

24 Jan 2019

Summary of Event

Event: League of California Cities, New Mayors and Council Members Academy

Date: January 16-18, 2019, Sacramento, CA

Attendees: Council Members Jenny McAdams, Joe Amelio, Amy Tomlinson

Overview:

The New Mayors and Council Members Academy was a wonderful and informative experience. We highly recommend this event for all of our newly elected officials. Thank you to our city for giving us the opportunity to attend. We enjoyed a range of session topics and presenters, as well as the comradery of the attendees. The training was interactive, engaging and presented at the perfect level for a newly elected official. The knowledge we took away from this event will help us become stronger leaders for our city.

Topics:

- City of Dysfunction Junction-How to Conduct an Effective and Respectful Council Meeting – A crowd favorite, after watching an hour-long performance of a dysfunction city council meeting, we were presented with “what was wrong and why” for each action. The moderators ensured detailed review of the legal requirements a City Council must follow.
- Effective advocacy and Key City Issues – discussed legislative goals and trending issues.
- Legal Powers and Obligations – acquire a basic understanding of the legal authorities and restrictions under which cities and city officials operate, with a focus on the Brown Act.
- Financial Responsibilities – Exercising fiduciary accountability and transparency in open government. The importance of a structurally balanced budget.
- Land Use Planning - General plan, CEQA, establishing a solid relationship with your city’s planning commission and planning staff.
- Communication and Civic Engagement- fantastic presentation on social media, the do’s and don’ts on social platforms. What cities should be doing to communicate with their constituents in the 21st century, and the rules that elected officials need to follow.
- Legislative Landscape – new year, new Governor, new legislature, new ideas. Major focus on housing. Received a brief on current trends and the new Governors proposed budget.
- Inquiring Minds Want to Know – a question and answer period that allowed us to hear about other cities questions and ideas of how to apply solutions.

Interesting Facts:

- The number one issue discussed most often, effecting majority of California Cities, was homelessness and housing.
- Attending this training in person allowed us to network with other city council members, mayors and city officials. We also had the opportunity to sit down and talk with members of legislature at the state capitol building. See attached photo with Senator Bill Monning, 17th Senate District and Assembly Member Mark Stone, District 29.

