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For the second year in a row, the City of Burleson has earned an A+ from the Sunshine Review for government transparency on the City's website, www.burlesontx.com.

Burleson is one of 21 city and county governments and school districts in Texas to earn 2012 Sunny Awards. The only Texas cities to earn an A+ in 2012 are Burleson and Arlington. Cities earning an A- include Addison, Austin, El Paso, Fort Worth, Frisco, Houston, Huntsville, Keller, Laredo and New Braunfels.

In 2011, the City of Burleson earned a Sunny Award for having a perfect website transparency score. Twelve Texas government websites earned a Sunny Award in 2011.

We are pleased to receive an "A+" from Sunshine Review," Deputy City Manager Paul Cain said. "The award reflects the city council's commitment to an open, transparent government as well as the staff's creativity and expertise in providing the information to the public in an easily understandable format. This award should give the citizens of Burleson a great deal of pride and confidence in their municipal government."

The Sunshine Review is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to government transparency. The award honors the most transparent government websites in the nation. Editors at Sunshine Review analyzed more than 6,000 government websites and graded each on a 10-point transparency checklist. Editors looked at content available on government websites against what should be provided. The editors looked for information on the budget, meetings, elected officials, administrative officials, permits and zoning, audits, contracts, lobbying, public records and taxes.

The City of Burleson launched a website redesign, coordinated by CivicPlus, in September 2010. The redesigned website includes a link on the homepage to "Open Government/Transparency." The Transparency page includes links to administrative officials (city attorney, city manager, city secretary); meetings and agendas; the City charter; contracts (bid awards, bid notices and the purchasing policy); elected officials (phone, email and website profile); ethics (ethics statement and core values and a link to the Texas Ethics Commission); finance (budget, annual financial reports, check register, fees, payroll register, truth in

taxation, and Your Property Tax Dollars at Work); land use and development (building permit activity reports, design standards manual, subdivision regulations, permit fee estimator, and zoning regulations); open records (public information requests and open records); and public notices.

The Sunny Awards were announced prior to the launch of Sunshine Week, March 11-17, which celebrates the efforts of activists and the strides taken toward open government. These are the third annual Sunny Awards.