

17 March 2004

ASLA Board of Trustees
c/o Mr. William T. Eubanks, ASLA
Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc.
503 Wando Park Boulevard, Suite 100
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464-7849

**Re: The Olmsted Medal
Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr.**

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees:

I am honored to nominate Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. of Charleston, SC, for our most prestigious award, the Olmsted Medal. His contributions to country and community, over the past three decades, are legendary. It would be difficult to imagine anyone more deserving. His accomplishments range from founding the U.S. Conference of Mayors to leading his community, non-stop, through the ravages of Hurricane Hugo. He cares deeply about people and place. He has championed the idea that for every highway, parking facility, or building, there must be a balancing landscape.

Mayor Riley cares deeply about context. This became evident in the spring of 1978, as he led me and newly employed consultants on a five-hour walking tour of his city. We looked at doorways, walls, fences, paving, curbs, lights, plants, and people. He would often stop and talk to a lady weaving a basket or to a man feeding his horse. This single tour influenced all of us, through the 12-year planning and design process, and was the inspiration for the final design of the Waterfront Park.

Mayor Riley cares deeply about the people of his community. He once invited a peanut vendor, a well loved personality, to review the park plans. He did, and we added more benches. While we were designing the new pier, Mayor Riley suggested we modify the design to accommodate fishermen rather than private yachts. He wanted the pier to be for all people, especially for those who could not afford boats.

Mayor Riley cares deeply about the landscape. In the fall of 1980, when the Waterfront Park was dedicated to the community, he concluded his presentation with, "I have known many cities to err on many things, but I have never known a city to err on providing too many public parks!"

In conclusion, Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. is a most worthy candidate for our coveted Olmsted Medal. He embraces all cultures and motivates outstanding public and private work. He does it with compassion and integrity, whether dealing with our nation's mayors or the man on the street. Mayor Riley is indeed, a national treasure!

Sincerely yours,



Stuart O. Dawson, FASLA
Principal

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