

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY MEDIA

Strong media centers. Strong communities.

March 29, 2023

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Executive Director

Mary Cardona
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exec@
wisconsincommunitymedia.com

Mayor Aaron Richardson
5520 Lacy Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

Dear Mayor Richardson,

I have the great pleasure to inform you that the WCM Board of Directors has chosen you to be a recipient of the 2023 Friend of Access Award! The award reads, *In recognition of your work on behalf of the true democratic voice of the community – Public, Education, and Government Access Television.*

In nominating you for this award, Jeremy Crosby, Community Media Services Manager, sought to give you state-wide recognition for the actions you have taken as a local official to recognize the work FACTv does to make government transparent and build community, and to ensure Fitchburg FACTv has the resources to fulfill this mission.

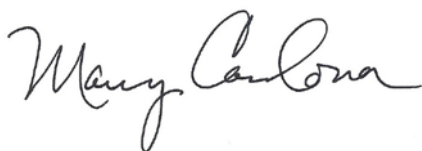
Until this year, the FACTv budget was tied to cable TV franchise fee income. Fitchburg is among the municipalities that have seen the most precipitous decline in cable TV subscriptions. Jeremy wrote, "Aaron was instrumental in getting us to be fully funded on the tax roll starting this year, 2023. He recognized our funding was in jeopardy."

In 2021, you selected FACTv to receive one of the annual Mayoral Awards, "Department of the Year." Jeremy wrote, "This was great exposure for us and demonstrated to everyone the Mayor's commitment to FACTv and community media." Jeremy concluded his nomination by writing, "Throughout his career as an alder and as a mayor Aaron's support has been beyond anything we could ask for."

WCM is very pleased to recognize you with the 2023 Friend of Access Award. This year you are one of two Friends of Access to be honored. The other honoree is Mike Powers, a 30-year volunteer with the Sun Prairie Media Center and the high school football program.

You will receive your award at the Best of the Midwest Media Fest Banquet and Show on Thursday, May 4 at the Park Hotel in Madison, which begins with a reception at 5 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. You and a guest will be our guests at the event. At the award presentation after dinner, we hope you will say a few words to the group. Please contact me by Friday, April 28 to let me know whether you plan to attend. Congratulations!

Sincerely,



Mary Cardona
Executive Director