



Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota

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City of Winona receives Excellence in Teamwork Award from CGMC

ST. PAUL—The City of Winona was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 25 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Bemidji for its excellence in service to Greater Minnesota.

The Excellence in Teamwork Award is given to the elected officials and city staff from CGMC member cities who worked together to promote CGMC goals and priorities over the past year.

During the 2019 session, the city of Winona was instrumental in promoting the need for an increase in funding for the Local Government Aid (LGA) program, which was the CGMC’s top legislative priority. In a true team effort, the city – led by Mayor Mark Peterson, City Manager Steve Sarvi, Economic Development Director Lucy McMartin and police and fire staff – coordinated a successful press conference at the Fire Hall to highlight the importance of LGA and its role in helping cities pay for critical public safety needs. Their efforts helped bring much-needed attention to the issue of LGA, which ultimately received a \$30 million increase in funding in the 2019 tax bill passed by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Tim Walz.

“It is incredibly impactful when city leaders share their own stories about how the state’s investment in Local Government Aid affects their communities,” said Ron Johnson, a member of the Bemidji City Council and president of the CGMC. “By bringing together elected officials, public safety staff and economic development leaders, the city of Winona was able to make a strong case for why LGA is vital to ensuring that Greater Minnesota communities remain strong and viable.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 97 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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