

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 103 - NUMBER 4

MAY 2017

100 Years of City
Management in Kansas

Greensburg:
10 Years Later

Leading in a Crisis



A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES



League Policy Committees Are Now Forming

What is a Policy Committee?

League Policy Committees help to establish the policies that guide the organization's legislative efforts. See below for a detailed description of each committee.

Who Can Join?

Any current city official is eligible to serve on policy committees.

When do Policy Committees Meet?

Policy Committees meet three times annually; August, September in conjunction with the Annual Conference, and January as part of Local Government Day.

2017 Dates

Exact dates for 2017 Policy Committee meetings will be announced later this summer.

Utilities & Environment

This committee reviews and recommends League positions on water supply, water quality, water planning, solid waste, air quality, other environmental quality issues, franchise authority, and infrastructure.

Public Officers & Employees

This committee reviews and recommends League positions dealing with a range of employment matters, including KPERS, wage and hour laws, unions, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, etc. This committee also handles League positions relating to public officials, including ethics, elections, and other requirements of holding public office.

Finance & Taxation

This committee reviews and recommends League positions on finance & taxation issues, including local option taxes, property tax lid, tax exemptions, motor vehicle tax, franchise fees, etc.

Legislative Policy

This committee reviews and recommends League positions in all other policy areas and provides general oversight of the policy statement.

Sign up Today!

<http://www.lkm.org/legislative/policycommittees/>

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On our cover this month is an aerial view of the destruction that was caused by the EF5 tornado that struck Greensburg in 2007 and how the town has recovered 10 years later.

Photos courtesy of FEMA and Kiowa Co. Media Center

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The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.

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2017 League Events Calendar

May

- May 11 Census 2020 Webinar
- May 23 Fireworks Regulations Webinar
- May 29 Memorial Day (League offices closed)



June

- June 2 League Governing Body Meeting, Topeka
- June 14 MTI: Personnel Management, Phillipsburg
- June 15 MTI : Personnel Management, McPherson

Visit www.lkm.org for MTI and Webinar registration

Obituaries

Michael E. McDermed, 69 years old, retired Fire Chief of the Atchison Fire Department, passed away Thursday, March 30, 2017, at his home surrounded by his loving family. McDermed was born on April 26, 1947, in Topeka, Kansas, the son of John and Minnie (Lipps) McDermed. He attended Franklin Elementary School in Atchison and graduated from Atchison High School in 1966. He was awarded numerous scholarships in the Arts and, due to his athletic abilities in gymnastics, received many athletic scholarships. He attended Kansas State University, participating in gymnastics, where he was an all-around champion.

He was united in marriage to Diane Kimmi on October 9, 1971 at St. Benedicts Church in Atchison.

Mike began with the Atchison Fire Department on February 14, 1971 and was promoted to Fire Chief on June 1, 1981, where he served as Fire Chief for an unprecedented 35 years. He remained with the department until his retirement on June 17, 2016. Throughout his career he had several periods where he served as an interim City Manager. He was a member of the National Association of Fire Chiefs, Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs, and was an active participant in the Kansas League of Municipalities.

He was an avid softball player in the Atchison community for many years. He enjoyed weekly trips to movie theatres to watch numerous different movies. Mike and Diane enjoyed their many years of traveling to Florida to spend time with their son and his family. He was also an avid sports fan of the New York Yankees and Dallas Cowboys. He was dearly loved by his many family friends and his co-workers.

Mike is survived by his wife of 45 years, Diane McDermed; a son, Brandon and his wife, Dr. Jenna McDermed, Orlando, Florida; two grandchildren, Elliot McDermed and Ronan McDermed; and a sister, Bev Crum, Parkville, Missouri.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



We are into the homestretch! For the legislative session? Hopefully. For running for mayor or city council? Definitely. As we all prepare to embark on the maiden voyage of fall elections for municipal office, be sure to keep in mind a few key items to ensure you are not left on the outside looking in come June 1.

June 1 is the first thing to remember - noon on that day is now the filing deadline. Item #2 to remember is that you need to file for office with the county clerk or election officer. In the past, you have been able to file at city hall with your city clerk; that is no longer the case. This will be critically important to remember if you (or others you know) are waiting until the last minute to decide on whether you are going to run – you do not want to show up to file for office at 11:55 a.m. and realize you are five (or 25!) miles away from where you are supposed to be.

As you weigh whether to run for office, I would like to congratulate you for doing something you may sometimes forget you are doing. Every day, whether at a governing body meeting, walking around downtown, at the grocery store, at church and elsewhere, you are making yourself available to citizens of your city and the press. This is a level of connectedness to your constituents that we do not necessarily see at other levels of government. Some state and federal officials will not host or attend public meetings, and will only meet with constituents by appointment. In my opinion, this does not engender trust between elected officials and voters, nor does it allow the two-way exchange of information and ideas that voters deserve. Thank you for your willingness to make yourselves available to constituents every single day.

The legislature began its wrap-up session on May 1, with most all observers expecting a long, drawn out time in Topeka. While there are issues several groups would like tackled during this period, three issues are going to receive most of the legislature's attention: the budget, a K-12 funding system that passes muster with the Kansas Supreme Court, and a package of taxes to pay for those things. Other issues, including the tax lid, Medicaid expansion, and guns in public buildings (particularly hospitals) may receive attention or become bargaining chips to get the "must do" list accomplished. Once the "must do" items are done, however, the legislature will not stick around for anything else.

We had a great time in Dodge City for the Leadership Summit and Mayors Conference. A great crowd fought through the rain to reach Dodge, and they were treated to several sessions from our keynote speaker, Shelley Row. Ms. Row guided attendees through

exercises to help them better understand default approaches to decision-making and communicating to better shape their approach to leadership and problem solving in their city.

We also heard from Benjamin Anderson, CEO of the Kearny County Hospital. He shared with attendees his experiences working to not only make rural healthcare facilities survive, but to thrive in today's environment. Our own Megan Gilliland built upon Shelley Row's sessions, giving members a guide on having "crucial conversations." She followed those lessons up with strategies for developing relationships with local media to get the city's message out to residents.

The Leadership Summit is where the Kansas Mayors Association names its Mayor of the Year. Although we will have broader coverage of this in our September issue, I can't wait that

long to share how pleased I was to see Mayor Herb Bath of Altamont named the winner. Mayor Bath has served his city for a dozen years. These sentences from his nomination sum up Herb perfectly: "Any time a community need presented itself, the mayor would wield a paintbrush, broom, shovel or rake. Whenever he hears there is a family ailing or experiencing a difficult time, he is at their door delivering one of his homemade casseroles or delicious smoked ribs." Herb truly is a gift to Altamont, and I feel fortunate to have gotten to know him through his service on the League Governing Body.

As we drove out west with the windshield wipers engaged, I could not help but think of the very different circumstances faced

by communities only six weeks earlier. Many of our cities had a rough and early start to spring with all-consuming wildfires. The Kansas Department of Agriculture has a website providing links to opportunities to help those affected by the fires, as well as links to recovery resources: <http://bit.ly/2q76E9U>. It is hard to fathom the destruction. Generally, when I mention such disasters to fellow National League of Cities meeting attendees, I receive polite condolences, but no real recognition of the scope of a disaster. Telling people that the area burned in Kansas equaled the entire state of Rhode Island certainly caused some looks of disbelief (particularly from the East Coast, who understood this reference point).

Finally, please consider joining one of our Policy Committees. Sign up information is located on the inside cover of this month's magazine.

As always, I welcome any questions or comments. Please let me know at esartorius@lkm.org or (785)-354-9565. 

Whether at a governing body meeting, walking around downtown, at the grocery store, at church and elsewhere, you are making yourself available to citizens of your city and the press.

Kansas Cities Receive Grants to



Five Kansas communities and one state park – varying in both population size and programs – have two things in common; each is striving to improve the health of those who live, work and play in their community. In addition, each is being recognized for their efforts with a BlueCHIP® Award from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) and the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA).

The six recipients – Baldwin City, City of Derby, City of Lindsborg, Shawnee County – Topeka, Tuttle Creek State Park and Wellington – each receive a \$2,500 award to assist in continuing their efforts to improve the health of their communities. The BlueCHIP® Awards are a community health improvement program created seven years ago by KRPA and BCBSKS to recognize and reward Kansas communities that encourage and support healthy lifestyles through programs, initiatives, policies and/or community-wide events.

“This year’s recipients are great examples of what can be achieved in a community when organizations and individuals collaborate on sustainable policies, programs and projects that focus on improving the health of those who live, work and play in the community,” said Marlou Wegener, BCBSKS manager of community relations.

Erika Devore, RD, executive director of KRPA, said that KRPA takes pride in recognizing communities that are actively working to improve the health of their residents.

“For the past seven years, KRPA has been proud to encourage and recognize grassroots initiatives through this BlueCHIP® partnership with Blue Cross,” Devore said. “Our member organizations recognize there is still much that we must do to improve the overall health of Kansans. By working collectively within our communities, by building partnerships and involving residents, we know that we can be successful in creating sustainable programs, initiatives, policies and events that can address and alleviate local health concerns.”

The BlueCHIP® selection committee was comprised of representatives from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, League of Kansas Municipalities, KRPA and BCBSKS.

This year’s winners join the following communities as BlueCHIP® awardees: Grinnell, Hutchinson and Lawrence (2011); Derby, Manhattan, Parsons and Salina (2012); Great Bend, Greensburg, Lawrence and Wichita (2013); Baldwin City, Colby, Eudora, Garden City, Manhattan and Ottawa (2014); Atchison, Emporia, Greeley County, Pratt and Winfield (2015); and, Arkansas City, Chanute, Garnett, Hepler, Lawrence and Potwin (2016). 🌞

🌞 *Story provided by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas and the Kansas Recreation and Park Association.*



*Shawnee County Parks & Recreation
Walking Trails at Lake Shawnee*

Improve Community Health



Baldwin City, Douglas County

The Baldwin City Recreation Commission plans to continue its efforts to involve youth as well as adults in health activities. The commission would like to expand nutrition education for youth and adults by growing the healthy snack options at the after school program and offering free training for adults on how to prepare healthy meals that are quick, easy and inexpensive. In addition, the commission plans to find ways to better engage seniors in the community by helping respond to gaps in services identified by the Senior Engagement Coordinating Council.

Derby, Sedgwick County

StoryWalk combines three critical elements for overall family and community health: early literacy learning, family engagement outdoors and physical activity. Expected to debut in April, the program will feature laminated pages from children's books mounted along walking paths in Derby's High Park. Walkers will be able to read the entire book – one page at a time – as they move along the path. The goal is to display a minimum of five different books each year in High Park. BlueCHIP® funding will be used to purchase mounting frames and posts, as well as story books.

City of Lindsborg, McPherson County

The City of Lindsborg intends to use its \$2,500 award toward equipment for either an adult playground or splash pad. Community members believe the addition of these amenities will greatly enhance their ability to deliver creative fitness opportunities and encourage an active lifestyle for the community.

Shawnee County - Topeka

Shawnee County Parks and Recreation intends to use its \$2,500 BlueCHIP® award to enhance the county's trails. Trail markers, signage and directional markers along trails are needed on a number of trails. These markers and signs will help people find the trails, identify trail heads and navigate the trail. Enhancing the trails is expected to improve their visibility to the public and, in turn, increase the public's use of the trails in Shawnee County.

Tuttle Creek State Park, Riley-Pottawatomie Counties

With its BlueCHIP® grant dollars, Tuttle Creek State Park intends to purchase additional boats – canoes and kayaks – and paddling equipment which will allow more people to participate in the annual Little Apple Paddle, Little Apple Glow Paddle and other paddling events on the Kansas River. The Little Apple Paddle, a 10-mile float for novice as well as experienced paddlers, has attracted more than 150 participants during its first two years.

Wellington, Sumner County

BlueCHIP® grant dollars will be used to provide healthy foods, informational materials, fitness equipment, fitness/nutrition instructors and child care for the Community Appreciation Fitness Fair and the ongoing Kidz wRECKing Tyme programs. These programs encourage adults to get motivated to be healthy, active role models for their children so healthy exercise becomes a lifetime habit for the children.

RUBBLE TO RECOVERY.

Greensburg 10 Years Later

By Megan Gilliland, *The League of Kansas Municipalities*

On May 3, 2007, the City of Greensburg could identify with almost any other small, rural community in the Midwest. City leaders struggled with ongoing topics including how to bring economic development opportunities to their rural community, aging infrastructure, downtown revitalization, how to sustain a community with an aging population, and a dwindling pool of youngsters looking to stay in Greensburg and build their futures and families in rural America.

Overnight, Greensburg changed. Everything Greensburg's residents knew about their livelihoods and community was gone when at approximately 9:45 p.m. on May 4, 2007 a 1.7-mile-wide, EF-5 tornado with wind speeds topping 200-miles per hour, took aim at Greensburg and ripped through their small 1,300-person town destroying nearly every building – public or private. Ten people lost their lives in Greensburg with two more fatalities in surrounding counties. After such a devastating event, the community was left with one large, looming question: Where do we go from here?

Steve Hewitt was the City Administrator in Greensburg at the

time of the tornado. He lost all his personal possessions that night.

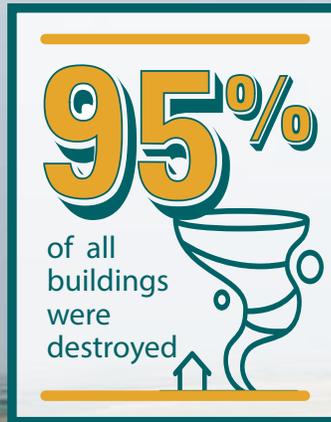
“It literally looked like a bomb went off in the center of town,” described Hewitt. “There is no manual when your town is completely wiped out. There is nothing wrong or right – you just hope you are making decisions in the best interest of your community.”

Hewitt had approximately 25 employees at the time of the tornado. He likened the staff relationship to that of a family going through a crisis.

“In an instant, each of us were homeless,” said Hewitt. “However, we each showed up the next day at the command center with the same commitment to the community we’d always had. We each knew we had a responsibility to figure out what to do to next.”

Thankfully, Hewitt had family in nearby Pratt. His wife and son stayed with in-laws while Hewitt turned his attention to recovery and rebuilding.

“You dive into a survival mode at first,” said Hewitt. “You start with search and rescue; then clean up and restoration of utilities. Then, you can turn your focus to the massive task of rebuilding everything from literally the ground up.”



Immediately after the tornado, the city had to come to terms with the immense amount of debris from their leveled town. 800,000 cubic-yards of tornado-related debris was hauled out of Greensburg. Additionally, the city had to face the fact that there were no utilities – no water, no sewage treatment, no electricity.

“I can remember driving around town wondering when will we get this cleaned up,” said Hewitt. “You can’t even start your plan to rebuild until you have a clear place to start. I would ask myself, ‘How am I going to get utilities to these people when I can’t even find the people I needed to talk to?’ Everyone’s lives had been turned upside down.”

Nearly every public building in Greensburg was destroyed. As the Kiowa County seat, the Courthouse was not destroyed but heavily damaged. City Hall, schools, churches, and every place which could have served as a meeting location for people to come together to express their emotions, receive basic information on rebuilding or recovery, and express their collective desires for the future had been decimated. There was no other option; Greensburg had to come together to make decisions about moving forward.

THE BIG TENT

After the tornado, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Kansas Department of Emergency Management (KDEM) quickly deployed to Greensburg to coordinate federal and state resources since the area had been declared a major



Community meetings were held for 12 weeks under a large tent for planning the future.

disaster area. FEMA provided trailers for nearly 300 people to live in during the rebuilding effort. City Hall and other organizations set up makeshift work stations in trailers scattered across town. City leaders and other public service organizations began the arduous task of piecing together a local government structure. Part of the rebuilding process included a grassroots community rebuilding effort that hinged on the community gathering together, in one place, to discuss both the immediate recovery needs as well as a long-term vision for Greensburg.

Gigantic tents were set up in Greensburg as the official meeting place for residents. Over the course of three months, residents would gather under these tents once or twice a week to talk about a community vision and how to rebuild. It was under these tents that Greensburg cemented their story of recovery and rebirth.

“The tent was a place of healing where we could gather – we hugged together, we cried together,



FEMA Trailers Photo courtesy of FEMA



City Hall



City meeting

BTI-Greensburg. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg



Kiowa County Memorial Hospital Site with Turbine. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg



we planned together – we were a true community,” said Bob Dixon, Greensburg Mayor since 2008. “Amid what we were dealing with, the tent provided a place for us to gather together and have a community meeting place.”

Dixon was not Mayor on the night of the tornado but he had always been an active, engaged resident who had served in other local government positions. Dixon and countless other community leaders knew they were faced with what seemed like an insurmountable task. Undeterred, they moved forward with their commitment to rebuilding. These community leaders sought solutions that would position Greensburg as a community of boundless possibilities with a keen eye on the future and sustainability.

“The tent was the place where we started our long-term community planning to develop a sustainable comprehensive master plan,” said Dixon. “This is where we held every meeting and everyone had an opportunity to speak and be heard.”

Dixon believes the key to addressing any issue in a community is to identify who you are first.

“Define your community morals, values and vision,” said Dixon. “This is not something that can be done by an outside firm or consultant. These questions must be answered by the community through an open process where people feel valued.”

Dixon said the planning process Greensburg went through taught him many lessons about public service.

“Prior to a disaster, make sure you have a network in place in the community with pre-existing relationships,” said Dixon, “Whether that’s the League, other governmental agencies, non-profits, or state organizations, this expedites the recovery process because you know the people involved and you know why they

Blessed with a unique opportunity to create a strong community, devoted to family, fostering businesses, working together for future growth.

are there to help.”

While Greensburg was reeling from the immediate shock of the tornado, hundreds of municipalities from across Kansas and elsewhere came to the city to help.

“We trusted other entities to come in and do the work we just simply could not do right away,” said Dixon. “A neighboring county came in and shut off every water meter; another city came in and picked up every transformer. We could not have done all of that by ourselves *and* started the community conversation on rebuilding.”

Another lesson Dixon said was critical to the process was striking a balance between crisis management and

visioning.

“Crisis management skills kick in right away but don’t lose track of visionary management,” said Dixon. “All of those other entities can help you with crisis management which allows you, as the leaders and long-term community members, to focus on moving forward and rebuilding. To dwell in possibilities is not dreaming; it’s a visionary tactic needed to put your plans into action.”

THE PLAN

Greensburg, with the help of outside agencies and organizations, created a Long-Term Community Recovery Plan to express their vision of the future. Within that plan, the community adopted a vision statement which reflects the overall perspective of the community: Blessed with a unique opportunity to create a strong community, devoted to family, fostering businesses, working together for future growth.

The community used the Public Square process to guide the rebuilding and sustainability of Greensburg and surrounding Kiowa County. The Public Square process is a comprehensive development approach that focuses on asset-based conversation,



Public Works. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg



Kiowa County Commons. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg

citizen engagement and partnerships among leaders in business, education, health and community services and government. These four sectors comprise the Public Square.

Four community meetings, averaging 400 people each, were held to support the Public Square process. Stakeholders in each of the sectors would meet more frequently, then report to a Steering Committee to talk about what each sector identified as priorities. These priorities included the rebuilding of bricks-and-mortar facilities but also the establishment of a community leadership program and expansion of business and educational opportunities. Four key areas were developed for the community's recovery which focused on creating sustainable (green) buildings, housing, economy and business and community facilities and infrastructure.

THE FUTURE

Greensburg lost over one-third of its population in the aftermath of the tornado. People moved to find housing, employment and educational opportunities in nearby towns. Some returned; others never will.

“When you're left with nothing but the clothes on your back, people had to make tough decisions,” said Stacy Barnes, Greensburg's Tourism Director. “We don't fault anyone for making those decisions. We have new families that have moved here who didn't live here at the time of the tornado.”

Through the community planning process, Greensburg's residents took the opportunity to have community conversations which hadn't been done before. Greensburg's leaders see the tornado as a turning point in its 130-year history. The community planning process allowed the community to re-define their legacy and set a path forward from a devastating event.

“I would never wish a disaster upon any community,” said Hewitt. “We had to look at this disaster as a blessing. The people of Greensburg have built a more sustainable community with greater chances of long-term success.”

The community has tirelessly worked to fund the rebuilding of Greensburg. As part of the disaster declaration, FEMA reimbursed the city approximately 75% of the cost to rebuild buildings and infrastructure – at the pre-disaster value. KDEM also provided an additional 10% of the cost to rebuild, also based on pre-disaster values. The remaining costs to rebuild are left to the city to raise using public financing, private fundraising, grants or a combination of multiple sources. Greensburg received additional assistance from other government agencies, including USDA Rural Development funding.

“The cost of rebuilding our community exceeded what we had on hand,” said Hewitt. “The city had good reserves but nothing

continued on page 116

¹ Long-Term Community Recovery Plan for Greensburg and Kiowa County, August 2007, <http://www.greensburgks.org/sustainability>.



10th Annual Convention, The City Managers on visit to the White House, Washington D.C. Nov. 14, 1923



100 Years of City Management in Kansas

By Megan Gilliland, The League of Kansas Municipalities

In June 2017, please join us in celebrating 100 years of city management in Kansas. Together, the Kansas Association of City/County Managers and the League will celebrate this milestone and we encourage cities to find ways to educate and inform residents about the important role managers play in local government.

In February 1917, Governor Arthur Capper signed legislation authorizing adoption of the city manager form of government by Kansas cities. In March of that same year, the cities of Wichita and El Dorado voted to adopt the city manager form of government and respectively installed their first city managers on June 18 and July 1, 1917.

Today, the city or county manager form of government has been adopted by voters in 73 Kansas cities and two counties, which combined serve 24% of the state's municipal population. Additionally, another 97 cities and 30 counties have professional administrators serving over 67% of the state's municipal population.

The Kansas Association of City/County Managers (KACM) is the professional organization representing 192 local government administrators serving in Kansas cities and counties. KACM works to strengthen the quality of local government through professional management.

In Kansas, we have a strong history of higher educational opportunities for city management. The School of Public Affairs and Administration at The University of Kansas, the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs at the Wichita State University, and a Master of Public Administration program at Kansas State University all prepare students to work as professional city managers, city administrators, county managers and county administrators.

Throughout the month of June, KACM and the League of Kansas Municipalities encourages cities to highlight the field of public administration in their cities. A few suggestions are listed on the next page.

Ways to Highlight Public Administration



Post pictures and information about your manager/administrator on social media or in city newspaper.



Proclaim June 18, 2017 as City Management Day in your city (the League will provide a draft proclamation on our website, www.lkm.org)



Ask the local media to do a news story on city management by interviewing the city manager/administrator.



Encourage local youth to meet with your city manager/administration to discuss career opportunities in local government.



Hold a morning or evening event with the city manager to meet the public and talk about today's challenges in local government.



Encourage city managers/administrators and elected officials from your city to visit surrounding cities that do not have a city manager/administrator form of government.

Share stories and examples of how this form of government has strengthened local government.

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Legal Forum

By Joseph Allen Falls

The Executive Session:

An overview of what is required under the Kansas Open Meetings Act

An inherent tension exists between the needs of a governing body to be open and accountable to the public and the fact that some matters are best discussed in an executive session. The general rule in Kansas is that “meetings for the conduct of governmental affairs and the transaction of governmental business be open to the public.” K.S.A. 75-4317 et. seq. An important exception allows a governing body to go into executive session if the topic(s) to be discussed clearly fit within one of the subjects laid out in K.S.A. 75-4319. K.S.A. 75-4319 contains the procedure that must be used to recess into executive session, the matters that may be discussed, and a prohibition on the taking of binding action during the executive session.

Over the past few years, there has been a determined effort in the legislature to change some of the procedures regarding how and when a governing body can go into executive session. A belief has existed (whether justified or not) that cities have not been fully complying with the provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), in regards to executive sessions. A bill was introduced, House Bill 2128, that would clarify that a subject is required to be recorded in the minutes, in addition to identifying which justification under the statute is being relied upon. By understanding the provisions of the bill a governing body can be proactive and uphold the spirit of KOMA without having to worry about attempting to comply later.

To determine if a governing body can go into an executive session, the topic to be discussed must fit within one of the recognized



subjects under K.S.A. 75-4319. Common topics a governing body may discuss in an executive session include, personnel matters of nonelected personnel; privileged consultation with an attorney; employer-employee negotiations; confidential data relating to financial or trade secrets of corporations, partnerships, and other legal entities; preliminary discussions about acquiring real property; and matters relating to security measures if discussion of such matters in an open meeting would jeopardize such measures.

If a topic fits in one of the statutory allowed subjects, the governing body may discuss it in executive session. The best practice is to place the subject and a sufficient justification on the agenda before the meeting, whenever possible. The agenda should reflect what subject under the act will be discussed and a justification that is sufficient to relate what is going to be discussed, but not too specific to jeopardize privacy concerns. A common question is if the agenda packets for the executive session should be included with ordinary meeting packets. Any material(s) relied on by the governing body in an executive session should not be included with the materials available to the public. If the documents are provided to the governing body in advance of the meeting they become an open record pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act and the documents would have to be provided as part of the agenda packet to the public.

An important consideration before entering executive session is who should attend. All members of a governing body have



All members of a governing body have the right to attend an executive session. It is up to the governing body to determine who they will invite into the session. No one, including a city clerk, city manager, or city administrator has a right to attend an executive session. It is solely up to the governing body who may be permitted to attend.

Legal Forum

the right to attend an executive session. It is up to the governing body to determine who they will invite into the session. No one, including a city clerk, city manager, or city administrator has a right to attend an executive session. It is solely up to the governing body who may be permitted to attend. The governing body may invite in any individual that they believe will be able to aid them in their discussion. The best practice is to always limit the invitees in a session to the smallest number necessary to fulfil the purpose of the session. The city attorney, under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2), must be present for any discussions invoking attorney-client privilege.

The proper procedure to enter executive session is to formally tender a motion, have it seconded and carried. The motion must discuss both the subject, justification, and the time and place when the open portion of the meeting will resume. The motion should be recorded in the official minutes. The League is often asked if an executive session can be “stacked;” that is, can the governing body discuss several subjects under multiple justifications in the same session. The answer is no; a governing body can only discuss subjects that are under the same justification while in executive session. For example, it would be proper for a governing body to discuss several employee’s performance reviews while under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), but it would not be proper to then discuss a potential real estate acquisition. Nothing in the KOMA prohibits several executive sessions during one meeting; however, formal procedures must be used to enter a new executive session to discuss a new matter. Following proper procedures, when the first matter is done, the governing body should go back into the regular meeting and make a new motion if they are to discuss something that is different from the first matter. A good motion would be, “I move to recess into executive session pursuant to the nonelected personnel exception under K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), to discuss possible disciplinary actions involving a city employee, the meeting will resume at 6:15 p.m. in the council chambers.”

The conduct of an executive session is important. The statute precludes taking any binding action during executive session; however, a consensus may be reached. While a consensus may be reached, the binding vote must be taken in the open portion of the meeting. It is important that all participants in an executive session, the governing body, as well as invitees maintain the confidentiality of the session. Numerous state and federal laws exist that serve to protect the privacy interests of individuals, employees, corporations, etc. Anyone invited into an executive session should be cognizant of these concerns and should maintain

the strictest confidence of what was said during a session. There is no penalty in the KOMA for an individual who divulges the contents of an executive session; however, any violation could possibly open the city up to legal liability from an aggrieved party.

It cannot be stressed enough that an executive session is a narrow grant of authority for the governing body to conduct business that cannot or should not be done in an open meeting.

K.S.A. 75-4319(c) does not allow for executive sessions to be used as a subterfuge for compliance with the KOMA. The role of a governing body is to reflect the will of the people and to efficiently run a city. Gone are the days of the smoke-filled rooms of the past. Citizens rightly demand to have a voice in their government and one of the ways this can be achieved is by a sustained commitment on the part of the city to being open and transparent. 🌞

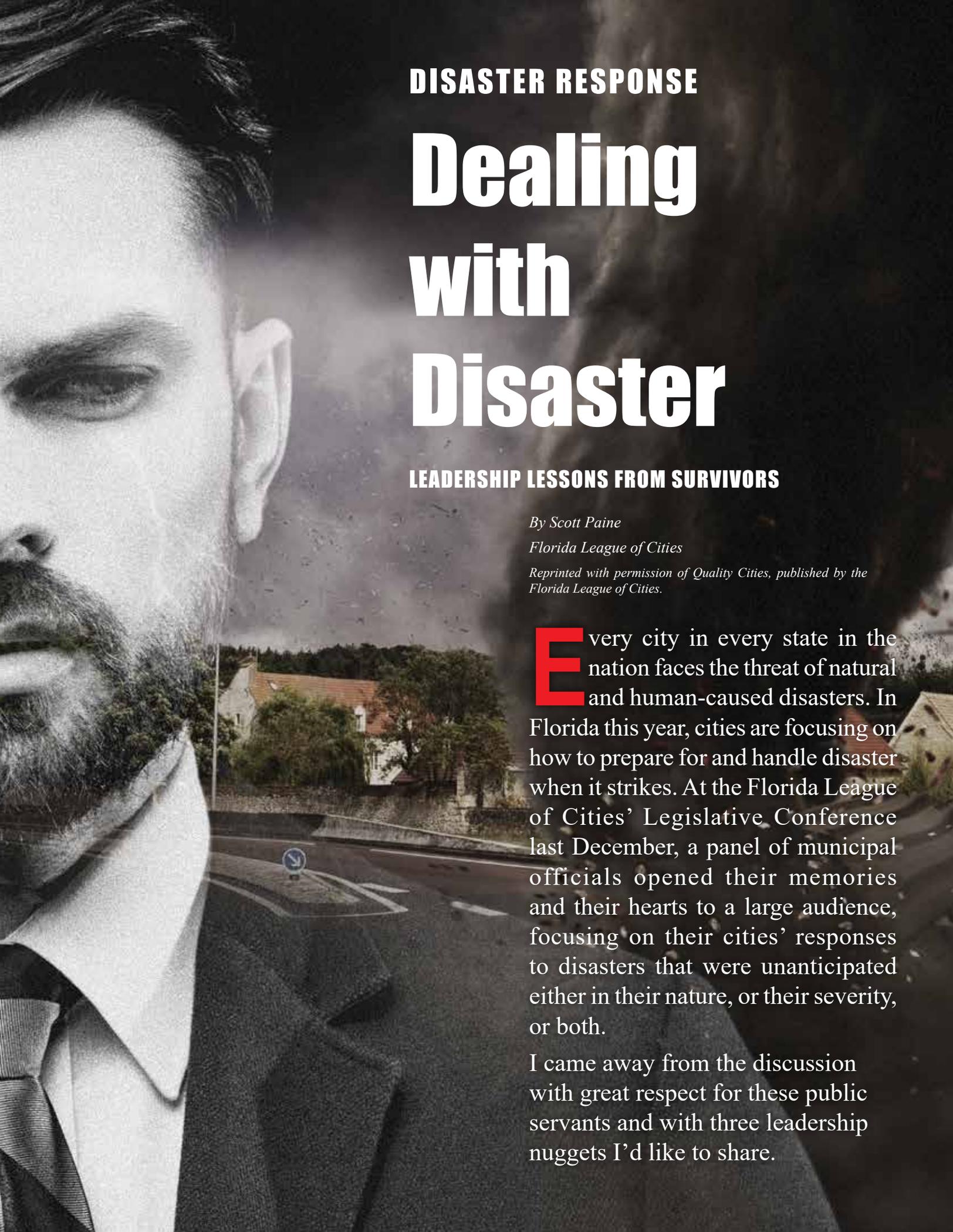
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🌞 *Joseph Allen Falls is a Legal Extern for the The League of Kansas Municipalities. He graduates in May 2017 from Washburn University School of Law.*

SOURCES:

- ¹ Introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary on January 23, 2017; passed the House on February 22, 2017; substantially amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole. A Judiciary Conference Committee agreed to place the contents of H.B. 2128 into H.B. 2301. We anticipate both Chambers will approve the Conference Committee Report.
- ² K.S.A. 75-4319 reflects that there has been a total of (16) subjects authorizing executive sessions; 75-4319(b) (10) was repealed effective May 15, 2011 by Kans. Sess. L. Ch. 55 §29; K.S.A. 75-4319(b) (16) expired per the terms of its authorizing statute effective January 1, 2010 by Kans. Sess. L. 2009 Ch. 132 §1.
- ³ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1)
- ⁴ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2)
- ⁵ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(3)
- ⁶ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(4)
- ⁷ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6)
- ⁸ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(13)
- ⁹ Kansas Open Records Act K.S.A. 45-215 et seq.
- ¹⁰ K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1).

¹¹ Federal Privacy Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-579; codified at 5 U.S.C. 552a



DISASTER RESPONSE

Dealing with Disaster

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM SURVIVORS

By Scott Paine

Florida League of Cities

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Every city in every state in the nation faces the threat of natural and human-caused disasters. In Florida this year, cities are focusing on how to prepare for and handle disaster when it strikes. At the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Conference last December, a panel of municipal officials opened their memories and their hearts to a large audience, focusing on their cities' responses to disasters that were unanticipated either in their nature, or their severity, or both.

I came away from the discussion with great respect for these public servants and with three leadership nuggets I'd like to share.

1

LEADERS GET OUT OF THE WAY AND LET THEIR TEAMS DO WHAT THEY KNOW HOW TO DO

When President Ronald Reagan was gravely wounded by a would-be assassin's bullet, turmoil naturally ensued. Alex Haig, then secretary of state, was quick to get before the press, wishing to calm the public, to get ahead of the rolling anxiety. It's a natural leadership instinct.

But he went too far.

In the emotional strain of the moment, Haig assured the American public that, in this hour of crisis, we still had a steady leader at the helm: himself.

The error, of course, is that if the president is incapacitated, the vice president assumes the helm, as George H.W. Bush did for several hours. The next in the line of succession is the speaker of the House, followed by the president pro tempore of the Senate. The secretary of state comes next, first among Cabinet officers, but not first after the president.

One can say that no harm was done by Haig's gaff. What it did produce was some additional confusion and a modicum of doubt about whether our nation actually was in good hands.

When confronted with disaster, public leaders instinctively leap to the front, adopting a take-charge posture that, we hope, calms nerves and steadies the rocking boat of state. The instinctive response has merit; it is vastly superior to hiding in our offices or getting out of town. But the instinct doesn't necessarily come with the wherewithal to do or say what is needed.

The role of an elected leader in a disaster is, in part, to get out front and provide assurance. It is also, in critical part, to get out of the way. Rarely is the elected leader the one with the necessary skills to provide detailed leadership. That is the role of those who have the required expertise. The combination of knowledge and skill determines who speaks to the public, who leads the teams in the field, who provides the reports to other agencies.

The leader at the top of the organizational pyramid provides public and private support, "shows the flag" to affirm that the city is on the job and otherwise stands out of the way. Visible, yes. In the middle, no.

2

LEADERS BUILD COALITIONS, EVEN WHEN THE PROCESS IS MESSY

Our system of government is highly complex, and authority is widely dispersed, especially here in Florida. Many voters imagine that the governor or mayor can make things happen simply by force of will. That's not the way of our governmental world.

Every major policy initiative depends, in important part, on partners.

Of course, a single municipality can do many things its citizens want done. Sidewalks and streets can be repaired. Trash can be removed. Streets can be patrolled, lives saved in an emergency.

But municipalities are not self-sufficient fortresses. Things that happen in adjacent cities or the unincorporated area flow into and through them. Agencies accountable to other elected bodies operate within them. Natural phenomena, like heavy rains and high tides, ignore jurisdictional boundaries with impunity. Likewise,

the human-induced cycle of economic boom and bust rolls across our cities regardless of the resolutions councils pass.

Many of the most important forces affecting the quality of life of our cities are larger than any one city. Wrestling with them requires partnerships, governmental entities, administrative agencies and private organizations coming together.

With each having its own interests and constituencies, it may be a challenge to specify a common problem. Even if a problem is clear to all, the proper response and desired outcome is likely to be subject to considerable debate.

Leaders seeking to establish effective coalitions must be willing to let both the problem definition and the policy solutions evolve through the interplay of competing priorities and constituencies. This isn't about rolling over for any demand. It is about creative negotiation and creative communication.

Faced with a serious challenge that is beyond a municipality's capacity to address alone, cities can lead the formation of coalitions. We're likely to know there is a problem, because we are closer to the citizens who are affected.

For that leadership to be effective, municipal leaders must be willing and able to work beyond their more parochial concerns and priorities, see and embrace a larger vision of the problem and the possible responses, and get others to sign on the dotted line.

Leaders must be clear about what is essential in their efforts to

The role of an elected leader in a disaster is, in part, to get out front and provide assurance. It is also, in critical part, to get out of the way.

address the larger policy problem, and what is a matter of preference. They must be willing to demonstrate flexibility on the latter to ensure that the former work gets done.

Unfortunately, in this era of high distrust, such self-assessments often are dismissed by critics. Our self-interest in a good report, they say, has distorted our data gathering and our analysis.

Leaders who seek to build and sustain not only their organization's performance, but their capacity to provide leadership in their community, may be well served to take the next step and invite an outside assessment. The move is inherently risky; evaluators have at least some motivation to find fault (otherwise one assumes they didn't do their job). Furthermore, every action by every organization, every response to disaster, is imperfect to some extent. Shortcomings will be identified because there were shortcomings.

Still, this is how public leaders who truly want the best for their community and their people will choose to operate at critical times. They will find and invite the outside organization that can operate with independence, assess with expertise and report without timidity. And they will be receptive to fair criticism, without defensiveness, without any effort to discredit the assessment they invited.

This is how trust is built. This is how we get better at what we do.

And these three lessons, taken together, are what distinguish the courage and wisdom of great public leaders when faced with a disaster. 🌍

3

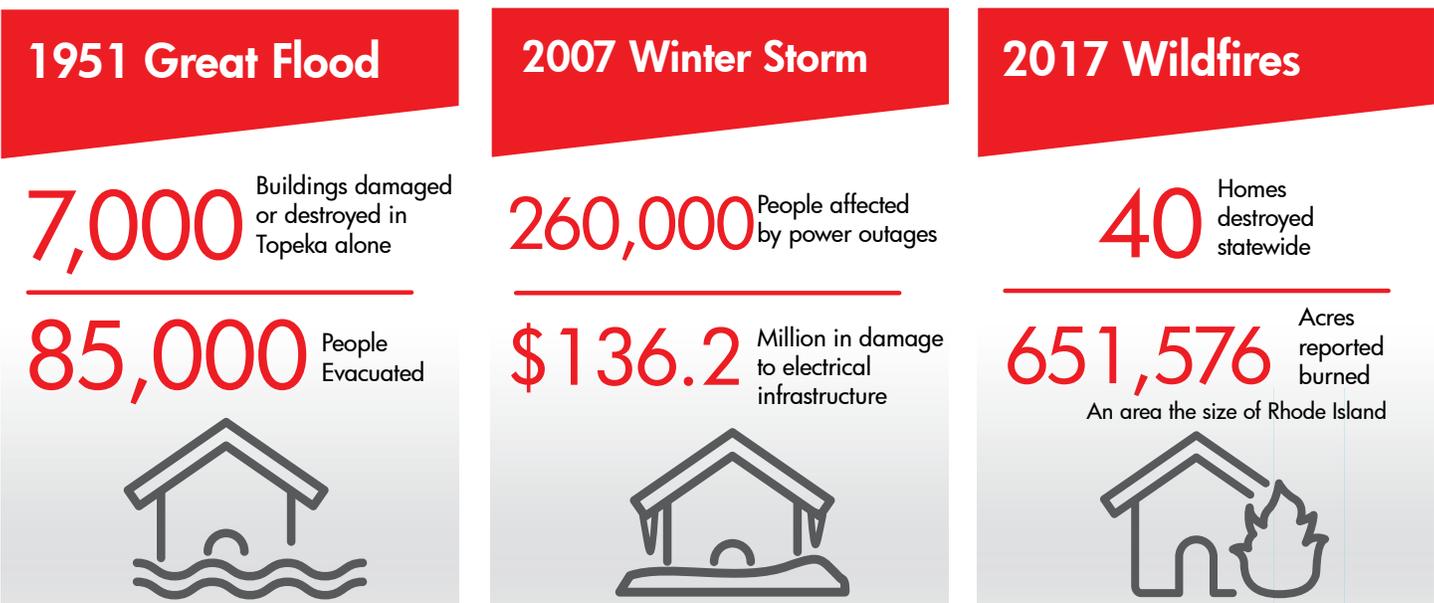
LEADERS HAVE THE COURAGE TO INVITE CRITICISM

Assessment is woven into the cultural fabric of many organizations. Annual reviews of personnel, internal audits of departments, broad-based evaluations of organizational leaders, efficiency studies . . . many of us have bought into the idea that we measure what we care about and that we should care enough to measure.

As multiple waves of assessment innovation have revealed, no single method is best. The effectiveness of a process of review depends upon the thing being evaluated, the fit of the method to the thing and, especially, the attitudes toward assessment of those who are being assessed and those doing the assessing.

It takes considerable courage for a public leader to undertake an exhaustive and transparent assessment of his or her agency's response to a disaster. So many things can go wrong; some inevitably do. Any public leader with a modicum of experience with the conventional press or social media knows that the failures, however limited, will be the essence of the headline, the thing that trends in posts. Doing the assessment anyway takes guts.

Scott Paine, Ph.D., is director of leadership development and education for FLC University. He previously worked at the University of Tampa as associate professor, communication, and served for eight years on Tampa's City Council. He can be contacted at spaine@flcities.com.



Source: www.kshs.org/kansapedia/flood-of-1951/17163

Source: www.weather.gov/ict/ks_worse_ice_storms

Source: Kansas Department of Energy Management (KDEM)

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could prepare you for the cost of rebuilding everything. We used innovative financing methods to get projects done.”

GOING GREEN

Within days of the tornado, Greensburg’s residents committed to rebuilding their town better, stronger and greener. For Greensburg, the community defines this as commitment to designing and building structures that will endure for generations *and* be environmentally sound. The community has embraced building technologies which emphasize improved energy efficiency, improved water conservation, and encourages the use of green technologies.

“I think one misconception people have is that we have very rigid building codes in Greensburg,” said Barnes. “In reality, we encourage people to use efficient methods within their budgets. We often say, ‘Build it as green as you can with the green you have.’”

For Greensburg, the community has defined a sustainable community as one that “balances the economic, ecological and social impact of development.” Greensburg’s leaders continue to work on community issues surrounding housing, economic development and the overall need to create a strong economy and business climate. Their efforts to-date include the creation of

a business incubator; rebuilding the downtown corridor including the senior center, Big Well Museum and swimming pool; and offering a bike share program for people to explore Greensburg without the need for motorized transportation.

“The rebuilding of Greensburg has been a challenge,” said Mayor Dixon. “But it has also been very rewarding. In the face of great adversity, we have forged ahead to bring back our community focusing on environmental and economic stewardship as we rebuild.”

Tourism Director Stacy Barnes echoed a similar statement as she reflected on the past 10 years that changed her hometown.

“We don’t ever want to be done,” said Barnes. “We worked together as a community to plan these first 10 years. Our next steps as a community are to build on what we’ve done in the last 10 years. Now, we are focusing on economic development including supporting the businesses we have and the people moving to the community. We’d love for people to visit us and see what we’ve done here.”

To the children of Greensburg, community leaders hope the rebuilding creates opportunities for them to thrive and grow in rural America.

“We have kids in grade school who were not born at the time



All of the electricity used in the city of Greensburg is wind energy. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg



Left: Bike Greensburg. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg

Below: Aerial view of The Big Well and water tower. Photo courtesy of Kiowa County Media Center



of the tornado,” said Dixon. “They don’t know what Greensburg was like prior to May 4, 2007. This is their town and all they know – we need to make sure we are doing everything we can in the next 10 years, and beyond, that allows them to grow here, sustain employment and maintain a high quality of life for many generations to come.”

Today, Greensburg still faces the same challenges other cities face, however, the community feels like they have forged a path far different from their peers.

“The reason people talk about Greensburg today is because it is an amazing story of recovery and overcoming adversity,” said Hewitt. “This is a great story about Kansas and Kansans coming together to help in any way they can. This is a story about strength, heritage and resilience.” 

To view more information on Greensburg’s recovery and planning, visit www.greensburgks.org.

Greensburg is home to the most LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings per capita in the U.S.



Greensburg is the first city in the U.S. to use all LED streetlights.



Water is a very precious resource and Greensburg residents conserve every drop with low flow fixtures and native plantings in their landscaping. Rainwater is collected for use in irrigation and in some facilities, as grey water in toilets.



Greensburg is 100% renewable, 100% of the time. All of the electricity used in the City of Greensburg is wind energy.

Greensburg has single stream curbside recycling.



Visit www.greensburgks.org for more information on sustainability practices and the rebuilding effort.



GREENSBURG

Greensburg City Hall and Kiowa County Commons Solar Panels. Photo courtesy of City of Greensburg



KANSAS ATTRACTIONS

Prairie Museum of Art & History

1905 South Franklin Avenue
Colby, Kansas 67701 • (785) 460-459

The Prairie Museum of Art & History Building is a 21,500-square foot prestressed concrete structure, designed by architect George Kuska, son of Joe and Nellie Kuska. An earth berm planted with native buffalo grass encircles the building and blends with the surrounding prairie.

Construction of the facility commenced with a ground-breaking ceremony on May 24, 1987.

On May 24, 1988, the Kuska Collection was moved to this site.

The KUSKA Galleries



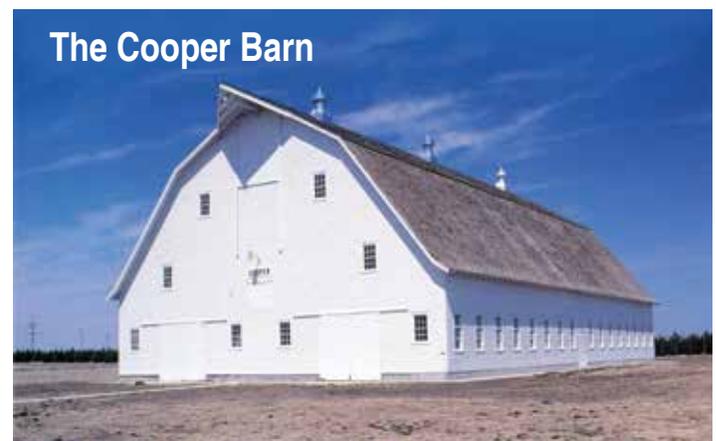
Nellie McVey Kuska was born in 1887 in Hill City. When Nellie was seven years old she received a beautiful bisque doll as reward for learning her multiplication tables. This gift marked the beginning of her lifetime love of collecting.

Nellie collected objects not only because they were fascinating, but also because they held historical and educational value. She became knowledgeable about all the pieces in her collection and shared this knowledge on her KXXX radio program, “The Hobby Lady.”

Nellie’s husband Joseph was the first agronomist at the Colby Branch Experiment Station. They married in 1917 and raised three sons in Colby before retiring in California in the 1950s.

Her collection of glass, coins, furniture, ceramics, toys, dolls, stamps, clocks, silver, textiles and furniture were displayed in a museum they called “The Little Smithsonian of the West.”

After Nellie’s death in 1973, her family donated the entire collection to the Thomas County Historical Society. Fifteen years later, the Prairie Museum of Art & History was opened to house the impressive collection of over 28,000 artifacts. It continues to delight visitors today.



The Cooper Barn

The Magnificent Cooper Barn Lives On

At 66 feet wide, 114 feet long and 48 feet high, the massive Cooper Barn stands as the largest barn in Kansas, an 8th Wonder of Kansas Architecture and the number one tourist draw in northwest Kansas.

Now home to the Prairie Museum’s agriculture exhibit, the big barn was originally built in 1936 near Breton, Kan., 16 miles northeast of Colby, to house Foster Farms’ prize-winning Hereford cattle. Under the efficient management of Doc Mustoe, Foster Farms became nationally recognized as a top breeder of Hereford cattle.

The farm was also famous for its horses and mules. Clydesdale horses were bred under the direction of Mustoe, who capably kept track of bloodlines, color and markings. The Clydesdales were shown at the 1938 American Royal, where the Budweiser Company bought a six-horse hitch for use in their stables.

Foster Farms was established in 1912 Benjamin Butler Foster, owner of a vast lumberyard empire out of Kansas City, began

The Eller House



The Sod House



farming the thousands of acres of western Kansas farmland he had acquired. At one time, he owned a total of 33,000 acres in the region, including 15,236 acres in Thomas County.

In 1965, the Ben Foster estate sold Foster Farms to a partnership: George, Charles, Wilf, John and Gene Ostmeier; Willard and Gary Cooper; Leo & Les Keller, and Bridge Kruse. The partnership dissolved in 1969 and Willard Cooper retained that part of the farm on which the barn stood. In the 1970s, Colby Community College used the barn for their horse production program and after Willard's death in 1980, the barn became the property of Gary Cooper and Mary Jo Cooper-Pawlus.

The idea of donating the barn to the Thomas County Historical Society and moving it to the museum site is attributed to Lloyd White and Max George of Colby. The Coopers approved, funds were raised and in May 1992, the big barn was moved as one piece in a monumental undertaking that people remember to this day. It took three days and a lot of cooperation from highway, railroad and utility officials to move the barn 16 miles down highways and across fields. 🌞

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**Junction City: Run For The Wall
May 21**

Veterans from all wars and their supporters will leave from Rancho Cucamonga, CA on their annual pilgrimage across the heartland of America to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The group will stay the evening in Junction City on May 21. The group's mission is to create a groundswell of support for American POW/MIA's from all wars, honor the memory of those killed in action and to help those injured by war to heal. This 10-day, cross-country journey will include ceremonies with veterans and organizations, visits to war memorials, visits to VA hospital patients, and other stops to make sure our POW/MIA's are not forgotten. For more information, visit www.junctioncity.org or call (785) 238-2885.

**Gypsum: Gypsum Pie Festival & Car Show
May 28**

Handmade pies, fruit pies, cream pies and meringue pies – visit Gypsum to get your fill of pies and classic cars. Event also features vendors, a flea market and car show featuring cars from several states. For more information, contact (785) 493-3075 or cityofgypsum@yahoo.com.

**Elkhart: Grassland Heritage Festival
June 1-4**

The mission of the Grassland Heritage Festival is to educate and present performing arts that celebrate the culture of the Santa Fe Trail's historic travelers and to inform audiences about the need to preserve the Cimarron National Grassland and the high plains prairie where this convergence of culture continues. The festival features a children's day at the Morton County Historical Museum, free fishing derby on the Cimarron National Grassland and musical entertainment. For more information, please visit www.mtcoks.com/museum or call (620) 360-0037.

**Emporia: Dirty Kanza 200
June 3**

The Dirty Kanza is an ultra-endurance bicycling challenge held on the gravel and dirt roads through the Flint Hills region of east-central Kansas. This area, once home to the great Kanza Nation, has been called "the eastern-most edge of the great far west." It is rugged, remote, and the perfect place for an epic cycling challenge. Dirty Kanza is held each year in Emporia, KS on the first Saturday following Memorial Day. The event begins and ends in front of the historic Granada Theatre, in downtown Emporia. For more information, visit www.dirtykanzapromotions.com.

**Great Bend: June Jaunt
June 2-4**

Gear up for the weekend starting on Friday night with a Main Street Cruise Night and outdoor movie in the square. All day Saturday enjoy vendors, live music, jumbo yard games, kids zone, beer garden and more! Sunday the fun continues at Vets Park for sand volleyball, picnics and family fun!! For more information, visit www.greatbendks.net or call (620) 793-4111.

**Lecompton: Territorial Days
June 16 & 17**

Lecompton's annual summer celebration features a carnival, various vendors, pioneer skills demonstrations, a parade, street dance and an ice cream social. Visit www.lecomptonterritorialdays.com for full schedule of events and details.

**Linwood: Linwood Pioneer Festival
June 24**

The City of Linwood is hosting the Linwood Pioneer Festival Celebration on June 24, 2017 in honor of the city's 150th birthday. The city is hosting the festival which will include a parade, a 5K fun run/walk, Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast, live music, craft and food vendors, children's games and rides, car show, Bingo, raffles, a history and wildlife exhibit; as well as a street dance and fireworks. www.cityoflinwood.org or call (913) 301-3024

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KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Garden City

Property Tax App

Garden City and Finney County staff worked together to develop a new web application designed to help residents identify where their property tax dollars go each year. Users can locate a property using the address or by clicking on a map of Finney County. After a property has been selected, pie charts illustrate what portion of the property's taxes goes to each of the taxing units – state, county, city, community college and local school district. The app was developed as a way to personalize property information for each property owner. To view the app, visit www.finneycountygis.com/propertytaxapp/.

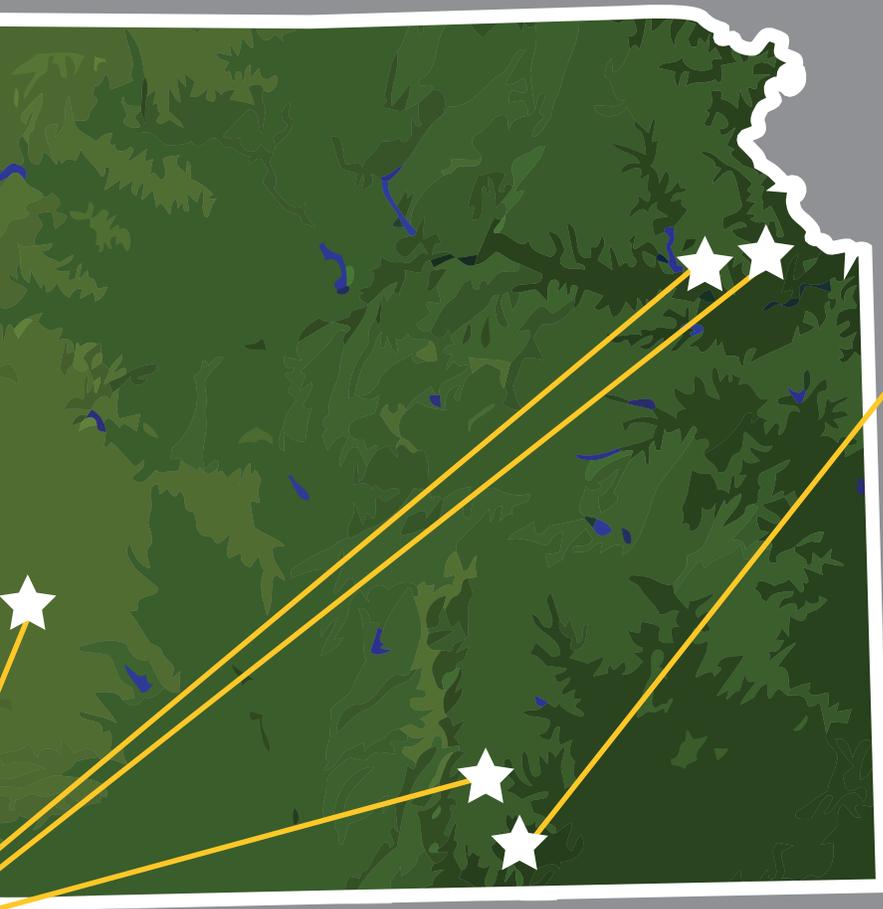


Newton, Hesston, North Newton, Lawrence, St. John

Kansas Creative Arts Ind

The cities of Newton, Hesston, North Newton, Goodland, Waterville, Independence, Lawrence, St. John and Overland Park were all involved in submitting grants for the CAIC grant process. Twenty-six grants were awarded in 19 communities totaling \$139,582 by the Commission. All grants

VERNMENT NEWS



Coffeyville

Tiny Home Project to Be Built in Coffeyville

In May, the Coffeyville City Commission approved the rezoning of property for an infill housing development consisting of six “tiny homes.” A grant for installing utility infrastructure for \$11,000 was also approved for the project. The project will consist of six separate units with individual parking spaces utilizing a common drive. The tiny homes will be rental units and range in size from 350 to 400 square-feet. For more information, visit <http://www.coffeyville.com/CivicAlerts.aspx>.

Goodland, Waterville, Independence, and Overland Park

Arts Industries Grants Announced

are made possible through a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and are subject to KCAIC and NEA standards and regulations. For full project information, please visit <http://kansascommerce.gov/642/Grant-Awards>.

We are always seeking content ideas for stories and briefs. Please send your ideas and thoughts for content or story ideas to Megan Gilliland at mgilliland@lkm.org.



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Advertise in the Kansas Government Journal. Contact Kate Cooley at kcooley@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

Classified Advertising

City Administrator, Ashland, Kansas

The City Council of Ashland, KS is seeking an experienced City Administrator responsible for managing all aspect of the City. The City of Ashland is a full service community with 9 full-time employees with a City owned/managed power plant and tie line, water utility, wastewater utility, and airport operating under a Mayor/Council form of Government. Candidates for the position must have strong management abilities with excellent communication and organizational skills and also be familiar with the annual budgeting process. Three to five years of working experience and knowledge in related areas is preferred. Benefits include health insurance, vacation, sick leave, KPERS, and paid holidays, salary depends on qualifications and experience.

How to Apply / Contact

Contact City Hall for an application at (620) 635-2531 via email at ashland@ucornet.net. Return completed application and resume to Mayor Kendal Kay, City of Ashland, 703 Main Street, PO Box 547, Ashland KS 67831. EOE

City Manager, Topeka, Kansas

Ideally situated along the Kansas River, Topeka is home to over 127,000 residents and is part of a metro area that consists of the counties of Shawnee, Jackson, Jefferson, Wabaunsee, and Osage, with a population of over 230,000. Residents of Topeka enjoy a high quality of life, exceptional services and amenities, and ample, affordable housing.

The City is governed by a Mayor and 9 City Council Members. A professional City Manager is hired by the Council to oversee the delivery of a full range of public services provided by roughly 1,200 employees. Topeka's FY 2017 Adopted Annual Operating Budget is \$288.5 million, including a General Fund of \$101.4 million.

The City of Topeka seeks an energetic, visionary leader who is willing to take calculated risks and pursue outside-the-box strategies to advance both the organization and community. The selected

candidate must hold a master's degree in public administration or a closely related field and 10 or more years of progressively responsible experience in the management of municipal operations.

How to Apply / Contact

<http://bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches>

For more information on this position contact: Doug Thomas, Senior Vice President Strategic Government Resources DouglasThomas@GovernmentResource.com. (863) 860-9314

This position is open until filled. To view the status of this position, please visit: <http://bit.ly/SGRCcurrentSearches>

Wastewater Superintendent, Hays, Kansas

The City of Hays is searching for its next leader of the Water Resources Department's Wastewater operations. This superintendent position reports to the Director of Water Resources & is responsible for the planning, directing & coordinating operations of the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

This exempt position is responsible for managing the operation & equipment of the wastewater plant, industrial pre-treatment & the F.O.G. program. This employee is responsible for the maintenance & upkeep of all lift stations in the City of Hays. Additionally, as part of the City of Hays conservation efforts, the Wastewater Treatment Plant is responsible to supply high quality reuse water to select parks, the Fort Hays golf course & the Bickle Schmidt Sports Complex.

The city's Wastewater Class IV Plant is an Activated Sludge Tertiary Treatment facility.

Due to new KDHE requirements, the wastewater plant is currently undergoing a major rebuild to meet effluent discharge limits. Using the design build process, this \$28.4 million project should be up & running in 2019. Construction is set to begin in Fall 2017.

Requirements

The ideal candidate will have a strong background in wastewater utility operations, 3 - 5 years of experience in a similar or related position in a supervisory role, & excellent organizational,

administrative & communication skills. Applicants are required to have a college degree or equivalent experience. KDHE Wastewater certification preferred. A Class IV wastewater operator certification is required within a reasonable amount of time.

Full Pay Range \$50,748—\$80,280 DOQ & DOE. The City of Hays offers a generous benefit package including family health insurance. & 5 weeks of PTO. To find out more about the job & benefits visit www.haysusa.com or call (785) 628-7320.

How to Apply / Contact

Resumes can be emailed to egiebler@haysusa.com or mailed to Human Resources, P.O. Box 490, Hays, KS 67601. Resumes must include a minimum of 3 references, 5-year salary history, & cover letter. Position opened until filled. Applications will begin being reviewed immediately.

City Clerk, Kiowa, Kansas

This position is responsible for all aspects of the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA), maintaining city finances, responding to citizen concerns and complaints, preparing and maintaining minutes, ordinances, resolutions, and performing the duties of municipal court clerk. The City Clerk works under the direction of the City Administrator. This employee should possess excellent supervisory, organizational, public relations, and communication skills. This is a full-time position with benefits. Salary negotiated based on qualifications and experience. Position remains open until filled.

How to Apply / Contact

The City of Kiowa is currently accepting applications for the position of City Clerk. Send resume with 3 references, to the City of Kiowa, PO Box 228, Kiowa, KS 67070 or electronically to cityadmin@kiowaks.org. The City of Kiowa is an equal opportunity employer.

Planner, Leawood, Kansas

The Planner participates in the City's planning operations and development review; assists in the development of the Comprehensive Plan update; performs research for the Community Development Department; provides staff support for the Planning Commission; participates in the preparation and presentation of reports, and assists in the completion of assigned planning projects.

Must have a Bachelor Degree in a related field (i.e. planning, landscape architecture, architecture). Master's degree preferred.

A minimum of one (1) years' experience in urban planning, four (4) years of experience preferred.

A Master's Degree in Urban Planning or a related field may substitute for one (1) year of experience.

Proficiency in the use of Adobe Creative Suite, Community Viz and SketchUp preferred.

Completion of NIMS requirement within the one year of hire.

Must possess a valid driver's license and acceptable driving record per the City's drivers Use of Vehicles for City Business policy throughout employment with the City.

How to Apply / Contact

Applicants are required to submit a resume and cover letter along with an online employment application at <https://ks-leawood.civicplushrms.com/careers/Jobs.aspx>.

Police Chief, Goddard, Kansas

The Police Chief reports to the City Administrator and is responsible for overseeing a department comprised of 13 FTEs and a budget of \$1.25 million that provides law enforcement to a population and property spread over six square miles. The ideal candidate will be team oriented and possess exceptional leadership and communications skills. The city is seeking candidates with a track record of community involvement and the ability to establish strong relationships with neighborhoods, the business community, law enforcement agencies and other

governmental organizations, city staff and the city's Governing Body. The City desires a candidate that exhibits strong diplomatic skills, self-confidence, and the highest integrity on a daily basis, while serving the public with humility. The ability to exhibit a vision for the future of the Department, develop future leadership, and use prior budget experience to clearly articulate departmental needs will be an important advantage.

Candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and at least 10 years of active law enforcement experience at various levels of responsibility, including supervisory. A Master's Degree and training at the FBI Academy or Southern Police Institute is desired. The selected candidate must be able to obtain a valid Kansas driver's license and possess KLETC certification, or the ability to obtain certification shortly following appointment, is required. The selected candidate must also be able to pass a psychological exam, extensive background checks and have clear driving record. The starting salary is negotiable up to \$90,000 depending on a candidate's qualifications and experience. The City is part of the Kansas Police and Fire (KP&F) Retirement System; residency is preferred.

How to Apply / Contact

Qualified candidates please submit a cover letter and resume online by visiting

our website at <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com/postings/1324>. This position is open until filled; first review deadline is Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Following the first review date, resumes will be screened compared to the criteria outlined in the Brochure. Final interviews in Goddard will be offered to those candidates named as finalists by the City, with reference checks conducted prior to the interviews after receiving candidates' permission. For more information please contact Art Davis at adavis@springsted.com, or by phone at (816) 868.7042.

The City of Goddard is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of its workforce!

Fleet Division Manager, Wichita, Kansas

This position leads a centralized fleet division for the largest city in Kansas. The Fleet Division is responsible for acquisition, replacement, maintenance, repairs, fuel services, and asset disposal. More than 2,300 assets and 24 fueling sites are managed by this division. Diverse asset types include police vehicles, fire apparatus, heavy equipment, light and medium vehicles, and light equipment.

The Fleet Division Manager leads 56 employees and is responsible for a \$13 million annual operating budget and a \$10 million annual replacement budget. The division serves 15 departments operating within the City of Wichita organization. Expectations are for high quality services tailored to the unique operating needs of each department.

This is one of 13 positions on the division management team of the Department of Public Works & Utilities. The ideal candidate will approach the position as a business owner, being strategic in long-term planning and short-term implementation to improve service levels. Candidates should have a history of strong leadership and a record of innovation.

How to Apply / Contact

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/wichita/jobs/1700081/division-manager-fleet-superintendent>

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