

BEST CITY
GOVERNMENT FOR
CONDUCTING
BUSINESS

West Des Moines

West Des Moines has been perched atop this category for several years now, and its mayor, Steve Gaer, said that isn't a coincidence.

"No other city has done as much as we have to invite business into our community," he said. "We've worked really hard at that."

Gaer said West Des Moines works to be a partner with people willing to make investments in the community, with the city spending enormous amounts of money and effort on infrastructure improvements to make the city more appealing.

"We also always try to make sure elected officials and staff are accessible when a potential business partner requests our time," he said. "We try our best to run this government like a private business."

Gaer points to projects like Ladco Development Inc.'s Village of Ponderosa and Regency Homes' Michael's Landing, as well as the continued retail development near Jordan Creek



Steve Gaer

Photo by Duane Tinkley

Town Center, as examples of what can happen when a city is serious about bringing businesses into the community.

"We are very proud of what we've accomplished and pleased that we are

being recognized again for our willingness to work alongside the business community," he said.

Clyde Evans, West Des Moines' director of community and economic development, said the city has tried its best to stay ahead of the curve in infrastructure enhancements, not simply waiting until a developer or business approaches the city.

"For a number of years, we've done a lot of planning about where infrastructure will be needed," he said. "That has certainly helped a lot."

Evans also said customer service, whether that be for residents, the business community or businesses looking to come to West Des Moines, is a priority.

RUNNERS-UP: Des Moines; Clive