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Grand Rapids City Councilor Rick Blake receives Excellence in Service Award from CGMC

ST. PAUL—Grand Rapids City Councilor Rick Blake was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) Aug. 3 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Fergus Falls for his excellence in service to Greater Minnesota.

The Excellence in Service Award is given annually to a city leader who demonstrates knowledge, leadership and active participation in CGMC program areas over the past year.

An active and engaged member of the CGMC Board of Directors, Blake was proactive in reaching out to newly elected legislators following the 2016 election to educate them on key CGMC issues such as Local Government Aid (LGA) and the need for a stronger state investment in transportation. During the legislative session, he testified on behalf of the CGMC before the Legislature on a proposal to increase funding for city streets. In addition, he informed his community about the importance of the LGA program by penning a guest column for his local newspaper.

“Rick is an outspoken advocate for CGMC priorities, especially LGA and street funding,” said Sara Carlson, mayor of Alexandria and president of the CGMC. “He has only served on the CGMC Board for a short time, but he has already emerged as a leader for our organization. It’s clear that he has a passion for making sure all Greater Minnesota communities are strong and healthy.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 90 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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