



**WINTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**  
**Wednesday, January 23 - Thursday, January 24, 2019**  
**University of Missouri – Columbia – Reynolds Alumni Center**

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, January 23**

Our opening reception will be at the Ice Bar at Harpo's (29 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street) on the evening of **January 23 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Drinks and hot appetizers will be provided.

**Thursday, January 24**

**8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration and Hospitality**

**9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Welcome and Introduction by MCMA President Craig Owens**

**9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Citizen Engagement**

**Speaker: Cory Poris Plasch, Vice President, Polco**

Getting constructive input sounds like it should be easy, but many communities have discovered just how difficult it is to get input that reflects the views of the entire community and not just a vocal few. How can you find out what your residents REALLY want?

Join Cory Poris Plasch from Polco to discuss how to gather data you can actually use through surveys and polls. This interactive session will discuss some of the barriers to civic engagement, best practices to get your community involved in giving constructive feedback, and suggestions about how to use the data to solidify community support. The session will end with a "quiz" of your ability to craft effective questions that lead to actionable steps.

**10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Key Ingredients for Success: An Effective City Council/City Manager Relationship**

**Panelists: Marty Corcoran, City Manager, Maplewood and Zachary Walker, City Manager, Independence**

**Moderator: Stephen Arbo, City Manager, Lee's Summit**

"The right balance between a city manager and the city council is imperative to a well-functioning city. This session will discuss the challenges of working with mayors and council members, as well as provide tips and best practices for developing and maintaining solid relationships."

**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Business Meeting**

**1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Municipal Courts – "Keep it or Kick it"**

**Panelists: Courtney Whiteside, Municipal Division Courts Monitor, Supreme Court of Missouri, Judge Ardie Bland, Kansas City Municipal Court, DJ Gehrt, City Administrator, Platte City**

Should you keep it or kick it? Senate Bill 5 has drastically changed the way our Municipal Courts function, is keeping your Municipal Court really worth it anymore? An in-depth review on keeping your Municipal Court versus turning it over to the Circuit Court. Hear from a Municipal Division Courts Monitor from the Supreme Court of Missouri, a Municipal Judge from the Kansas City Area and a City that has made the transition.

**2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Closing Remarks by Craig Owens**

**\*\*\* There will be a quick "Get to Know Your Colleagues" before each session. Several people will be picked to talk about their selves, family, where they work, how they got started, what is their most and least favorite thing about the business, their hobbies/interests outside of work, etc.\*\*\* Be ready, YOU may be picked!**

# Bios of Speakers

## Citizen Engagement

**Speaker: Cory Poris Plasch, Vice President, Polco**

**Cory Poris Plasch** joined Polco as the Vice President, Customer Success in 2018. She has extensive experience working with local government as the former Executive Director of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association and Membership Director for the Alliance for Innovation. Her previous direct experience in the public sector includes 5 years as a 911 dispatcher, and two years in the City Manager's office as Deputy Liquor Commissioner. She received her Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Northern Illinois University and graduated cum laude from NIU with a degree in political science in 2002. Cory lives in Batavia, Illinois with her family, which includes two daughters in high school, one son attending Iowa State, and a son on active duty with the military. She serves as a volunteer in several organizations, including the Batavia Parks Foundation, her local church, and as a leader on a mission trip through the Appalachia Service Project, working with teenagers to repair substandard housing in rural Appalachia.

## Key Ingredients for Success: An Effective City Council/City Manager Relationship

**Panelists: Marty Corcoran, City Manager, City of Maplewood, Zachary Walker, City Manager, City of Independence**

**Moderator: Stephen Arbo, City Manager, City of Lee's Summit**

**Zachary Walker**, has served as Independence City Manager since October 1, 2016. Walker began his career working as a legislative assistant in the Missouri House of Representatives and a regional planner at the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission before transitioning to local government administration. Walker began his career in local government with the City of Kansas City, Missouri as part of the Cookingham-Noll Management Fellowship Program, one of the longest-running fellowship programs in the nation.

Since that time, he served four years in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, including roles in the Office of Management and Budget as well as the Capital Projects Department. After leaving Kansas City, he served four years as the Management Analyst for the City of Independence, a role he held until his appointment as Assistant City Manager in October 2015.

Walker received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Masters Degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Missouri. He has two children, Brett and Caroline.

**Stephen Arbo**, has been serving as a city management professional for over 30 years. Most recently, he has been employed by the City of Lee's Summit since 2001. He started as the Assistant City Manager and eventually was appointed as the City Manager in 2008. Prior to Lee's Summit, he was the City Manager of Liberty, MO and several smaller suburbs in west St. Louis County, MO.

Stephen has a Bachelor of Arts from William Jewell College, Liberty, MO and a Master's in Public Administration, University of Kansas. He has been recognized for public service leadership several times from professional and academic organizations including the International City Manager's Association, the Kansas City Chapter of American Society of Public Administrators, the University of Central Missouri, and the Longview Community College. He has also been recognized locally for his support of cultural arts and downtown revitalization.

During his tenure at Lee's Summit, the community has seen substantial growth in both the residential and commercial sectors. Stephen has been privileged to be one of the team leaders helping the City during this growth period and preparing the organization for future challenges. Lee's Summit continues to be recognized as one of the "Top 50 places to live in United States" by Money Magazine and is only one of 10 in United States to have four departments that have earned national accreditation. Most recently the City of Lee's Summit was awarded an "Aaa" Bond Rating by Moody's, something that is considered a rare accomplishment in the municipal finance world.

In 2016 he was appointed to serve as the Missouri co-chair of the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee – a policy committee of the Mid-America Regional Council Board of Directors. He has a particular interest in public policy development encouraging communities to address the aging population boom in matters such as housing and transportation. Currently he is coordinating a Kansas City regional group of municipal leaders who are developing a Cybersecurity Framework for local government.

## **Municipal Courts – “Keep it or Kick it”**

**Panelists: Courtney Whiteside, *Municipal Division Courts Monitor*, Supreme Court of Missouri, Judge Ardie Bland, Kansas City Municipal Court, DJ Gehrt, *City Administrator*, Platte City.**

**DJ Gehrt**, ICMA-CM has been City Administrator of Platte City since November 2011. He has nearly 35 years of public service with eight years as as Marine Corps infantry officer and 27 years in local government in California, Kansas and Missouri. His local government service includes nearly 20 years as a Chief Administrative Officer for local governments in California and Missouri. He has also served for nearly two years as the ICMA Resident Advisor in Afghanistan. He has been a presenter at five ICMA annual conferences and numerous MML conferences and training events as well as past membership on the ICMA International Committee and the New Member Assistance/Welcome Committee. DJ is currently Vice President of the Board of Directors of MCMA and a member of the Board of Directors of the Missouri Municipal League. He is a graduate of St. Louis University and the University of Virginia.