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NEWS RELEASE



2018 Kentucky League of Cities Awards Announced

Winners include Henderson Mayor Steve Austin, Hopkinsville Police Chief Clayton Sumner and the City of Pikeville. [Presentation photos.](#)

LEXINGTON, KY - The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) has announced its annual awards for Elected City Official of the Year, the City Employee of the Year and the new City Government of the Year for innovative city programs and projects. The winners were recognized on September 18 during the KLC Conference & Expo. KLC will make formal presentations locally to all winners this week.

The Elected City Official of the Year Award recognizes an official who demonstrates outstanding leadership and innovation. KLC represents more than 370 cities and thousands of city officials. The winner of this year's award is **Mayor Steve Austin from the City of Henderson.**

Austin was recognized for the exceptional skills he brings to the job. He has completed a number of projects that have increased Henderson's capacity for growth, including downtown revitalization and enhanced the quality of life for citizens. His nomination said he is a problem solver and a great listener to people of all ages and from all walks of life, including city employees and other elected officials at all levels of government. Described as approachable, professional, passionate and a gentleman, the nomination read, "We are so proud to have him represent us."

The award is sponsored by Adams, Stepner, Woltermann & Dusing, PLLC, which provides a \$1,000 donation to the charity of Mayor Austin's choice (yet to be determined).

The **City Employee of the Year Award** brings recognition to an exceptional city employee who performs at a distinguished level to improve his or her local government and community. KLC is proud to represent more than 20,000 municipal employees. This year's City Employee of the Year is **Hopkinsville Police Chief Clayton Sumner.**

With 15 decorated years of law enforcement service and numerous recognitions, Clayton Sumner became one of Hopkinsville's youngest police chiefs in 2015. He has created a standard of excellence. In one year, the city's crime rate dropped by 20 percent and case-closure rates range from two to three times better than the state average. He demonstrates that the Police Department is a great community force, not just for protection, but for good. This year, The Hopkinsville Police Department also won the Christian County Chamber of Commerce "Friend of the Community Award." The chief's nomination read, "He represents grace under pressure, integrity and respect for all."

The City Employee of the Year is sponsored by the law firm of Mazanec, Raskin & Ryder Co., L.P.A., which will provide a \$1,000 donation to Hopkinsville/Christian County Boys and Girls Clubs in honor of Chief Sumner.

This year, KLC launched the KLC City Government of the Year Award. This award recognizes a city that has done something transformational and our first ever recipient certainly demonstrates a city making a huge impact on its region.

The **City of Pikeville** received the honor for its remarkable work in the area of strategic economic development. When the coal industry faced obstacles, thousands of miners and associated workers were impacted. City leaders decided to repurpose 400 acres of property. The result was a courageous decision by city leadership and officials to develop the Kentucky Enterprise Industrial Park. All the while, the city continued to develop its downtown core, support local businesses, recruit new retail and hotels and work with Pikeville College and the local hospital. They continue to further enhance infrastructure, broadband and quality of life enhancements. Three high profile companies are now coming to Pikeville that will provide more than 1,000 jobs to Eastern Kentucky. Several small IT start-ups are now working to retrain miners for that industry and the list goes on. Now a regional hub, the city has helped bring billions of dollars to the area, all of which is changing the trajectory of Eastern Kentucky.

The City Government of the Year Award is sponsored by Collins & Company, Inc., which will provide a \$1,000 donation toward a city project.

“Our awards recognize the great work officials and employees are doing in our Kentucky cities,” said Jonathan Steiner, KLC executive director/CEO. “Our winners are exceptional examples of why cities are so important to the residents they serve, and to the commonwealth overall.”

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