

## TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

### MINNESOTA MAYORS TOGETHER

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**Jump to:** Matt Schmitt and Dane Smith, *Growth and Justice*  
 Dave Unmacht and Kevin Frazell, *League of Minnesota Cities*

### ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

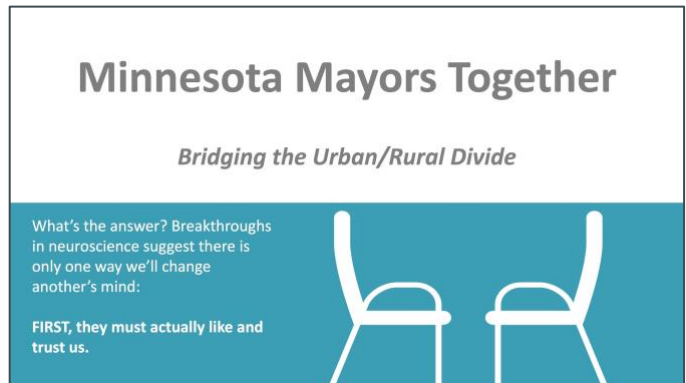
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## MINNESOTA MAYORS TOGETHER

### MN MAYORS TOGETHER KICKOFF MEETING IN BEMIDJI

#### RCM Executive Committee

- On October 11-12, 2017, thirteen mayors, including five members of the Regional Council of Mayors, gathered in Bemidji, MN for the first of a series of conversations across the state. This initiative is aimed at breaking down the urban/rural divide by bringing Minnesota mayors together in conversation to build trust. Its purpose is to shift a negative culture, not to build a structure.
- RCM participants included Mayors Hovland, Cummings, Spano, McGuire and Kautz.
- This first meeting included a roundtable discussion about the challenges facing each city and revealed many similarities and some differences. It was a first step in achieving the goal of developing relationships and establishing trust among metro and Greater Minnesota mayors.
- A common issue observed is the importance of a trained and available workforce. Many Greater Minnesota cities are more reliant on the success of a major employer to sustain and grow their local economy and tend to need State bonding to support economic development projects.
- Minnesota Mayors Together can lead the way in establishing a more collegial dialogue that can translate to effective governance at the State level and mayors can be an important driver to hold legislators accountable for the effect of parochial decisions on other cities in the metro and across Greater Minnesota.
- Three to four more Greater Minnesota visits will be scheduled in 2018. The next dialogue will take place February 8-9, 2018 in Duluth. It is envisioned that the original RCM participants will continue to attend future meetings and at least one of the Greater Minnesota Mayors will be the same as in Bemidji.



### BRIDGING THE URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE

#### Darin Broton, *Tunheim*

- Whether they live in Greater Minnesota or the Metro Area, too many Minnesotans feel that their neighbors throughout the state do not share the same values and priorities as their families. The politics of division fuels animosity between communities, and elected officials in St. Paul and Washington have found ways to use this animosity for their own benefit.
- Minnesota mayors can change this narrative by cultivating new relationships and listening to each other. Everyone shares the values of hard work, self-reliance and resilience. We are all community-centric and rely on each other when times are tough.
- Minnesota mayors are committed to bridging the urban-rural divide by building stronger relationships. Changing the narrative is bigger than public policy changes or collaboration; it is standing up for and supporting communities half way across the state.

- From the visit to Bemidji in October, it was observed that northwest Minnesota cities feel disconnected and must look out for themselves with regard to state legislative issues and funding.
- The platform of Minnesota Mayors Together can help to bridge the urban-rural divide and is based on the nexus between relationships and values. How do we collaborate to build a stronger relationship for the benefit of the entire state?

## THE URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE

**Matt Schmitt and Dane Smith, *Growth and Justice***

### PRESENTATION

- Growth and Justice are encouraged by the Minnesota Mayors Together initiative and believe the collaboration will pay dividends on a long-term basis.
- Data indicate that there are many common issues across the metro area and Greater Minnesota. The most prevalent issues of common ground include school funding, transportation, Local Government Aid, water quality and immigration.
- Diversity in our population is a characteristic of both the metro area and Greater Minnesota cities. In fact, data indicates that there is a higher rate of increasing diversity in Greater Minnesota than in the metro area which has fueled a high rate of entrepreneurial businesses as many of these entrepreneurs are from immigrant populations.
- Based upon the data, there is a high level of interdependence between metro and rural communities. Minnesota Mayors Together is an opportunity to build on this interdependency.
- Growth and Justice has observed that regional parochialism is damaging across the state. Minnesota Mayors Together can help to emphasize what brings communities together, rather than what divides us.

**Dave Unmacht and Kevin Frazell, *League of Minnesota Cities***

- LMC is appreciative of being included within the Minnesota Mayors Together initiative and is committed to continuing to offer assistance and be engaged in future discussions and activities. Bridging urban and rural interests has long been a priority of LMC.
- LMC can play a role in the following ways:
  - Media Campaign: LMC will be having ongoing discussions with the media on the topic of urban/rural issues prior to the legislative session and have arranged an interview with Don Davis who is a respected reporter across the state.
  - Shape the Narrative: LMC is willing to help shape the narrative through its educational materials, conferences, training and member engagement.
  - Kevin Frazell has been designated as the LMC's point person for Minnesota Mayor Together. Contact him at [kfrazell@lmc.org](mailto:kfrazell@lmc.org)

## ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

**Ben Wilson, *MN Department of Veteran's Affairs***

### PRESENTATION

- The "Mayors Challenge" provides an opportunity for cities to participate in the effort to end veteran homelessness in Minnesota.
- The Challenge helps cities improve their coordination and learn from one another and obtain technical assistance from federal partners and the National League of Cities.
- The Challenge is effective – Veteran homelessness declined 47% in participating cities over a two-year period from 2014 to 2016.
- To accept the Mayors Challenge, email [mayorschallenge@nlc.org](mailto:mayorschallenge@nlc.org) and [mayorschallenge@usich.gov](mailto:mayorschallenge@usich.gov). For further information, contact [Ben.Wilson@state.mn.us](mailto:Ben.Wilson@state.mn.us)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Caren Dewar, *ULI Minnesota***

### URBANPLAN FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- UrbanPlan for Public Officials (UP4PO) launched in Minnesota on October 13 in Edina. It was attended by about sixty people including elected and appointed officials, staff and community members and was described as a terrific experience by Mayor Hovland.
- UP4PO is modeled after the program offered by ULI MN in high schools. It presents a real-world development challenge and asks participants to step into the shoes of developers who respond to a hypothetical request for proposal issued by a fictitious city. It culminates with presentations by participants to ULI MN real estate professionals who play the role of a city council.
- Cities who are interested in UrbanPlan for Public Officials should contact ULI MN.

## RACIAL EQUITY

- ULI MN will be hosting a workshop entitled “Advancing Racial Equity” on Tuesday, December 12 from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm at Briggs and Morgan. Register for the workshop by calling 1-800-321-5011 using event code 8117-1822. [PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL FLYER](#)
- Mayors Spano and Cummings updated the RCM on racial equity undertakings in St. Louis Park and Hopkins.
- The League of Minnesota Cities racial equity program is open for city enrollment for 2018. Contact Kevin Frazell [kfrazell@lmc.org](mailto:kfrazell@lmc.org) at the LMC.

## TAX REFORM LEGISLATION, MARGARET KAPLAN, MINNESOTA HOUSING

- The tax reform bill under consideration in Congress, among other things, eliminates tax exempt private activity bonds which is a critical financing tool to support affordable housing projects. The repeal of this tool would have devastating effects on the nation’s affordable housing and if adopted as proposed would risk the completion of a minimum of 12 affordable housing projects that have been approved in both the metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota.
- In addition to affordable housing, private activity bonds help to finance infrastructure and non-profit projects such as hospitals.
- The Builder’s Association has outlined how the proposed tax reform bill would impact homeowners as well. BATC’s letter outlining their position can be [reviewed here](#).
- Mayors are encouraged to contact their Senate and House leaders. Contact Margaret Kaplan for more information. [Margaret.Kaplan@state.mn.us](mailto:Margaret.Kaplan@state.mn.us)

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Seattle Room at Dorsey & Whitney, 50 South 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN.

## MEETING DETAILS

### NOVEMBER 13TH ATTENDEES

#### MAYORS

James Hovland	City of Edina (co-chair)
Mike Maguire	City of Eagan
Elizabeth Kautz	City of Burnsville
Sandy Martin	City of Shoreview
Doug Anderson	City of Lakeville
Bob Crawford	City of Elko New Market
Molly Cummings	City of Hopkins
Kathi Hemken	City of New Hope
Marvin Johnson	City of Independence
Jerry Koch	City of Coon Rapids
Dan Lund	City of Newport
Julie Maas-Kusske	City of Maple Plain
Tim McNeil	City of Dayton
Rhonda Pownell	City of Northfield
Terry Schneider	City of Minnetonka
Jake Spano	City of St. Louis Park
Mike Webb	City of Carver
Lisa Whalen	City of Minnetrista
Ken Willcox	City of Wayzata
Janet Williams	City of Savage
Scott Zerby	City of Shorewood

#### GUESTS

Tim Meehl, City of Perham; Ben Wilson, Mn Dept. of Veterans Affairs; Dane Smith, Growth & Justice; Margaret Kaplan, Minnesota Housing; Charlie Vander Aarde, Metro Cities; Mike Mornson, Hopkins; Jennifer O’Rourke, Metropolitan Council; Amy Roberts, Comcast; Darin Broton, Tunheim; Matt Schmit, P3 Strategies; Rick Forscher, Faegre Baker Daniels; Emily Nachtigal, Faegre Baker Daniels; David Unmacht, LMC; Kevin Frazell, LMC.

#### ULI MINNESOTA

Aubrey Albrecht, Cathy Bennett, Caren Dewar, Gordon Hughes