



Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota

**For Immediate Release**  
Aug. 7, 2017

Contact: Julie Liew  
[jlliew@flaherty-hood.com](mailto:jlliew@flaherty-hood.com)  
651-259-1917

## **Alexandria Mayor Sara Carlson receives President's Award from CGMC**

ST. PAUL—Alexandria Mayor Sara Carlson received the President's Award from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) Aug. 3 during the Coalition's three-day summer conference in Fergus Falls. The award marks the culmination of Carlson's tenure as president of the CGMC.

As CGMC president, Carlson led the push for an increase in Local Government Aid (LGA) funding at the Legislature — the organization's top priority — and was a tenacious advocate for the CGMC's other top issues such as funding for clean water infrastructure programs, environmental regulatory reform, transportation and economic development initiatives. During her year-long tenure, Carlson participated in several meetings with key lawmakers and agency heads, led the organization's "lobby days" at the State Capitol and other events, and wrote numerous letters to legislators explaining the need for more funding for key priorities and better policies for Greater Minnesota communities. In addition, Carlson was a strong spokesperson for the CGMC: she led press conferences, wrote letters to the editor and guest columns about key CGMC priorities, and was frequently quoted in newspaper articles and interviewed by reporters across the state.

"The CGMC was incredibly lucky to have a strong and effective leader like Sara this year," said Bradley Peterson, executive director of the CGMC. "While she is certainly kind and caring, don't let Sara's sweet demeanor fool you — she is a bulldog in disguise. The 2017 legislative session was particularly long and challenging, and Sara was there every step of the way fighting for Greater Minnesota communities."

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.

###