



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Windermere's Kate Castle Honored With Green Citizen of the Year Award**

PALM SPRINGS, CA – MAY 30, 2015 – Windermere Real Estate Southern California Realtor® Kate Castle, who works out of the Palm Springs South office located at 2465 East Palm Canyon Drive, Suite 605, was presented with the Green Citizen of the Year Award by the City of Palm Springs at a recent City Council meeting. Kate received the award due in large part to her exceptional effort to draft and present a single-use plastic bag ordinance on behalf of the City of Palm Springs to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), an ordinance that successfully passed last year. “It is very humbling to receive the award and recognition,” she says.

Kate, who as Vice Chair of the Sustainability Commission for the City of Palm Springs, spearheaded the two-year initiative to develop the ordinance, meeting with contacts and representatives throughout California, all on her own time and using her own personal resources. “I researched how other communities in California passed similar ordinances and approached the same issues that faced our great community,” says Kate. “Through my research and discussions with community, business, and environmental leaders throughout the state, I drafted the best strategy to implement an ordinance to phase out the bags in our local stores and promote a more sustainable lifestyle for the Coachella Valley.”



In February of 2014 , Kate brought the proposal to Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), presenting her findings and proposed ordinance she co-authored, and they approved it for dissemination to their member city councils. This ordinance was adopted in Palm Springs by unanimous vote by the City Council in April of 2014, with large retailers in Palm Springs phasing out plastic bags by November of 2014 and smaller stores taking effect May 3, 2015. This is the first plastic bag ordinance to have received approval by member cities in CVAG, and Kate is “very proud of that fact.” When Kate embarked on her journey in 2012, there were 45 jurisdictions in California with single-use plastic bag ordinances. Today there are 139 California cities and counties with this ordinance, or to put it another way, 1 in 3 Californians live in communities with ordinances that have phased out single use plastic bags.

Although this may be one of the largest undertakings she has accomplished, Kate has participated in environmental activism throughout her life. “You name it, I have been there and I have done it,” she says. Her passion for making her community, and the world, a better place has led her friends to affectionately dub her, “The Queen of Green,” a title with even greater validity given her award and recent completion of the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) Green Designation. “Palm Springs is a very special, unique city. We focus on sustainability and take a forward-thinking approach to environmental matters. Getting this



ordinance passed for Palm Springs, and for all of the Coachella Valley, is in line with our progressive stance on doing what's best to preserve our natural surroundings for future generations.”

“We are proud of Kate’s passion for making our communities, and the world, a better place to live and enjoy,” says Bob Deville, Co-Owner of Windermere Real Estate Southern California. “Her research efforts and steadfast dedication to the cause are impressive. I know that this same fire is also behind every client relationship she builds, a testimony that echoes her success as a professional, an upstanding citizen of Palm Springs, and as a person. Congratulations Kate on the well-deserved recognition and award, and for being an inspiring advocate for a critical community cause.”

Kate and her husband, Hal, are a dynamic real estate team specializing in Palm Springs. Their background in real estate extends over 45 years combined, giving them the knowledge of the business and negotiation skills to make all client transactions a success. For more information on Hal and Kate Castle, please visit their website, [PalmSpringsTeam.com](http://PalmSpringsTeam.com).

#### **About Windermere Real Estate Southern California**

Founded by Bob Bennion and Bob Deville in 2001, Windermere Real Estate Southern California quickly rose to prominence as the Palm Springs area market leader, consistently listing and selling more homes than any other real estate brokerage. As real estate agents themselves, “The Bobs” know what it takes for agents to successfully satisfy their clients in today’s ever-changing marketplace, providing exceptional services



and support to help to make all transactions as smooth as possible. Windermere Southern California proudly serves the communities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and Indio.

The Premier Properties program showcases and markets some of the Coachella Valley's finest homes and estates, maximizing each property's exposure and impact worldwide through exclusive international partnerships. Launched in 2014, the A+D program, or Architecture plus Design, pays tribute to the rich heritage of design, innovative vision, and iconic modern architecture born in the Coachella Valley. A+D embraces homes that have architectural or historical significance, an inherent reflection of the style or period they represent, or are originally created/designed by noted architects and designers, and thus provides a unique platform to give these one-of-a-kind homes the proper presentation they deserve.

Bennion and Deville have created an extensive network of agents, clients, and partners, the largest, top-producing network for real estate available in the Palm Springs market, leveraging the power of an invitation to the Leading Real Estate Companies of the World® and acting as the exclusive local affiliate of Luxury Portfolio International®. For the location of the Windermere Real Estate Southern California office nearest you, visit us on the web at [WindermereSoCal.com](http://WindermereSoCal.com) or give us a call at (760) 341-4141. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook @WindermereSoCal.