

# City Clerk Diridon Honored by Boy Scouts

Carolyn Schuk  
Political ethics is high on Santa Clara City Clerk Rod Diridon Jr.'s priority list.

During last year's election, he spearheaded the city's 2006 Vote Ethics program, encouraging voters to get the facts and hold candidates accountable. The program received the City Clerks' Association of California 2007 "Award of Distinction for Voter Outreach."

Santa Clara County Council Boy Scouts of America agree with the City Clerk's Association's assessment.

Last month, Diridon was one of five Silicon Valley leaders honored by the organization in its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Character Awards, held at the Santa Clara

Marriott.

This year's other honorees were Dennis Brach (Burr, Pilger & Mayer LLP Partner), Rob Davis (San Jose Police Chief), David Heagerty (Coakley-Heagerty Companies), and Larry Pedersen (President and CEO, A Tool Shed Equipment Rentals).

"These are our community's real heroes," said the Boy Scout's Executive Director Jason Stein in a May 24 press release. "The stories shared tonight really push all of us to be our best and these five individuals possess the values and character that we endeavor to teach through our programs. The night is really a celebration of people making a difference."



*Santa Clara City Clerk Rod Diridon Jr. was one of five Silicon Valley Leaders honored in the Santa Clara County Council Boy Scouts of America Character Awards*

The Character Awards honor excellence in personal character shown through positive ethics, high integrity, and strong character, according to Walter Mueller, Development Director for the Santa Clara County Council, Boy Scouts. "These men and women are role models for the future leaders of our area – the youth of today."

Diridon was recognized for his long-term commitment to political ethics and reform during two terms on the Santa Clara City Council and as City Clerk since 2004.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to receive a Character Award from the Santa Clara County Boy Scouts," Diridon said.

Diridon was a founding member of the City's Ethics Ordinance Committee and the founding chair of Santa Clara's Campaign Finance Reform Committee. In that role he proposed and guided into law an anti-revolving door lobbying policy, the City's Campaign Finance Reform Act, which limits contributions and expenditures and mandates full disclosure of campaign funding to voters.

"In my mind, character is what happens when you do

what is right, consistently, and with good intent," Diridon said. "True character is that brilliance that peeks out, when you do what is right, even when it is hard or when no one's watching.

"I mean, really, if doing the right thing was always easy, everyone would do it all of the time. Heck, I'd volunteer to eat apple pie eight days a week ... no problem. But when it's brussel sprouts," he added, "it's a different story."

Proceeds from the event will support Learning for Life, an in-school and after-school program that teaches character education and life skills to young people throughout Santa Clara County.

For information about the Santa Clara County Council, Boy Scouts of America visit [www.sccc-scouting.org](http://www.sccc-scouting.org) or call (408) 280-5088.

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