COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

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Little Falls Mayor Greg Zylka receives President's Award from CGMC

ST. PAUL—Little Falls Mayor Greg Zylka was honored with the President's Award from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) July 29 during the Coalition's summer conference in Alexandria. The award marks the culmination of Zylka's tenure as president of the CGMC.

As CGMC president, Zylka led the organization through a year of unprecedented challenges. With the COVID-19 pandemic still in full swing for much of his term, Zylka served as the voice of Greater Minnesota cities as communities attempted to wade through all the uncertainties, struggles and opportunities that emerged over the past 12 months. He quickly adapted to the "new normal" where virtual meetings and conference calls took the place of in-person meetings with legislators, press conferences and CGMC events. Despite his busy schedule as mayor, Zylka always made time to advocate on behalf of rural communities.

With his calm, steady demeanor and vast knowledge of issues such as Local Government Aid, environmental regulations and economic development needs, Zylka proved to be an effective leader. Under his leadership, CGMC achieved many of its legislative goals including the passage of a $1.8 billion bonding bill, creation of a new initiative aimed at keeping dangerous pollutants out of city wastewater streams, and additional state funding for key priorities such as child care, city streets, economic development programs, and broadband expansion.

"Mayor Zylka has all the qualities you want in a president," said CGMC Executive Director Bradley Peterson. "This year brought on a lot of challenges, but he tackled each new problem head-on. There were days when he was bombarded with phone calls, Zoom meetings and emails, but he always handled each one with enthusiasm and thoughtful consideration. Mayor Zylka's steady leadership helped guide Greater Minnesota cities through the pandemic and will hopefully help them to come out even stronger on the other side."

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing more than 100 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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