

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Bryant Delong
Council Member Ward 1
North Kansas City, Missouri

In this issue, North Kansas City Council Member, Ward 1, Bryant Delong shares some thoughts about local government service.

about issues and the direction they believe the community is heading. I've only been an elected official a short time but it has been a very rewarding experience.

In Your Opinion, What Are The Most Important Issues Facing Local Government Today?

Delong: Aging infrastructure and preemption are a couple issues I feel are facing local governments everywhere. Aging infrastructure, particularly underground, is and will continue to be a major issue for many municipalities. Waste water treatment plants nationwide alone will need "at least \$271 billion to meet current and future demands." Infrastructure upgrades may not get all the accolades, but we need to make sure we are not ignoring it. In terms of preemption I think we need to continue to work towards a balance of local, state, and federal control. I think the MML does a good job fighting for Missouri municipalities in this area. I also think we need to be more cognizant of youth participation in local government.

How Would You Describe Your City To Someone Who Has Never Visited?

Delong: I saw this description in the headline of an article recently about

North Kansas City and found it very fitting, "The best of both worlds: Suburban ease with urban charm in KC."

What Are Your Interests Outside Of Local Government?

Delong: Spending time with wife and two boys (1.5 and 2.5 years old.) Following all Kansas City sports teams. I've also been a Sporting Kansas City season ticket member for the last four years.

Where Would You Most Like To Travel, And Why?

Delong: My wife and I met while working for United Airlines, so we spent a lot of our free time using our flight benefits to travel the world. We spent a lot of that time exploring Asia and Europe and parts of the US. I think a lot of our future trips will focus more on exploring the US and some Central and South American countries. 🍃

MML would like to learn more about your local government career! If you would be interested in participating with the Review's "Getting To Know You" feature, contact Laura Holloway at Lholloway@mocities.com.

What Sparked Your Interest In Local Government?

Delong: I first became interested in local government after attending my first city council meeting in Farragut, Tennessee. I went to the meeting that night to fulfill one of the requirements of the Boy Scout merit badge Citizenship in the Community. The topics that night were not the most thrilling — discussion of new street lights and how late baseball field lights could be on, but it has stuck with me ever since.

What Advice Would You Offer To Someone Considering Services As A Local Government Official In Their Community?

Delong: I would suggest devoting time to getting out and talking to neighbors, as well as attending local and regional events. That's where you'll get the "pulse" for how the community feels

A banner advertisement for General Code. On the left, the text "GENERAL CODE" is displayed in large, bold, teal letters, with "GeneralCode.com" underneath. On the right, the slogan "Experience the Higher Standard. Explore the Possibilities." is written in a red, serif font. At the bottom, a teal bar contains the text "Codification Supplementation | eCode360®". The background of the banner shows a blurred image of a town with a church steeple.