Mayor of the Year Nominations Due

The Kansas Mayors Association is seeking nominations for the Mayor of the Year Award that will be presented at the Leadership Summit & Kansas Mayors Conference April 12-13 in Salina.

Please take this opportunity to nominate a mayor you feel has uniquely contributed to their community and to the Kansas Mayors Association. Nominations are due by midnight on March 8, 2019. The nomination form can be found on our website.

Legislative Updates

This week was Turnaround Week in the legislature and the legislature is on break until Wednesday. Our weekly legislative calendar lists the committee meetings with presentations, briefings, and hearings that are of interest to local governments. A few items of note from this week:

Abandoned Housing: HB 2314 deals with abandoned housing. This bill was exempted from the turnaround deadline by the Speaker of the House. It sits below the line awaiting action by the full House. This is an important issue for cities across the state and we are hopeful this bill will be considered by the full House. Contact Trey Cocking with questions regarding this legislation.

Tax Lid: On Wednesday, March 6, the House Tax Committee will hold a hearing on HB 2345, legislation dealing with the tax lid. The League supports this legislation because it allows cities flexibility when setting local property tax rates. This legislation would allow cities, that do not take the maximum increase allowed under the tax lid, to later go back to the highest tax levy they would have been able to increase to previously without a special election, if the increase occurs within seven years. This bill would be helpful for when a city wants to consider lowering their tax levy, or not increasing their tax levy. Contact Trey Cocking with questions regarding this legislation.

Wireless Siting: SB 68 was debated this week by the Senate. The original bill prohibited cities from requiring franchise agreements for wireless service or infrastructure providers. After weeks of negotiations, we got to the point with the wireless industry where the League is neutral on the legislation. Cities will not be able to require franchise agreements, but cities will retain significant abilities to control their public rights of way and will be able to require agreements with wireless providers prior to deploying service. We appreciate those of you that reached out to legislators to share concerns about the bill that came out of committee and believe that focused the industry to make concessions they otherwise would not have. The bill now moves to a House committee. No hearings have been scheduled, yet. Contact Erik Sartorius with questions regarding this legislation.

Electric Scooters: HB 2126, legislation regulating the operation of electric-assisted scooters on roads and highways, was approved by the House on Final Action, 113 to 0. The legislation has been assigned to the Senate Committee on Transportation. Contact Chardae Caine with questions regarding this legislation.

DUI Statute: HB 2104 fixes some constitutional concerns with the current Driving Under the Influence implied consent statute. This bill passed the House 117-0 and has a hearing scheduled in Senate Judiciary on Thursday March 7. Contact Amanda Stanley with questions regarding this legislation.

DUI Reinstatement Fees: HB 2211 arose out of recommendations from the Kansas Supreme Courts Chief Justice’s Ad Hoc Committee on bonding, fines, and fees in municipal courts. This bill would allow municipal court judges to waive the driver’s license reinstatement fee upon showing of manifest injustice. This bill passed out of the House 122-2 and is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Contact Amanda Stanley with questions regarding this legislation.
By night, Dan Oblinger is an American police officer and hostage negotiator. By day, he is the sole proprietor of Leadercraft, a private company devoted to excellence in keynote speaking and corporate training. He is the author of two books - “The 28 Laws of Listening” and “Life or Death Listening: A Hostage Negotiator’s How-to Guide to Mastering the Essential Communication Skill.”

Dan is a father, husband, philosopher, and lawman. He has been successful in his professional life as a public speaker, author, hostage negotiator, undercover human trafficking investigator, human resources consultant, chicken rancher, drug recognition expert, ditch digger, grocery bagger, onion ring maker, landlord, and beat cop. Dan’s passion is sharing his listening, negotiating, and leadership skills so everyone can become more authentic leaders and lovers. Oblinger lives in the heart of the United States on the windswept prairie of Southcentral Kansas with his wife, six children.

Register today for the Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference at our website.