

TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PUBLIC SAFETY – A UNIFIED APPROACH

ELECTION SECURITY

Mayor Doug Anderson welcomed everyone to the October 12th, 2020 RCM meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Welcome to Stephanie Brown:** Caren Dewar welcomed Stephanie Brown, ULI MN's new Executive Director and stated that Stephanie brings an impressive background – global and local, which is a terrific asset as she leads ULI MN into its next chapter.
 - Stephanie stated that it is an honor to be here. She has always been impressed by the civility, sincerity, and passion of these meetings. She looks forward to getting to know you all.
 - Mayor Hovland offered his welcome and stated that it was his distinct pleasure to serve on the search committee.
 - Mayor Anderson thanked Stephanie for the partnership with ULI and its role as RCM's fiscal agent.

- **Minnesota Mayors Together:** Dewar reported that the Minnesota Mayors Together Executive Committee has been meeting virtually since early April with a particular focus on community health and masking, the state's economy with an emphasis on small business and restaurant reopening and the increasing urgent need for a robust statewide broadband system.
 - In a conversation with the Blandin Foundation, who serves on the Governor's Broadband Task Force, it was strongly suggested that a letter from mayors to the task force urging them to go bold with higher speed goals and dedicated funding would make a difference. More on this in the coming weeks. Statewide in person conversations are currently on hold due to COVID.

COMMISSIONER JOHN HARRINGTON: PUBLIC SAFETY A UNIFIED APPROACH

Mayor Anderson welcomed Commissioner John Harrington, Commissioner of Public Safety, and thanked him for joining the RCM meeting. He asked the Commissioner, in addition to his remarks, to address three questions:

- Lessons learned from the George Floyd unrest.
- How these lessons will influence best practices going forward.
- What is the chain of command – how can we work together.

Commissioner Harrington's remarks

- Timely invitation – we are actively working with your police of chiefs.
- The State has leaned into a coordinator role.
 - Slightly new role for the State Patrol, former focus was to patrol state highways.
- Rarely has a day gone by that there has not been a protest - there have been both peaceful and non-peaceful protests
- We are all in this together, Minneapolis is not an island.
- There is a distinction between protests and rioting (looting and fires); there are some criminals taking advantage of the opportunity.
- Nicollet Mall protest, concerned it was a new string; it didn't turn out that way.
- However, we are no longer one and done.
- Targeted and strategic arrests does have a quieting effect.
- Not allowing people to occupy.
- Community policing approach; we need to communicate; talk to the protesters themselves; many are your constituents.
- Created MAC- multi agency coordinating center; do a better job communicating with elected officials
- Consider: security for your courthouse, for your personal residence.
- Plan for medical emergencies; getting help could take some time.
- Fires have become a new tactic; well over 100 fires set.
- Give advance warnings, especially to pharmacy, auto parts, liquor stores. Alcohol is used as an accelerant.
- Some cities have banned the use of chemical agents; makes it more difficult to move a crowd, would need to use physical force.
- Planning for the March 8th trial; have your own robust plan. "We all do better when we all do better"
 - People will be unhappy regardless.
- How we do policing is heightened. We want people to be able to protest, but we don't want the city to burn.
- Training in de-escalation and how to give dispersal orders – effectively in different languages. Give them a way out and tell them to disperse. Strategic arrests – not mass arrests.
- State curfew and City curfews matter. We don't want them protesting after dark.
- Focus on isolating the bad guys.; some from out of town. Evaluate on a daily basis.
- We are hosting weekly webinars with chiefs of police.

Key takeaway: anticipate and communicate with your local chiefs. Build relationships and communication among elected officials and public safety officials to be on the same page in advance. Facilitate honest and forthright conversations. Establish common values and goals. Reflect on what worked and didn't.

SECRETARY OF STATE STEVE SIMON: ELECTION SECURITY

Mayor Spano introduced the Secretary of State Simon.

Mayor Spano serves as the Deputy of the Secretary of State, as well as the Mayor of St. Louis Park.

Secretary of State Simon's remarks

- This is a different kind of election year. Heightened anxiety, including COVID.
- All modes of voting are equally legitimate.
- 3 m voters; 1.3 million absentee ballots requested as of Friday; 300,000 for the last election.
- New rule in place just for this year. Post mark as late as election day; the ballot must arrive by November 10.
- Incorporating high grade safety standards at polling places.
- MN Law – designating who is allowed within 100 ft. of the polling place.
- Election Judges are well trained.
- There are Federal and State laws that define voter intimidation. People brandishing weapons would fit those standards.
- By definition, we will not have all the results until Nov. 10th
- However, we will know the outcomes; our office is going above and beyond. With county level data and house district, we will know how many absentee ballots have not come back yet, mathematically, we can call the race. You have 48 hours after election day to count everything that came in by election day.
- Mail in ballots will be authenticated beginning two weeks prior; voters are notified immediately and given a chance to cure. You cannot cure after November 3rd.
- We are working with Commissioner Harrington and local law enforcement re: polling place safety.
- [211B.07](#) – outlines law enforcement matters. Pretty sweeping.
- You can have a firearm in the polling place if you have a permit and if the polling place does not ban firearms at other times of the year. Schools are example of places that ban firearms 365 days/year.

ULI Minnesota

Regional Council of Mayors

ATTENDANCE

MAYORS

James Hovland	City of Edina (co-chair)
Doug Anderson	City of Lakeville (co-chair)
Tracy Bertram	City of Becker
Anne Burt	City of Woodbury
Tim Busse	City of Bloomington
Sean Dowse	City of Red Wing
Jimmy Francis	City of South Saint Paul
Mary Gaasch	City of Lauderdale
Kathi Hemken	City of New Hope
Courtney Johnson	City of Carver
Marvin Johnson	City of Independence
Emily Larson	City of Duluth
Chris Lund	City of Hamburg
Mike Maguire	City of Eagan
Sandy Martin	City of Shoreview
Tim McNeil	City of Dayton
Julie Maas-Kusske	City of Maple Plain
Kim Norton	City of Rochester
Rhonda Pownell	City of Northfield
Maria Regan Gonzalez	City of Richfield
Jake Spano	City of St. Louis Park
Randy Stille	City of Saint Anthony
Ken Wilcox	City of Wayzata
Jeff Wosje	City of Plymouth
Janet Williams	City of Savage

GUESTS

Commissioner John Harrington
Secretary of State Steve Simon

Molly Cummings, Metropolitan Council; Michael Huber, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Curt Johnson; Andrea Kajer, Comcast; Jay Lindgren, Dorsey & Whitney; Dave Unmacht, League of Minnesota Cities; Jonathan Weinhagen, MPLS Regional Chamber; ThaoMee Xiong, Office of Mayor Melvin Carter, City of Saint Paul;

ULI MINNESOTA

Stephanie Brown, Caren Dewar, Rachel Keenan

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 9th, 2020: Professor David Schultz, Hamline University – Election Analysis
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Zoom meeting, by invitation.

Monday, December 14th, 2020: Jack Uldrich, Futurist – Looking Forward!
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Zoom meeting, by invitation.