

ILCMA Leadership Institute
May 29, 2025

Elected Board Relations

Building Effective Relationships



David L. Brummel

- Mayor of Warrenville (2005-2025)
- Warrenville City Council (2001-2005)
- Cabinet Maker and Educator



Cristina White

- Warrenville City Administrator (2022 – Present)
- Warrenville Assistant City Administrator (2016 – 2022)
- Background in Human Resources and Risk Management

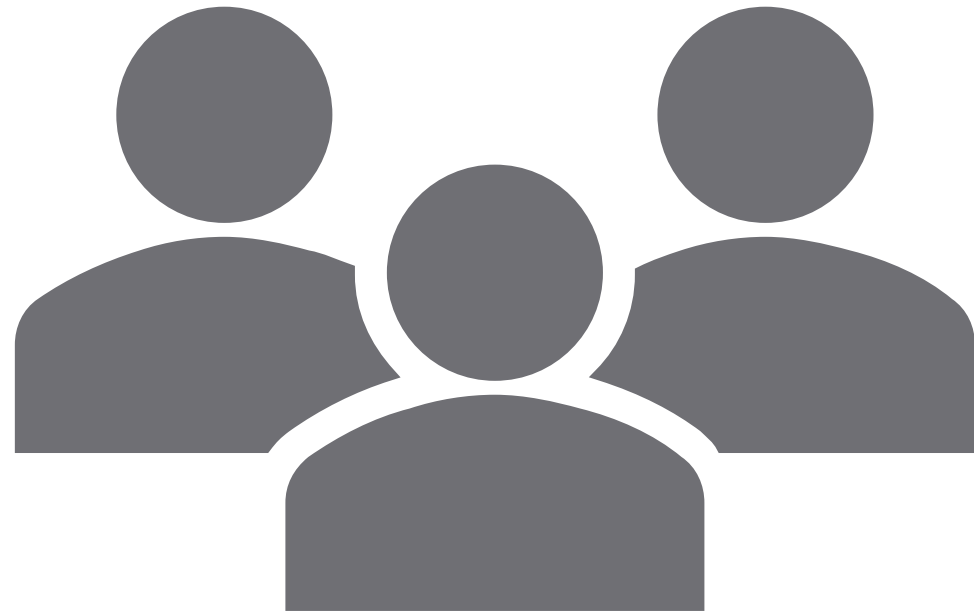


Start off the Right Way

Foundations of a Positive Relationship

Communication

- Regular, relevant, and reliable
- Politically Sensitive
- Professional
- Responsive



Trust

- Build credibility
- Consistency and Reliability

Foundations of a Positive Relationship



Ethics

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Service

Respecting the Roles

- Policy-making
- Operations
- Shared Goals

Types of Communication



Management Expectations

Prudent financial stewardship

Competent and data-driven
recommendations

Effective management of employees

Excellent service to customers

Support decisions of elected body
(even if you disagree)

Adaptable Management Style

Mayor and
Manager
relationship

Relationship
with individual
elected officials

Be prepared for
changes in
expectations or
needs

Lead
authentically



Communicate often and honestly



Be prepared



Take ownership of responding to the public



Provide updates on important projects



Deliver the bad news...and the solution

Lessons Learned and Best Practices



Always be polite and respectful



Establish clear boundaries for communication with staff



Don't embarrass elected officials – correct misstatements privately



Understand the priorities of specific elected officials

Lessons Learned and Best Practices

QUESTIONS?

