



GEM AWARD WINNER

**Going the Extra Mile
October 2018 to March 2019**



Philip Sinco

Interim City Attorney / City Attorney's Office

Philip Sinco was instrumental in responding to the complex H-2A farmworker housing issue, by researching relevant State and Federal regulations, and administering five community forums at which these regulations were discussed along with other related matters, and assisting the Community Development Department with preparing a local ordinance concerning employee housing. The Federal H-2A visa program permits foreign nationals to temporarily reside in the United States to work in temporary or seasonal agricultural jobs where there is shortage of domestic workers. He researched the challenges and opportunities to create a comprehensive framework for local regulations. He coordinated the forums designed to educate City officials, the community, and stakeholders. The local ordinances concerning employee housing recently considered by the City Council had to be consistent with City, State, and Federal laws, the logistical and economic interests of the agricultural community, and with neighborhood concerns. This technical undertaking was in addition to his regular duties – before and after the retirement of the City Attorney in December 2018.

The City of Santa Maria recognizes outstanding employees through its Going the Extra Mile (GEM) Award program. Nominations are accepted twice per year. An Outstanding GEM Recipient is selected quarterly from the nominees. Criteria are: Exhibiting effective leadership on specific assignments; demonstrates positive service to a customer or co-worker; goes “above and beyond” the call of duty; shows special initiative, creativity, teamwork, cost containment efforts and entrepreneurial spirit in providing a high level of customer service; and consistently embracing the City’s service standards.