

**To:** Englewood City Council

**From:** Joe Jefferson, Englewood City Council Member, District 1

**Date:** 3-23-15

**Re:** National League of Cities Report: Congressional City Conference  
Washington, D.C. – March 7-11, 2015

Dear Council,

Please see the following report of events to memorialize some of the highlights from my recent trip to the National League of Cities, Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 7-11, 2015. This is not intended to be a comprehensive report of my activities but rather simply an overview of a few of the most important takeaways.

### **Role of the Elected Official in the Budgeting Process**

Saturday March 7, 2015 1:30 - 4:30

Learned the methodology and tools that over 70+ communities across the US have successfully implemented, as well as how the data visualization of Fiscal Health modeling (the visual portrayal of complex financial and economic data sets) has proven to be a unifying construct.

Although this was similar to our recent Study Session presentation, it was much more in depth and recommended some best practices that this Council should consider. This included an organizational revenue manual that describes all sources of revenue and the legal authority to collect the funds as well as a historical review that would be a key to understanding our revenues for our community and its leaders. This could be accomplished in steps rather than all at once and we could ask staff or the Budget Advisory Commission to consider taking on this project over the next few years. Another best practice this Council should consider has also been recommended by our Budget Advisory Commission, and that is to develop and adopt a reserve policy to clearly define what we are attempting to accomplish with our reserves and why they exist.

### **Big Ideas for Small Cities**

Sunday March 8, 2015 3:00 - 5:30

Mayors from small cities each shared one compelling idea or innovation that can make a dramatic difference to the future of our cities. These ideas included a program similar to our Commercial Catalyst Program, unique cultural events that your community can support (ie- Book festival in Gaithersburg, Maryland) and attracting movie production.

### **Opening General Session**

Monday March 9, 2015 10:00 - 12:00

Address from NLC President, as well as from the President of the United States. This session provided a great overview of national political climate as well as some talking points for lobbying our national representatives. President Obama called us all “problem solvers” on the local level and inspired us all to continue.

### **Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO) Meeting**

Monday March 9, 2015 2:00 - 3:30

Election for 2015 APAMO was held. I officially applied to join and look forward to working with this group going forward.

### **Young Elected Leaders Networking Reception**

Monday March 9, 2015 5:00 - 6:00

This is a welcome new addition to NLC since I last attended. I met 2 Council Members from the metro area and I hope they will be great colleagues to share ideas with moving forward. Their view of our potential move to Denver Fire was very negative and reminded me again that we need to do a better job of controlling our messaging and explaining why we decide what we do. Isn't this a positive for our community? Why?

### **Meeting with Senator Corey Gardner and Tour of Capital**

Wednesday March 11, 2015 9:45

Due to some scheduling confusion, I was unable to meet with the Senator but 2 other Council Members from Englewood met with him Tuesday.

### **Meeting with Senator Michael Bennett**

Wednesday March 11, 2015 12:45

I was able to represent Englewood solo in a brief meeting with Senator Bennett and his aid. We discussed internet sales tax and I suggested that this would be good for Englewood but I'm unsure of the national impact. He said he is supportive of an internet sales tax. I mentioned our reliance upon sale and use taxes and he asked about our collection numbers and I said we have seen a little growth YoY. We discussed the need for a long term funding for transportations and discussed the condition our roads and bridges. We also discussed the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and I stressed the importance of this tool in our ability to finance for our needs. He assured me that it was not going away anytime soon.