

KLIC Direct

A Kentucky League of Cities Publication

2004

A New Year, A New Administration

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December 2003/January 2004

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LOBBYING 101

The Frankfort Experience

Want the inside scoop in Frankfort? Come to Frankfort during the 2004 session and shadow one of the KLC lobbyists: Bert May, Jerry Deaton, or Phil Huddleston.

Contact Martha Cosby, Executive Legislative Assistant at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3716 to schedule a date.

Up to three (3) hours Leadership Center Credit will be given in the Building Personal, Professional, and Political Skills category. For information on the legislative and session calendar, visit www.lrc.state.ky.us/sch_vist/04RS_cal.pdf.

There is no registration fee for this training.

KLC City Night!



Mark your calendar for **KLC City Night** on Thursday, February 19, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Frankfort, Kentucky.

FRONT PAGE NEWS

2004 - A New Year, A New Administration



Drop by the KLC Office in Frankfort during session or anytime - your home away from home!

1. Senator and Mrs. Jim Bunning, along with Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and husband Senator Mitch McConnell in the inaugural parade; 2. Florence Mayor Diane E. Whalen joins Sylvia Lovely and Mayor Karen L. Cunningham at the parade; 3. (left to right) KLC Immediate Past President Williamsburg Mayor Bill Nigbbert, KLC President and Madisonville Mayor Cunningham, KLC Executive Director and NewCities Foundation President Sylvia L. Lovely and Glasgow Mayor Darrell Pickett at the KLC office in Frankfort; 4. Sylvia Lovely and KLC Deputy Executive Director Neil Hackworth talk with Springfield Mayor Mike Haydon at the inauguration.



SHOW ME THE MONEY

Renaissance Kentucky Announces Grants

Renaissance Kentucky, a statewide revitalization program that has helped revive the downtown areas of nearly 100 Kentucky communities recently announced its latest grants. Twelve, Renaissance Kentucky cities will receive funds approved by the 2003 General Assembly to complete revitalization projects in their areas.

Benham, Bowling Green, Cadiz, Campbellsville, Dawson Springs, New Castle, Pikeville, Shelbyville, Versailles and Vanceburg will each receive \$250,000 to complete various projects. In addition, Princeton will receive \$195,000 to construct a new visitors center and Somerset will receive \$140,525 to restore the Virginia Theater Building to use as a performance and entertainment venue.



Sylvia L. Lovely (left) with Dawson Springs Mayor Stacia Peyton at the Renaissance Downtown Revitalization Awards Ceremony on November 12. Dawson Springs not only received one of 12 Downtown Revitalization awards (their award was for \$250,000), they also received \$1 million in Renaissance Kentucky set aside CDBG funds.



NLC Project Helps Working Families

The National League of Cities' (NLC) Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) invites NLC member cities to participate in NLC's Helping Working Families Project.

The centerpiece of the project is a 10-month technical assistance effort involving a group of up to five cities that will help municipal leaders design a

multi-benefit outreach initiative or build on existing efforts to create a more comprehensive outreach campaign.

Deadline to apply is January 21, 2004. For more information on the project or learn how to apply, contact the NLC at 202-626-3000.



"Triage Approach" to Erasing Racism Among Topics at Leadership Summit II

Joshua E. Santana says he's "a triage kind of guy" in finding effective ways to erase racism. He identifies three particular groups that, he suggests, must be dealt with differently.

For people who can't or won't change their attitudes about race, Santana says, the focus should be on limiting their effect on society at large. For those who can change, it's important to reach out to them. And for those "already there" in wanting to create a non-racist community, it's important to encourage their efforts.

Santana, chair of the Asociacion de Hispanos Unidos, was part of a six-person panel which also

included Sylvia L. Lovely, president of the NewCities Foundation and executive director/CEO of KLC, engaged in a candid discussion at the Leadership Summit II on Erasing Racism held Friday, December 5 at Lexington's Marriott Griffin Gate Resort. More than 200 people attended. The first Erasing Racism Summit was held in 2002.

The summit was sponsored by the NewCities Foundation, the Kentucky League of Cities, the Bluegrass Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) and Lexmark International, Inc.

THE LAST WORD FIRST

New Year; New Opportunities



"Congratulations on your success with the brownfields legislation."

It was just a passing comment made by a veteran Kentucky newspaper editor, but I was thrilled. His newspaper, which has a statewide audience, had focused attention on the issue this past year. But in the early stages of the 2002-03 session, it had not seemed particularly favorable in its view of our efforts.

So, hearing his heartfelt congratulations was the perfect tip of the hat to what's been a successful year. In fact, as the New Year approaches, it gives me great joy to reflect on 2003 and what it's meant to Kentucky's cities.

We began with "City Night," a training event for newly elected officials. It's been pleasing to watch so many of you become some of the best advocates for our cities. While we might not have won all our Frankfort battles, this particular "City Night" was exceptional. Seeing your board of directors' leadership and watching so many of you discussing issues with state legislators was wonderful. It's a key starting point to achieve success with our annual legislative agenda.

This year also produced significant work by the Legislative Committee along with the Urban Cities Coalition. These folks have made major inroads on such issues as finding ways to replace city revenues that were lost in the past year. As we begin with the 2004 General Assembly, these people will help our lobbyists carry the torch.

Many of you participated this year in a pilot project to build a stronger relationship with the White House. Working through the National League of Cities, Kentucky has become a front-runner in hosting conference call conversations with federal decision makers and developing ongoing relationships, particularly in homeland security.

Our NewCities Foundation continued to garner support and interest in 2003. We've found a home in *Kentucky Monthly* magazine, where each issue now features one of our cities and what it is doing to lead by example in the "new economy."

We've also been fortunate in receiving over \$500,000 in technology grant funds. Kentuckian Hilda Legg, Rural Utilities Service Administrator, announced the awards in November. The funds will help Raceland and Bellefonte gain greater Internet access and assist in community development.

KLC and the NewCities Foundation have been proud of your participation in ongoing training opportunities, including those at KLC's annual convention. This year's convention also had an important gubernatorial candidates forum that offered our members personal access to these key leaders. We eagerly await the opportunity to work with Governor Ernie Fletcher and his new administration on city-related issues.

As we close the chapter on 2003, I hope you will join me again next year in supporting Kentucky's cities. KLC is only as strong as you make us. When your voices are heard collectively, you make a difference.

I just love having the editor of one of our leading newspapers congratulate us on our successes! When they notice the positive results our efforts produce, we know we're on the right track. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sylvia L. Lovely
Executive Director/CEO
Kentucky League of Cities

YOUNG VOICES

Calling All Youth Programs!

Does your city encourage youth participation and involvement in your community? If you have championed local youth in local government or community service, we'd like to hear from you.

"Cities across Kentucky are finding that they have a lot to learn from young people," said Sylvia L. Lovely, Executive Director/CEO of the Kentucky League of Cities and President of the NewCities Foundation. "We'd like to showcase the best examples of successful city



youth programs to demonstrate the value of these programs -- not only to the lives of young people in their cities and hometowns, but also to the cities themselves."

If your city has developed youth advisory councils, organized youth summits, or enhanced youth participation efforts in your city in some other way, please let us know. With ideas, contact **Robyn Miller**, KLC Senior Advisor for Program Development, at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3745 or rmiller@klc.org.

KLC Direct

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The voice of Kentucky cities

KLC Direct is published monthly by the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). KLC is a voluntary association of nearly 400 cities and provides a multitude of services to assist in improving local government. Please address any correspondence to KLC Direct, Kentucky League of Cities, 101 East Vine Street, Suite 600, Lexington, Kentucky 40507. Phone (859) 977-3700 or 1-800-876-4552. Fax (859) 977-3703. www.klc.org.

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TECH EDGE

Lawrenceburg Saves Twice Online!



Until recently, the City of Lawrenceburg has taken bids for purchases the old fashioned way, with sealed bids. Then, with the help of KLC and the Ecuity reverse auction program, they dramatically decreased their staff time involved in this process and dramatically increased their savings on big-ticket items.

The in late October, the city purchased two big-ticket items through the reverse auction program- and now considering at their next auction purchase in early 2004. The first one saved the City \$13,000 or 15% below budget estimate on a new street sweeper; the second saved \$14,000 on a new backhoe.

City officials, including Mayor Bobby Sparrow give the process high marks all around. City clerk/administrator Edwinna Baker said, "It was fascinating, fun to watch, and saved our citizens money."

For more information on the reverse auction process, contact KLCIT's Kirby Ramsey (kramsey@klc.org) or Anthony Wright (awright@klc.org) at 800-876-4552.

FROM THE FIELD

Mayor Abramson Makes Top Ten List!



Mayor Jerry Abramson

Congratulations to Louisville Metro Mayor and KLC Board Member **Jerry Abramson**, selected by *Governing* magazine as one of ten Public Officials of the Year in the November 2003 issue.

Each year, *Governing* honors public officials who took a risk, fought for a cause they believed in and triumphed against the odds, proving conventional wisdom wrong. Mayor Abramson was hailed for his efforts and "refusing to give up," on the issue of merged government, which resulted in streamlined services and enhanced economic development.



The City of Madisonville recently announced the distribution of 4,000 smoke detectors, made possible with a \$31,500 FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Initiative Grant. The smoke detectors are being distributed, free of charge, to Madisonville residents who have at least one child, in grades K-5, residing in the home. The grant will also fund materials for a school based fire prevention and safety curriculum.

Sylvia L. Lovely, Executive Director/CEO of KLC and President of the NewCities Foundation was named as one of Frankfort's "Top 20 Insiders and Power Players" in a recent issue of the *Kentucky Gazette*.

The Owensboro Police Department will use a \$380,000 Homeland Security Grant to purchase equipment and form a regional bomb squad, making it the fourth city police department in the state to have such a unit. **Owensboro Police Chief John Kazlauskas** said the unit will serve

western Kentucky between Louisville and Paducah, which both operate regional bomb units.

Mayfield Police Department Captain Mike Riley and **Senior Patrolman Chuck Farthing** are back on the job after a year of service to our country. Both are members of the 438th Military Police Unit of the National Guard and were stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Welcome Back!

Leadership Kentucky Seeks Nominees for the Class of 2004

Leadership Kentucky, celebrating its 20th anniversary, is currently seeking nominees for the class of 2004. Participants are chosen based on their proven and potential leadership abilities, civic activity, concern for the community, volunteer leadership and ability to build a greater Kentucky. To receive an application, go to lky@leadershipky.org or call 502-695-1102.

CITY PEOPLE

Fired Up! Mayor Brings Balanced Enthusiasm to Frenchburg

He always liked fighting forest fires. Reminded him of his time in the military, out there in the wilds, with the same type of command structure and the same need to think on the run. "Basically, the same challenges as going to war," he said, "without the weapons."



Mayor Dwain Benson

Dwain Benson hasn't just been a volunteer firefighter, though. For the past six years he's also served as twice-elected mayor of Frenchburg, an Eastern Kentucky city of 551.

Benson, who's lived there all his life, appreciates the old fashioned values the community offers. But he knows that even a tucked-away place like Frenchburg must adapt to the technology and challenges of today's world.

"It's wonderful to have old ways and retain some of that, but you also want to be leaping forward into the 21st Century," he said. "We've made some changes we took flack for, like buying some old buildings and removing them. But you have to change."

Most of Benson's city council members are, like him, in their 40s. One is in his 30s. "They're young and aggressive," he says. "We're all trying to make a difference."

It shows. On November 18 the city opened bids on a \$12 million water project that includes a 2 million gallon-a-day water treatment plant, an area distribution system with a 29-mile pipeline to Jeffersonville, and a 300,000-gallon storage tank.

"I can't tell you how excited we are," Benson said. "The history of this town includes some severe water shortages."

Benson also works with the Frenchburg Job Corps Center, a part of the USDA Forest Service,

which lets him help disadvantaged youths age 16-24 get a GED or high school diploma and learn a vocational trade. He recruits many of them as firefighters.

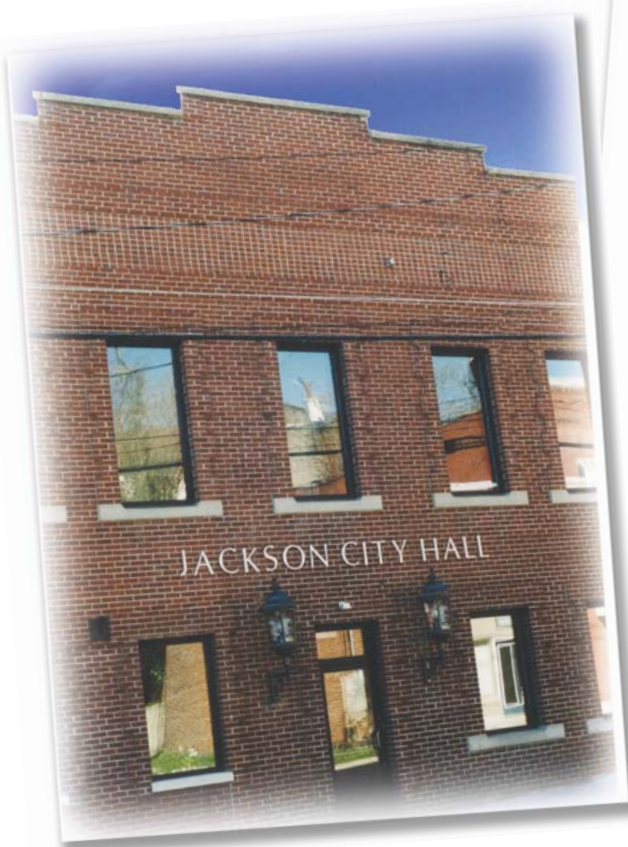
"We keep 20 to 30 students qualified so we can take a crew out when there's a fire locally. I've had crews all over Eastern Kentucky," Benson says. "But we've also sent crews to Montana. And we had some who worked on recovering the space shuttle debris."

Why fight fires?

"It's the accomplishment," he said. "It's being able to say, yes, we worked on this fire and helped put it out. You help save people's property and lives. Sometimes you save structures, or animals, or the woodlands themselves. It's a love or hate thing for most who try it. I loved it. Still do."

CITY POSTCARD

A Look at the City of Jackson



Mayor: Michael Miller

Population: 2,490

Location: Jackson is located in the heart of Breathitt County, in Southeastern Kentucky.

History: The City of Jackson was founded in 1839, and was originally called "Breathitt Town." The city's name was changed to Jackson in 1845 to honor U.S. President Andrew Jackson, who died in that year. Recently, Jackson completed a renovation of its City Hall (pictured), which was originally built by the Public Works Administration in 1936.

Festivals: The Breathitt County Honey Festival is hosted in Jackson, and takes place each year on Labor Day weekend. The festival includes food booths, arts and crafts, a parade, and of course, honey. The Honey Festival has been a tradition for over 25 years in Jackson, and was originally named after the active beekeeping/honey industry in Breathitt County.

Free Online Tools!

Tell a Teacher About City Government Month! Cities across the state are teaming up with primary schools throughout January for the celebration of City Government Month. A Kentucky League of Cities and NewCities Foundation program, "City Government Month: Our Cities, Our Future" is designed to promote citizenship in Kentucky communities.



KLC encourages city officials and teachers to combine their resources to bring civics lessons out of the textbook and in to the classroom. By hosting events at city hall, visiting your local schools, sponsoring a letter writing/essay contest or educating your local teachers about the importance of teaching civics to our next generation of citizens, you are making a difference. Participating city officials are eligible to receive course credits from the Public Officials Essential Skills Institute in the Leadership Training Center.

Download free lesson plans, activity books, supply order forms and more at www.klc.org/actioncalendar/calendar_detail.asp?id=688.

NEWCITIES NEWS

Cities Benefit from Technology Grants

At a November 13 news conference in Louisville, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded grants totaling almost \$500,000 to the NewCities Foundation for projects to bring broadband connectivity to the cities of Bellefonte and Raceland. The awards were presented by Hilda Gay Legg, RUS Administrator and a Kentucky native.

"We are delighted that we can help still more Kentucky cities take advantage of the opportunities that 21st Century technology offers," said Sylvia L. Lovely, NewCities President and KLC Executive Director/CEO.

Hilda Legg noted that critical infrastructure is "the backbone of a strong economy.

Raceland received \$276,920 and Bellefonte received \$213,094 and were two of only 34 cities nationwide to receive the funds, which



Ken Stone, State Director - USDA Rural Development, Sylvia L. Lovely, Hilda Legg, and Rep. Tanya Pulling (D-District 98)

are designed to establish broadband centers where residents can have free access to high-speed Internet service.

For more information on the grants or other NewCities initiatives, contact Tad Long, Senior Advisor for Business Development at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3739 or tlong@klc.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

KBC-LEO Gains Momentum; Seeks Audience with Fletcher Administration

After launching its new year with election of officers and a strong showing at the KLC October convention, followed by an equally dynamic African-American Agenda Summit on November 15 in Bardstown, the Kentucky Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (KBC-LEO) is off to a year with several key issues identified.

At the Summit, the caucus reviewed top concerns from across the state and determined the top issues facing African-Americans of the Commonwealth were deemed to be education and youth, justice, healthcare, lending and home ownership and employment and economic development.

In discussing the Fletcher-Pence Minority platform, KBC-LEO recognized the administration's efforts in a number of areas addressing minority issues. KBC-LEO will seek an audience and assist the new governor in working toward a common African-American Agenda.

KBC-LEO Executive Board Members

Officers:

President: Robert Coleman
Commissioner, City of Paducah
First Vice President: George A. Brown
Councilmember, LFUCG
Second Vice President: Doris Clark-Parham
Councilmember, City of Murray
Secretary: Bill Sheckles
Councilmember, City of Bardstown
Treasurer: A.W. Tinsley
Commissioner, City of Rolling Hills

Board of Directors:

Magistrate Rudolph Pettus, Hopkinsville
Councilmember Jacques Wigginton, LFUCG
Councilmember Cheri Bryant Hamilton,
Louisville Metro
Councilmember Johnny Jackson, Mayfield
Commissioner Robert R. Blythe, Richmond

LAW ABIDING

Attorney General Says Video and Audiotapes are Public Records

Has your city received any open records requests for audio or videotapes of city meetings lately? A recent Open Records decision issued by the Attorney General clarified some of the confusion related to the status of these recordings under the Kentucky Open Records Law. In 03-ORD-173, the Attorney General distinguished between two types of tapes - those purchased by the city and those purchased personally by the clerk or secretary. Under the decision, an audio or videotape of a public meeting "must be treated as a public record if the tape is prepared, owned, used, or in the possession of a public agency." In contrast, a tape purchased by a clerk or secretary on his or her own initiative and with his or her own funds is not a public record.

The decision signals a further departure from the old rule that tapes only used to assist clerks and secretaries in the preparation of minutes were considered preliminary records or drafts and, therefore, not public records under the Open Records Law. 03-ORD-173 is based upon a principle

that the citizens of the Commonwealth have an absolute right to review the records and hear the exchange of ideas among the members of every public agency.

The Attorney General also discussed the implication of the Local Government Records Retention Schedule requirement that all audio and videotapes must be kept until "after the minutes are formally accepted at [the] following meeting." This means that during the time between the meetings, where minutes were taped, and the approval of the minutes by the legislative body, tapes purchased with public funds must be made available to the public for inspection upon request. The tapes may only be destroyed after the minutes have been approved. Thus, the general rule from this decision is that any tape paid for with public funds and the possession of a city at any time is subject to production upon an open records request.

For more information on this or other legal issues, contact KLC Legal Services at 1-800-876-4552.

MEET ME AT KLC

Staff Profile

Amy Loftus

Accountant

Joined KLC June 2002



Amy Loftus, a native of Bowling Green, has been with KLC for a little over a year and a half in the Finance and Administration department. She handles the KLC staff payroll and benefits program requirements, as well as coordinates the membership billing for the KLC Unemployment Compensation Reimbursement Trust Fund. In addition, Amy serves on the KLC Employee Appreciation Team, a staff rewards program commonly referred to as the EATeam that promotes comradery among the League staff.

Amy likes the independence and responsibility she has on the job and appreciates the family atmosphere at KLC. Currently, Amy is getting "on the job training" in her latest and most rewarding role as a new mother. She and her husband, Christian are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Jade Hope, born October 1, 2003. Christian missed Jade's birth because he was in Afghanistan, serving in the Army National Guard. Amy will return from maternity leave in early January.

Contact Amy at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3783 or aloftus@klc.org.

Welcome New Staff

Rick Powell

Administrative Assistant

Joined KLC September 17, 2003



Rick can be reached at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3772, or by email at rpowell@klc.org.

STAFF NOTES

Congratulations to KLC Paralegal **Andrea Shindlebower**, who recently received not one but two of her profession's highest honors from the Greater Lexington Paralegal Association at its annual awards program. She received the Don E. Eppler Commitment Award, voted on by the entire GLPA membership signifying the respect of her peers. In addition, Andrea received the GLPA President's Award, which is given by the GLPA President to the board member who has contributed the most to the paralegal profession and to the GLPA.

At the ceremony, Andrea also took the leadership helm as 2004 GLPA President.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Educate, Celebrate, Participate

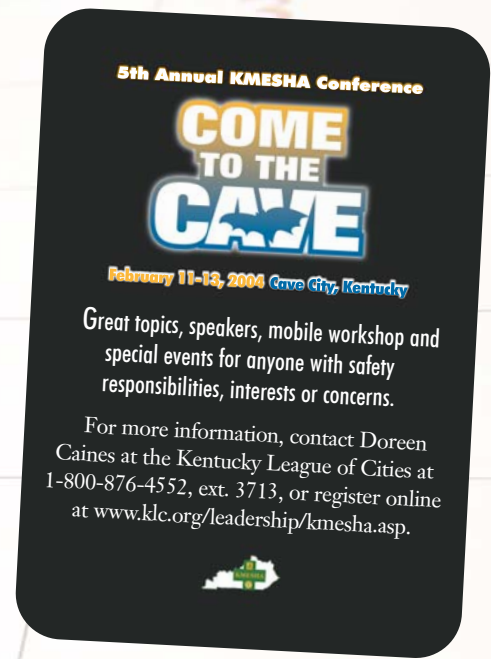
JANUARY 2004

- 9** Planning & Zoning to Meet HB 55 Requirements
Cadiz City Hall
Cadiz, Kentucky
- 20** City Government Basics
Midway College, McManis Student Center
Midway, Kentucky
- 29** Wage & Hour Basics
Pontotoc Community Building
Fulton, Kentucky

FEBRUARY

- 11-13** KMESHA Conference
Cave City Convention Center
Cave City, Kentucky
- 19** KLC City Night!
Holiday Inn Capital Plaza
Frankfort, Kentucky

For more information or to register online, visit KLC's website at www.klc.org/leadership.
With questions, contact Doreen Caines at 1-800-876-4552, or dcaines@klc.org.



We Want to Hear from You!

To submit a story or commentary for KLC DIRECT departments, please contact the KLC staff listed or go to www.klc.org. For overall feedback, contact Terri Johnson at 1-800-876-4552, ext. 3784, or tjohnson@klc.org.

LEADERSHIP ADVANTAGE

City Government Basics

What do you get when you mix city officials with education on the basic structure, organization, and power distribution in city government? How can a city official learn to properly spend public funds? Why would city officials want to understand the key elements of personnel law? To find out the answers to these questions and much more, register today for the *City Government Basics* course close to you.

City Government Basics is a newly designed course in the Public Officials Essential Skills Institute (POESI). Last year 150 newly elected officials attended the first 3-day NEO Academy in Louisville. *City Government Basics* was developed to offer essential information in a 5-hour format to reach those who were unable to attend during the 'election year' cycle.

If you want to become a more effective city official, no matter your tenure in office, this

course will acquaint you with municipal law basics from open meetings and records laws to avoiding costly lawsuits.

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- ♦ Recognize the relationships between powers and duties of city officials
- ♦ Learn to enact and enforce ordinances
- ♦ Know how to respond to Open Records Requests
- ♦ Keep meetings in compliance with the Open Meetings Law
- ♦ Learn how to properly spend public funds
- ♦ Understand the application of ethical standards on city officials
- ♦ Learn to avoid lawsuits
- ♦ Understand the key elements of personnel law

City Government Basics Course Schedule

January 20, 2004

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Midway College -
McManis Student Center

March 16, 2004

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Paintsville Fire Dept.
Training Center

April 16, 2004

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Marion/Crittenden Co.
Economic Development
Corporation

April 21, 2004

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Paroquet Springs
Conference Centre

April 29, 2004

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Greensburg Fire
Department Training
Room



Kentucky League of Cities

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