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Past Presidents, fellow officers, members of the Board, municipal officials and honored guests. Last year, during the President’s Report, President Venable turned to me and said “Richard, it’s your turn!” I kinda nodded and didn’t give it much thought at the time. Later, I recalled the recurring theme Dave gave us “The Beat Goes On.” He was so right! The beat does go on. Our system of leadership and governance provides for continuity. It assures us that we are not alone. So when Dave said, “Richard it’s your turn” I was not alone. Our Past Presidents, our Executive Committee, our Board and all our members are there. So you are right, Dave. While it’s my turn as President, it’s OUR turn to continue the work of the League. And we have much to do.

Before I turn to our “to-do list,” I’d like to spend a few minutes talking about the League. Our finances are strong and our reserves are adequate. Our Leadership Institute, MOLI, is developing leaders for our future. Our certification institutes are providing the best in-service education. Our accreditation programs are ensuring that professional services are delivered. Our self-insurers’ fund is strong, stable and protecting our municipalities. Our Subsections are active and engaged, providing technical expertise. And most of all, our staff, they are the best!

Now to our “to-do list.” It is a short but impactful list – preemptions and taxes. Preemption is on the rise all across the United States. We are in an era of preemption. Just in the last two 60-day legislative sessions we have seen preemption efforts by Uber, minimum wage, paid leave, municipal broadband, oil and gas regulation, agriculture, mining, dairies, land use, annexation, water use and tax limits, such as the most recent soda tax. None of which passed! Which is exactly what our Municipal Policy states – Oppose. Some of these will be back and there are new ones on the horizon – drones, droids, driverless vehicles and the latest, “network nodes,” commonly known as “Small Cells.” These small cells will inhabit our municipal rights-of-way. What they can’t do by legislation they will do by regulation. The latest regulation preemption is in the area of procurement. State procurement is clearly stepping outside their statutory authority with the latest proposal. I guess if you can’t legislate – regulate.

Tax legislation is almost as numerous as preemption. We will see the continuing efforts to reform our GRT system. Major tax bills have been introduced to overhaul our GRT system and this next session will see that effort continue. Internet tax, introduced a number of times, and actually passed, but was vetoed by the Governor. It will be back. We definitely need to change our tax policy which now favors out-of-state businesses. And don’t forget tax administration. We have a two-year court battle with the Tax Department about how they can recover overpayments. The court battle centers on an interpretation of law. Much like regulation, interpretation is in the eye of the beholder. This we did legislate last session but the Governor vetoed it. Governance by courts should only be a last resort.

Here I am, doing what I promised myself that I wouldn’t do - talk too much. Let me close by telling something we can all be proud of: Our League has accomplished what no other municipal association has done.

We have maintained 100 percent membership for the last 35 years. That’s a credit to our cities, towns, and villages. All 106 municipalities, all 680 Mayors, Councilors, and Judges, and all 16,782 municipal employees working together to make our cities better. It is better cities that makes New Mexico better.

Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to serve as President of the New Mexico Municipal League.

Richard Cordon
Aztec Mayor Sally Burbridge was elected President of the New Mexico Municipal League on Thursday, August 17 during the League’s 60th Annual Conference in Clovis, New Mexico.

Los Alamos County Council Chair David Izraelevitz was elected President-Elect and Silver City Mayor Pro Tem Cynthia Ann Bettison was elected Vice President. Raton Mayor Pro Tem Neal Segotta was elected Treasurer.

Rio Rancho Mayor Greggory Hull, Socorro Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Hicks and Clovis Commissioner Thomas Martin (not shown) were elected At-Large District Directors for a two-year term. All new officers and Directors will assume their offices October 1 of this year.

From Left, President Sally Burbridge; President-elect David Izraelevitz; Treasurer Neil Segotta; and Vice President Cynthia Ann Bettison.

From Left, Directors Gordy Hicks and Greggory Hull. Not pictured is Thomas Martin.
The Norm and Vi Petty Rock & Roll Museum opened on September 6, 2008 in the downstairs of the Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce Building at 105 East Grand Ave. in downtown Clovis. Norman and Vi Petty were more than just record producers: they were visionaries. Their contributions to rock music continue to inspire artists today. Their most famous artist was the great Buddy Holly, but they also produced other artists such as the Fireballs, Buddy Knox, Waylon Jennings and Roy Orbison. The museum contains all types of memorabilia that spans decades of the Petty’s contribution to rock music. And museum and the original 7th Street Recording Studio have become major tourist draws in Clovis.
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Councilor John Cornelius, Village of Ruidoso
Trustee Tina Dominguez, Town of Bernalillo
Councilor Louie Gallegos, Village of Fort Sumner
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(Former) Mayor Yovanne J. Lucero, Town of Carrizozo
Mayor Pro Tem J. Morrow Hall, Town of Estancia
Councilor Christopher Ortiz, Village of Los Lunas
Councilor Barbara A. Perea Casey, City of Las Vegas
Trustee Anna Phillips, Town of Springer
Judge Michael G. Rael Sr., Village of Questa
Councilor Arturo Sais, City of Rio Communities
Trustee Manuel Romero, Town of Estancia
Councilor Thomas Scroggins, City of Rio Communities
Councilor David Ulibarri, City of Las Vegas
Councilor Manuel Vasquez, City of Grants
Trustee Cynthia Voight, Village of Cloudcroft
Councilor George L. Wright, Village of Corrales

New Mexico municipal officials have the opportunity to participate in a certification program that provides advanced training on the fundamentals of municipal government and other timely issues. Enrollment is open to all elected municipal officials.
GOLF OUTING
COMMUNITY EVENT - MATT 25 HOPE CENTER
OPENING GENERAL SESSION
OPENING RECEPTION
EXHIBITORS
FUN RUN/WALK
BUSINESS LICENSING

By: Randy Van Vleck, League General Counsel

Last month we talked about business registration and its importance as a tracking device for the collection of gross receipts taxes (“GRT”). This month we will discuss another vehicle that will enable municipalities to track and collect GRT.

New Mexico municipalities are given the statutory authority in addition to, and exclusive of, registering businesses, to license certain other types of businesses in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the municipality. NMSA 1978 §38-1-1 provides:

“The governing body may declare, by ordinance, that the licensing or regulation of a business not otherwise exempt by law is conducive to the promotion of the health and general welfare of the municipality and may impose a license fee on and require a separate license for each place of business conducted by the same person, firm, corporation or association. The license fee shall bear a reasonable relation to the regulation of the business.”

In order to impose a business licensing requirement, municipalities must satisfy four basic requirements:

- The first requirement of a municipal business licensing program is adoption of an ordinance creating the license requirements and classifications. Business licensing programs may not be established by regulation, course of action or any other mechanism. The formalities of an ordinance are required. Specificity concerning the types of businesses to be licensed is also highly desirable. In other words, types of businesses that the municipality desires to regulate should be enumerated.

- Second, an essential element of the ordinance is a declaration by the municipality that the licensing and regulation of the business type is conducive to the promotion of the health and general welfare of the community. But, simply making the statement is not enough. In City of Lovington v. Hall 68 N.M. 143, 359 P.2d 769 (1961), the Supreme Court of New Mexico decided that even though the declared purpose of an ordinance is for the exercise of police power as provided in the enabling legislation, the entire ordinance must be examined to determine whether the ordinance actually exercises that power.

- Third, business licensing ordinances must be reasonably based upon the exercise of the municipality’s police power over health, safety and welfare concerns. They also reinforce the notion that licensing programs must be regulatory in nature and the fee must be reasonably related to the extent of the regulation required of the municipality. This is distinguished from business registration, which
is required of all businesses operating within the municipality.

Business registrations have two primary goals: information gathering and revenue generating. The idea is to gather information concerning all businesses in New Mexico and to provide a stable revenue stream to municipal governments.

Business licensing programs are intended to foster the health and general welfare of the community by insuring those businesses that pose certain health, safety or other welfare hazards are properly conducted. This insurance involves inspection and monitoring of these types of businesses to insure the safe operation of the business within the municipality.

- Fourth, the municipality must actually regulate the licensed business and any license fee that is imposed must bear reasonable relation to the regulation of the business.

Overarching these four requirements are the Equal Protection and Due Process protections found in the United States and New Mexico Constitutions. The licensing process is subject to the ever-evolving norms found in the equal protection clause of the federal and state constitutions. The substantive criteria and classifications contained in a local licensing ordinance are blessed with the presumption of reasonableness and constitutionality except where they are based on what are known as suspect classifications such as race, gender or national origin or when they tread on protected freedoms such as speech or religion. For example, ordinances that differentiate between residents and nonresidents are subject to scrutiny based on equal protection, privileges and immunities and commerce clause grounds.

It is essential that decisions involving the grant or denial of business licenses be made according to reasonably definite standards. By following this rule, the municipality will insure equal access to licenses by forcing the decision makers to specify the criteria by which the privilege of holding, denial or revocation of a license is measured. Similarly, following well-defined and specific standards will provide the judiciary with adequate grounds to determine the municipality’s conformance with its local ordinance, state law and constitutional mandates.

Reasonable licensing classifications based on factors germane to the object of municipal regulation are permissible and will be sustained. When fees are charged in connection with regulatory licensing, different fees may be established depending on the difference in regulatory oversight and cost to the municipality.

Continued on page 36
ACROSS THE STATE

ALAMOGORDO WHITE SANDS REGIONAL AIRPORT

The Alamogordo White Sands Regional Airport in corporation with the New Mexico Aviation Aerospace Association (NMAAA) is extremely proud to announce the fifth annual New Mexico Aviation Aerospace STEM Expo. The purpose of this event is to expose Middle and High school students to all aspects of aviation. This spectacular event will be held at the Alamogordo airport on October 5th 2017 from 0900 to 1500 (that is 9:00AM to 3:00 PM for those non-aviation 24 hour clock folks). The past four years this expo has been held on Kirtland and Holloman Air Force Bases (AFB). Due to security issues, these locations limited the number of students and civilian aircraft able to participate. In 2017, it will be open to more aircraft and students because the location is at a public civilian airport!

This event drew over 2400 students in 2016 to Holloman AFB accompanied by 500+ adults. They had the opportunity to view 82 exhibits and see over 28 different aircraft including sail planes. Yes, Jane Lucero (New Mexico State Aviation Division) received a flight in a sail plane, kissing up always brings good will. The students were enthralled by Congressman Steve Pearce relaying his story about his flight around the world. This Congressman is 100% involved and is always willing to help motivate the students towards a career in the aviation industry.

What to expect in the 2017 Expo? There are over 144 Mid and High schools invited with an expected attendance of between 2,500 and 3,000 students. We know some of the adults, local service members and even aviators may find a new career path to pursue. If you want to check out all the excitement come and attend! Aircraft exhibitors can attend at no fee. We do need support. We operate on volunteers and donations. This helps us pay for logistics and transportation expenses. You can help us by sponsoring a single bus or covering a group of kids for lunch. The NMAAA strives to pay for the fuel for the busses to bring the students to the event, and that alone runs into tens of thousands of dollars. Any financial help is greatly appreciated. As in past years, this has been by far the largest exposition of its kind in the country!

Exhibitors are adding up fast to exceed last year’s numbers and we anticipate to have over 40 aircraft. A catered lunch will be provided at a nominal cost (remember the sponsorship?) and the Alamogordo squadron of the Civil Air Patrol Cadets will be providing lots of the service and labor. One of the many stars of the show will be the Neptune Aviation P2V fire-fighting slurry bomber. Weather and maintenance cooperating, the P2V will make a fly by including a water drop. You will be thrilled by the sound of the twin 18 cylinder round engines as it roars by in a low level pass. These are the only flying P2V’s left and this may be your only chance to see one of these magnificent planes in flight.

Anyone interested in being an exhibitor, sponsoring lunches, needing more information or anything else related to our expo may contact Jim Talbert at the Alamogordo Airport, 575-551-6245, or Mr. Bill Shuert at NMAAA at 505-414-5548. For additional information and a history of our event can visit the NMAAA web site at www.NMAAA.net.

Did I mention, that this is the largest Student orientated STEM Aviation Exposition in the country? Become a part of the future of aviation by investing in and sponsoring or attending!

Jim Talbert, Airport Manager
City of Alamogordo
YOU ARE INVITED!

Come be a part of the New Mexico Aviation Aerospace Association 5th Annual Aviation Exposition and Fly In at the Alamogordo White Sands Regional Airport (KALM) October 5, 2017 from 0900 to 1500.

Show off your airplane and encourage Mid High and High School kids to get involved in the excitement of the Aviation Industry. You could discover something for yourself!

For information about this fabulous event, the LARGEST one of its kind in the country, see the NMAA website, www.nmaaa.net. City of Alamogordo Airport’s web site, call Mr. Bill Shuer at (505) 289-0777, or Jim Talbert (575) 551-6245. See you there!
IN THE NEWS

RUIDOSO MANAGER DEBI LEE NAMED “CITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR”

Debi Lee, Village Manager for the Village of Ruidoso, has been named City Manager of the Year by the New Mexico City Management Association. She received the award during the Association’s Post Budget Retreat July 26-28 in Santa Fe.

Lee has been Village Manager in Ruidoso since 2009. She previously served in management positions in Aztec, Portales and Hobbs. She has a total of 30 years’ experience in municipal government and received the designation of a Credentialed City Manager from the International City Management Association (ICMA). She was recognized as the first woman ICMA Credentialed City Manager in New Mexico in 2002.

Lee is also a member of Leadership New Mexico, Leadership San Juan, the National Association of Professional Women and has received the Paul Harris Award from the Hobbs Rotary Club. She serves as the Vice Chair of the New Mexico Self Insurers’ Fund and has been President of the New Mexico City Management Association for three years.

During her tenure in Ruidoso, the community has declared several emergencies where the Village has become an experienced leader in managing fires, water breaks and floods. Ms. Lee is often asked to make presentations on sustainability and implementing capital projects. In the past eight years, she has stabilized the Village’s finances and significantly improved the Village’s bond rating.

She has received Best Practice Awards for Community Development and state and national recognition for planning, acquiring funds and the building of the Aztec Family Center. She has also received recognition for economic development initiatives and the New Mexico MainStreet Communities.
Anita Allen, Clerk of the Village of House, and Leona Powell, Clerk/Treasurer of the Village of Grady have received the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning. The program has been in existence since 1970 and has helped thousands of clerks in various municipalities.

Founded in 1947, IIMC is a professional association with more than 10,000 members in the US, Canada and 15 other countries. IIMC’s primary goal is to actively promote the continuing education and professional development of municipal clerks through extensive education programs, certification, recertification, publications, networking, annual conferences and research. IIMC also engages in municipal research administration, enhances critical professional skill development and fosters a spirit of mutual assistance and good fellowship among municipal clerks around the globe. IIMC is governed by a 26-member Board of Directors.

For more information please visit our website at www.iimc.com or contact us at hq@iimc.com or 909-944-4162.

Kim Hernandez, Assistant Court Administrator for the Carlsbad Municipal Court, has been named “Court Clerk of the Year” by the New Mexico Municipal Court Clerks Association. She received the award during the Association’s Clerks Conference held July 19-21 in Albuquerque. She was nominated for the award by Carlsbad Municipal Judge Janell Whitlock.

She began work with the Municipal Court in 1995 and in November of 2014 was named Assistant Court Administrator. She has attended 20 New Mexico Municipal Court Staff Conferences, four Justice Systems Users Conferences and many Administrative Assistants’ Conferences.

In her nominating letter, Judge Whitlock said: “As well as being a dedicated court employee, she is trustworthy, talented and has donated countless hours to making Carlsbad a better place to live. Kim’s training, professionalism and dedication exemplifies her true character and reflects the training she has received through the Municipal Court Clerks Association.”

She has also been a volunteer with the Eddy County DWI Program, including the DWI Program Haunted House, Public Information Awareness activities and other community events.
PROJECT 30 YEARS IN THE MAKING!
TAOS RUNWAY GRAND OPENING

On Friday, August 25, the Town of Taos announced that they have added and opened a new runway at Taos Regional Airport that can accommodate commercial flights and expansion of both private flight and emergency response capabilities.

The project is the culmination of over 30 years of planning, consensus building, environmental and safety studies, funding requests, cooperative inter-governmental agreements and construction.

“This isn’t just an airport runway. This is the realization of our commitment to improved aviation safety for pilots, increased capacity for fighting wildfires on our public lands, increased search and rescue for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and improved medical evacuation and transport for our rural communities”, said Town of Taos Mayor Dan Barrone. “This is the fulfillment in stone and pavement of our sacred pledge to Taos Pueblo to reroute air traffic away from the World Heritage site. And this is about new economic opportu-
nities and partnerships that will increase accessibility between Taos and the world, between Taos and new tourism opportunities and between the Town, the State of New Mexico, the County, the Pueblo, Taos Ski Valley and our other regional partners to create new jobs and new businesses to help our community and our residents thrive”.

The airport expansion project will allow for the expansion of year-round medical flight services, additional capacity for Forest Service flights to help battle wildfires, and the potential for scheduled charter and commercial air service to come to Taos.

“Because we are such a diverse community in our history, culture, traditions and even our environment, we take a little longer when we do projects of this size to make sure that all of our people are heard and that we get it right. This is a success story of the Town, County, the Pueblo, State and federal agencies all working together to create the best, safest and most cost-effective result for everyone involved,” said Mayor Barrone.

Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (including FAA Administrator Michael Huerta), State of New Mexico, Taos Pueblo, Town of Taos, and Taos County.

“By all of us working together, we’ve been able to achieve consensus on a project that will help to bring increased tourism and open the door to future economic growth for region,” said Town of Taos Town Manager Rick Bellis. “Now we look forward to the really exciting part; working in collaboration with the State and the surrounding communities to leverage this new asset to create meaningful, sustainable, good paying, environmentally friendly jobs for the region by introducing the world to or unique way of life here in Northern New Mexico”
IMPROVE YOUR IT SECURITY

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, NM, is interested in working with NM municipalities and counties to improve their IT security. Faculty and students from the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology can work with your organization to plan, design, and implement a cyber security solution to protect your sensitive and confidential data and information. Our services are offered at no cost to you, although we ask that you cover any pre-approved project related costs and travel and per diem expenses. Our goal is to help elevate IT security in the state, give back to local communities, and provide a professional development experience for our students. Although projects have been selected for the Fall semester, we welcome your inquiries to Dr. Frank Reinow at (frank.reinow@nmt.edu) or 575-835-5459.

Business Licensing continued from page 29

ty. Similarly, reasonable classifications may be made between and among the various activities and matters subject to regulation by the municipality. Thus, pawnbrokers, junk dealers and liquor establishments may be lawfully subjected to a more onerous licensing scheme than that which is required of occupations or activities that are traditionally regarded as more innocuous.

One common factor between business licenses and business registration is the requirement of having on file a New Mexico Tax and Revenue Department CRS (combined reporting system) number. Any business that is licensed must as a part of its application and approval process include its CRS number so that the municipality and the tax department can accurately trace the GRT for which the licensed business is responsible.

LiUNA! LOCAL 16

BUILDs People
BUILDs Projects
BUILDs NEW MEXICO

LiUNA Local 16 partners with public and private entities, responsible contractors, elected officials, and community groups to build and maintain the infrastructure needs of communities throughout New Mexico while providing residents a career in the construction industry. www.LiUNA16.org 505-265-7933

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS IN

HUMAN RESOURCES   SAFETY
PARKS & REC       TECHNOLOGY
BEYOND URBAN VS. RURAL: NEW REPORT REVEALS FIVE DISTINCT LOCAL ECONOMIES

BIENNIAL NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES RESEARCH FINDS DYNAMIC ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE DRIVEN BY VARYING FACTORS

WASHINGTON - A comprehensive analysis of local economies released by the National League of Cities (NLC) finds that 84 percent of cities report their local economies have improved since 2016. The new report, Local Economic Conditions: The Untold Story of the Varied Middle, reveals a dynamic economic landscape that has given rise to five distinct types of local economies: a highly rural cluster; a large central city cluster; and three types of mid-sized economies.

“Local leaders know that the unique assets and needs of their cities require customized approaches to economic development,” said Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and executive director of the National League of Cities (NLC). “Our report shows that both promising economic trends and complexities underlie local economies. America’s cities power the national economy, and with an even better understanding of the variance in local economies, city leaders will work together to move the country forward.”

The five groupings of local economies revealed by a cluster analysis of 224 cities are:

- Rural Brain Drains (pop. <50k) – a cluster of highly rural cities with shrinking populations and a lack of affordable housing.
- Cities on Par (pop. 50-99k) – one of three mid-sized clusters that seems to be experiencing the national trend of slow, positive growth driven by new business starts.
- Room to Grow (pop. 100-299k) – one of three mid-sized clusters that is defined by favorable commercial property values, affordable housing stock and population growth.
- Mid-sized Business Boomers (pop. 100-299k) – one of three mid-sized clusters that features business expansions but faces significant misalignment of workforce skills and employer demands.
- Major Job Centers (pop. >300k) – a cluster of large cities with bountiful employment and business expansions that also faces significant affordable housing shortages and poverty issues.

The report provides an in-depth analysis of the positive and negative economic drivers of each economy type and outlines other features such as location, percent of the total sample and city examples.

Other key findings from the 2017 analysis include:

- New business starts and expansions drive economic growth across economy types.
- Misalignment of workforce skills and employer needs is a pressing economic challenge across economy types.
- Availability of affordable housing is an economic barrier for 42 percent of cities, with Room to Grow cities being the only economy type to identify affordable housing as positive factor.

“Until now, our glimpse into mid-sized cities has been limited to a fuzzy picture of places that are not rural, not large, but somewhere in between,” said Christiana McFarland, director of research at National League of Cities (NLC). “This analysis enables us to tell the untold story of the varied middle and help cities localize solutions to meet their specific needs and better harness their assets.”

Find the full analysis here.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.
The National Civic League is accepting applications from communities that have included diverse voices in problem-solving or promoted equitable practices and solutions to apply for the 2018 All-America City Award.

The 2018 focus was chosen, in part, to bring attention to the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act as well as the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (more commonly known as the Kerner Commission).

With this framing in mind, the National Civic League is particularly interested in learning about community projects that: promote positive community-police relations; promote racial healing and dialogues on race; expand government and institutional representation and access; further educational equity in the community; create affordable and safe housing; reduce poverty; increase job readiness and employment; focus on restorative justice; seek equitable transportation access; promote or ensure access to healthy food and/or to safe and healthy natural environments.

“The process of applying for the award provides an opportunity to mobilize local groups to work together and display on a national stage the people and projects that make our communities a great place to live, work and play,” Sarah Lipscomb, All-America City Award Director, said. “The League looks forward to recognizing and sharing cities’ innovative practices and programs that are moving the needle on creating equitable communities.”

Started in 1949, the All-America City Award program has recognized 500 communities that excel in collaborating to address pressing problems in the community. Described by George H. Gallup as the “Nobel Prize for constructive citizenship,” the award celebrates exemplary grassroots community problem-solving and honors communities that united to achieve stunning results.

In New Mexico, 6 have won the All-America City Award. You can view the full list here (http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/previous-all-america-city-winners/).

Cities interested in applying for the All-America City Award should submit a letter of intent to apply by October 18th, which saves applicants $100 on the application fee, please note a letter of intent is not required to apply. The application can be downloaded at (http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/aac-2018/) and is due February 28, 2018. Communities are free to use the resources (http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/aac-2018-resources/) page to help your community apply for the All-America City Award (http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/aboutaac/).

The All-America City Award (AAC) is given each year by the National Civic League (NCL) to 10 communities in recognition of their outstanding civic accomplishments. The award spurs communities to use innovative approaches to create stronger connections between residents and nonprofit and government leaders.

The AAC Award celebrates those efforts and becomes a platform for sharing innovation, inspiration and insight with other communities throughout the country.

Founded in 1894, the National Civic League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance civic engagement to achieve thriving, equitable communities. Based in Denver, the League offers a variety of services to local governments, including the National Civic Review, Model City Charter and its Civic Index. The National Civic League also operates the program for the All-America City Awards, which 500 communities have won since 1949, and provides technical assistance to communities.