserves all sports fields for local teams and pitches in at the front counter at the Bob Glass Gym.

Jordan McClanahan, Estrada's co-worker in the Recreation Department, said it was "an honor and privilege" to work with him. McClanahan said Estrada's willingness to help colleagues has led to his career development at the City.

"He exhibits exceptional professionalism and has a great connection with the community and his peers," McClanahan said.

Praise from the top

Perris Mayor Michael Vargas and members of the City Council said Estrada represents the pinnacle of what every employee should strive to attain.

Vargas called Estrada "very professional" and an employee who "receives a lot of positive comments from the community."

"We could not ask for a better awardee for our first Employee of the Quarter," he said.

Mayor Pro-Tem Malcolm Corona said Estrada treats his duties "as more than a job" and called him a "very special person" who raises the level of customer service and public confidence in Perris parks and recreation activities.

City Councilwoman Tonya Burke said she greatly appreciates Estrada's efforts to serve the public and contribute to a top-notch recreation department.

"We could not ask for a finer individual to represent our City," she said. "You go above and beyond."

City Councilman David Starr Rabb called Estrada's selection as the City's first Employee of the Quarter a well-deserved honor.

"He's friendly and helpful," Rabb said. "He puts his all into representing the City of Perris."

City Councilwoman Rita Rogers described Estrada as an "outstanding and excellent employee who is welcoming and knowledgeable and runs his department with the greatest of ease."

Estrada said he loves his Recreation Coordinator job because it allows him to mix work with activities he already enjoys. Asked what he liked to do for fun away from work, he replied: "Hiking and biking!"

He thanked his colleagues and supervisors for placing confidence in him, specially pointing out Assistant City Manager Darren Madkin and Director of Community Services and Housing Sabrina Chavez as first-rate mentors.

"Thank you for teaching me all that I know," he said. "I appreciate it."

Estrada's wife, Arianna; daughter, Suzette, 4, and Noah, almost 1, joined him at the recognition ceremony.



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