





# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHAT'S



**APRIL 21, 2023**  
**8:00AM - 4:00 PM**

**Northern Illinois University Campus**  
1120 East Diehl Road  
Naperville, IL 60563

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# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**REGISTRATION/ NETWORKING/  
BREAKFAST | 8:00-8:30**

**ATRIUM**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER | 8:30-9:30**

**AUDITORIUM**

**Ray Rummel - 2022  
Manager of the Year**

Retired Elk Grove Village Manager Ray Rummel, who played an essential role in guiding the community through periods of economic challenge, rebirth and transformation retired from public service in 2022 following a 32-year career with the Village.

Attend this session as Ray will discuss how he navigated his way from being an intern to the Village Manager for Elk Grove Village. Ray will share his many successes, but also offer advice on what he wishes he knew while navigating through local government.

**MORNING SESSION #1 | 9:45-  
10:45**

**ROOM 101C**

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion  
and Belonging (DEIB):  
Reviewing Operations with  
An Equity Lens**

This panel discussion will draw insights from area public administration leaders on how to equitably review municipal operations. This open

conversation forum will highlight ways local government agencies can remove barriers to entry into public administration for minorities, financial benefits of diversity, as well as views on diversity insights from the private sector. This session will allow attendees to brainstorm ideas on what they can do as municipal management assistants and/or directors to foment unity in Governance and create a sense of belonging to all who seek to serve in municipalities across the state of Illinois.

**MORNING SESSION #2 | 9:45-  
10:45**

**ROOM 162**

**CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS  
- A CASE STUDY OF  
HIGHLAND PARK**

In today's world, communications teams must be prepared to respond to and deliver important, potentially life-saving messages during crisis situations. In this session, attendees will hear from the manager of the City of Highland Park's communications team, who will speak about her experience during the recent tragic mass shooting in the form of a case study. Attendees can expect to learn more about actionable lessons learned, how communities can improve their

communications strategies following similar incidents, understanding various stakeholder needs, media relations, media management and ongoing communications needs.

**MORNING BREAKOUT A | 11:00-  
12:00**

**ROOM 101C**

**WHAT'S NEXT IN  
DEVELOPING AND SIMPLIFY  
ENGAGING FINANCIAL  
COMMUNICATIONS**

With increasing demands for financial transparency, local governments are faced with creating financial materials that are engaging and help inform residents on the financial position of a community. Many municipalities may take a variety of avenues to create creative and understandable financial materials through producing a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) or a budget in brief document. Join this session to learn more about creating understandable and visually appealing financial materials from local government finance professionals

**MORNING BREAKOUT B | 11:00-  
12:00**

**ROOM 162**

**PLANNING FOR SUCCESS  
IN PUBLIC WORKS**

This session will give insights into



# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

retention of staff, succession planning, and professional development options. Individuals with extensive experience will talk about how to maintain a fully functional Public Works Department. The panel discussion is composed of Public Works leaders from the City of Elmhurst and formerly the Village of Westmont.

### LUNCH AND AWARDS CEREMONY

| 12:15-1:30

ROOM 101 A/B

### P.M. BREAKOUT A | 1:30-2:30

ROOM 101C

#### WHAT'S NEXT IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE

The state of Illinois offers many resources that can be leveraged to support the growth and advancement of businesses in your community. Join us for an overview of programs from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Regional Economic Development who will share the current programs that are used for business development and how to best leverage the state when you are working on project development or business assistance with resources and grant opportunities.

### P.M. BREAKOUT B | 1:30-2:30

ROOM 162

#### NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING

The landscape of local government strategic planning is constantly evolving. As the world changes, so too must our approaches to planning for the future of our communities. In this session, we will explore the future of local government strategic planning and discuss emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn from expert speakers and engage in interactive discussions on a range of topics, including:

- Emerging trends in local government strategic planning, including the role of technology and data in shaping planning processes.
- The evolving role of community engagement in strategic planning, and strategies for effective stakeholder involvement.
- Innovative approaches to strategic planning, including scenario planning and agile planning methodologies.

- Addressing challenges and opportunities in local government strategic planning, such as managing uncertainty and addressing equity and inclusion in planning processes.

### AFTERNOON PLENARY | 2:45-4:00

AUDITORIUM

#### LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE: THE RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2030 CONFERENCE

The Local Government 2030 Conference brought together thought leaders, policymakers, and local government officials from around the world to discuss the challenges, opportunities, and innovations that will shape the future of local governance.

This session will provide an in-depth overview of the major insights and best practices shared during the conference, empowering attendees to drive transformative change in their own communities.

### POST CONFERENCE SOCIAL |

4:30-6:00

ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY



# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Committee Chair	Nick Radcliffe	Assistant City Administrator	City of Marengo
IAMMA Executive Board Liaison	Trevor Bosack	Director of Parks and Recreation	Village of Lake in the Hills
Conference Committee	Ana Elizarraga	Housing & Economic Development Analyst	City of Evanston
	Karleen Gernady	Management Analyst	Village of Lindenhurst
	Matt Havlik	Assistant to the Village Manager	Village of Lisle
	Ethan J. Hoffman	Management Intern	Village of Algonquin
	Judi Luka	Management Assistant	Village Of Gurnee
	Jim Moran	Communication Manager	Village of Antioch
	Amanda M. Segreti	Municipal Services Analyst	Village of Western Springs
	Emily Shaw	Management Analyst	City of Des Plaines
	Joseph Viso	Community Engagement Specialist	Village of Lisle





# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### KEYNOTE: CAREERS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: CHALLENGING, YET REWARDING



#### ***Ray Rummel, Retired Village Manager***

Bio: Ray Rummel graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Master's in Public Administration. After completing his Master's Degree in Public Administration and working for a brief time for the Village of Lake Zurich, Rummel began serving Elk Grove Village in 1989. He became Assistant Village Manager in 1993 and was appointed Village Manager in 2007. Ray retired in 2022 following a 32-year career with the Village. Ray now enjoys his retirement traveling with his wife and mentoring the next wave of public servants.

### MORNING SESSION #1: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING (DEIB): REVIEWING OPERATIONS WITH AN EQUITY LENS



#### ***Ed Cabezas, Business Relations Manager, World Business Chicago***

Ed Cabezas is a Business Relations Manager at World Business Chicago, implementing talent & workforce development, broadband infrastructure, urban planning, and economic development projects. He is part of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee, and serves as Fellow for AmeriCorps under the Lead for America initiative. Ed is a Board Member at Large for the Illinois Local Government Hispanic Network I.L.G.H.N. as a part of its Membership committee. Previously a community organizer on the southwest side of Chicago. He holds a Bachelor of Arts & Sciences Degree in Political Science, and a Fair Housing & Fair Lending Certificate from UIC Law.



#### ***Melodi Green, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, City of Peoria***

Melodi D. Green serves as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the City of Peoria, Illinois where she is tasked with leading the city's strategy for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Ms. Green's background includes an extensive legal career, having previously worked as the Chief of the Juvenile Division of the Peoria County State's Attorney's Office. Prior to working for the County, Ms. Green worked as an attorney for the city of Peoria where she practiced as the governing trial attorney over all city administrative court calls and three circuit court calls. Ms. Green has also previously practiced law as a criminal prosecutor in nearly every adult criminal court division in Peoria County, and she began her career as an Assistant Attorney General where she practiced civil prosecutions for the Consumer Fraud Bureau in Springfield, IL.

Ms. Green is a graduate of the Southern Illinois University School of Law and HBCU Kentucky State University, and she received her Diversity and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University in June of 2021. She is a member of the Peoria County Bar Association where she serves as Chair of the Diversity Committee. She was appointed to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Police and Community Relations in 2018. She has also volunteered her time with the Street Law Program at Richwoods High School, Prairie State Legal Services, Stop the Violence, and Habitat for Humanity, among others. Ms. Green's most rewarding role is as mother to twin girls, Maklyn and McKoi.



#### ***Stephanie Mendoza, Evanston City Clerk, City of Evanston***

Stephanie Mendoza serves as the Evanston City Clerk. Elected in April of 2021, she's the city's first Latina to hold the position. Rebeca is a former Evanston/Skokie District 65 school board member who has worked as an international grants officer for Rotary International, she is the founder and president of Evanston Latinos, an advocacy group formed during the pandemic that continues to provide services to the Latinx community in Evanston. Stephanie is a first-generation American, born in California to immigrant parents from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon México. She was raised in Tijuana, Mexico and Tennessee. She attended Loyola University Chicago where she earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science. She is the first in her family to obtain a graduate degree. She has served in many impactful community service roles for organizations like Reba Early Learning Center, Child Care Network of Evanston, C&W Foundation.



# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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### MORNING SESSION #1: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING (DEIB): REVIEWING OPERATIONS WITH AN EQUITY LENS (CONTINUED)



#### ***Ghida Neukirch, Village Manager, City of Highland Park***

Ghida Neukirch is a municipal leader and community advocate with 30 years of experience in local government management. She is the first female City Manager for the City of Highland Park, IL. As a first-generation proud American, having moved to the United States from Beirut, Lebanon in 1976, she is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and fairness for all. Neukirch has successfully built and retained experienced and diverse teams with the capacity to create improved culture and performance.

Neukirch serves on a broad range of professional, civic, and philanthropic boards and committees. She is a Board Member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, Board Member and Past-President of the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood, and a founder and Executive Board Member of Community the Anti-Drug (CTAD). She serves on the Board of the Northwest Municipal Conference representing Highland Park and more than forty municipalities in the region and is past-Treasurer of the organization. Neukirch is also the Co-Founder of the Highland Park Career Exploration Program (HPCE). She is a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Management Association and is a Past President of the Illinois City/County Management Association. Neukirch is also the recipient of the Outstanding Manager Award by the Illinois City/County Management Association.

In 2012, Neukirch began her employment with the City of Highland Park as the Deputy City Manager and was promoted to City Manager in 2014. Her prior professional work includes management positions at four other municipalities in the State of Illinois. She earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Psychology from DePaul University and a Masters of Public Administration with an emphasis in Urban Management from Northern Illinois University. She and her husband Scot Neukirch, have two children, Jaclyn and Zachary.



#### ***Dr. Angel Luis Velez - Fairness & Equity Consultant at CISCO, and President & Founder at Velez Equity Diversity Consultant.***

Angel earned his PH.D. at The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in Education & Organizational Leadership. Below are just a few of his accolades

- Negocios Now, 40 under 40, Chicago Class 2022
- Member of the Illinois Council of Higher Education
- Graduate of the Last Decade Golden Alumni Award from Northeastern Illinois University

[LinkedIn: Dr. Angel Luis Velez](#)

### MORNING SESSION #2: CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS – A CASE STUDY OF HIGHLAND PARK



#### ***Amanda M. Bennett, Communications Manager, City of Highland Park***

Amanda M. Bennett is an experienced communications management professional specializing in public relations and community engagement, digital marketing, and organizational strategy. After graduating from Northwestern University, Amanda has implemented results-oriented data-driven marketing and community engagement strategies in diverse, stratified community that she's worked for. She's a creative problem solver and collaborative leader, successfully managing significant organizational change including executive leadership transition, major software rollouts, and strategic planning.



# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### A.M. BREAKOUT A: WHAT'S NEXT IN DEVELOPING AND SIMPLIFY ENGAGING FINANCIAL COMMUNICATIONS



#### ***Elizabeth Holleb, Finance Director, City of Lake Forest***

Elizabeth Holleb is the Finance Director and Treasurer for the City of Lake Forest, Illinois, having joined the City staff in June of 2012. She has her BS in Accounting from Ball State University, where she was a Cum Laude graduate of the Honors College. She is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 30 years of work experience in municipal finance. Previous employers include the Government Finance Officers Association, the Village of Northbrook, the Village of Oak Park and the City of Highland Park.

In January 2020, Elizabeth was appointed by Governor Pritzker to the Illinois Police Officers Pension Investment Fund Transition Board as a Municipal Representative and was subsequently elected to the Permanent Board effective January 2021. Current professional contributions include serving as Vice-President of the IGFOA Executive Board, member of the GFOA Education Advisory Council and the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency's Board of Directors. She has previously served in various roles with the Metro Chapter of the Illinois GFOA and the Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund Board of Trustees. She is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association and the Illinois GFOA.



#### ***Nikki Larson, Finance Director, Village of Glencoe***

Nikki is the Finance Director for the Village of Glencoe, where she has served since 2018. Prior to working for the Village of Glencoe, she was the Finance Director at the Village of Vernon Hills and the City of Highland Park. Nikki is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Public Finance Officer and Certified Senior Professional in Human Resources. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Accounting from Roosevelt University and a master's degree in Business Administration for Northern Illinois University.

Nikki serves as Treasurer of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) Executive Board and as the chair of the Growth and Engagement (GEN) Committee. Nikki also serves on the Executive Board as Vice President for the Geographic Information Systems Consortium (GISC).



#### ***Rita L. Kruse, Finance Director, City of Geneva***

Rita L. Kruse is the Finance Director at the City of Geneva since 2015 and a licensed CPA. Her career path in local government has taken her from the Village of Downers Grove, Village of Addison, and Batavia Park District. She is also an IGFOA past president and currently is on two IGFOA ad-hoc committees. She also earned her MPA from Northern Illinois University.

### A.M. BREAKOUT B: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS IN PUBLIC WORKS



#### ***Michael Ramsey, Retired Director of Public Works and Territory Sales Manager***

Michael G. Ramsey served over 35 years as a Water Supervisor, Water Superintendent and Director of Public Works for the Village of Westmont. Michael has been teaching young water operators throughout Illinois for 15 years. Michael has been an Adjunct Professor for SIUE and is currently teaching A&B and C&D courses for the Illinois EPA. He holds a Class \*A\* Illinois EPA water operator's license and is an ABC Board certified Class 2 water operator. He currently works for Water Products Company in Aurora.

Michael is a member of the American Public Works Association and for over 25 years a member of the American Water Works Association. Michael is a past trustee of the Illinois Section AWWA and currently serves on many committees for them. Michael is the current National Chair of the AWWA Competitions Committee and is the inventor of Hydrant Hysteria Competition.

In 2017, Michael received the Clifford Fore Award for his commitment to water operators and in 2018 he received AWWA highest honor by receiving the George Warren Fuller Award.





# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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### A.M. BREAKOUT B: PLANNING FOR SUCCESS IN PUBLIC WORKS (CONTINUED)



#### **Stanley Balicki, Director of Public Works, City of Elmhurst**

Stan Balicki is the Director of Public Works for the City of Elmhurst. Holding an Illinois Class C Water Operator's License and a Master of Public Administration degree from Northern Illinois University, Stan leads a department of 90 full-time employees responsible for engineering, water and sewer operations, refuse and recycling operations, maintenance of city streets, forestry and grounds, building maintenance and the central garage with an operating budget of \$56 million. Having spent his 30-year career in public works field management and operations, Stan previously served as the Village of Downers Grove's Assistant Director of Public Works from 2004 to 2020. He has a passion for environmental initiatives including sustainability projects such as solar and wind power, and the use of alternative fuel in municipal fleets.

### P.M. BREAKOUT A: WHAT'S NEXT IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE



#### **Agnes Masnik, Northeast Regional Manager, Office of Regional Economic Development**

Agnes Masnik has worked in public service for the state of Illinois, for almost 20 years, and with the Illinois Department of Commerce (DCEO) since December 2015. In her current role, she is responsible for managing the Northeast Region for the Office of Regional Economic Development. Over the past six years, she has worked for DCEO in various roles from Assistant Deputy Director of Regional Economic Development, Business Development Operations Manager, and Communications Manager.

Agnes' specialty in economic development is working with companies from a variety of industries to identify comprehensive solutions, that support their efforts whether it be business attraction or expansion - helping businesses navigate state programs, incentives, and tax credits.

Agnes also serves the Mid-America EDC board, a thirteen-state economic development organization, since February 2020. Prior to DCEO, Agnes worked for the Illinois Senate for over ten years. She resides in Lake County, Northern Illinois with her husband and two children.

### P.M. BREAKOUT B: NAVIGATING THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PLANNING



#### **Cory Poris Plasch, President, CP2 Consulting**

Cory Poris Plasch is the founder of CP2 Consulting, a strategic planning and organizational development firm that partners with local governments, nonprofits, and community leaders to create and implement measurable strategic plans. With a master's degree in public administration and extensive experience in public and private sector leadership positions, including Executive Director of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association, Membership Director for the Alliance for Innovation, and Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at POLCO, Cory is passionate about helping the public sector and nonprofits achieve significant impact and results. She speaks nationally on topics such as civic engagement, data-driven decision making, innovation in local government, and engaging hard-to-reach populations.

### AFTERNOON PLENARY: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE: THE RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2030 CONFERENCE



#### **Kimberly Richardson, Assistant City Manager, City of Peoria**

Kimberly Richardson is the President of the League of Women in Government, and Assistant City Manager for the City of Peoria. Prior to joining Peoria in 2022, she served as the Deputy City Manager for the City of Evanston, IL where she led the efforts in the creation of their first local reparations program for Black Evanstonian centered around housing. She holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. She is past president of the Legacy Project and Illinois Association of Municipal Management Assistants (IAMMA), and currently is a board member of the Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA), and an active member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFPA).





# 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE POST CONFERENCE SOCIAL

JOIN FELLOW IAMMA MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES AFTER THE CONFERENCE  
FOR A FUN SOCIAL EVENT AT:

## 4:30PM-6:00PM

### Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery 28256 Diehl Road, Warrenville, IL 60555

COMPLIMENTARY WINE AND APPETIZERS PROVIDED BY OUR SPONSORS.  
CASH BAR AVAILABLE FOR BEER AND LIQUOR.



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