

**July 8, 2015**  
**Issue #66**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Page 4: Beware of Hotel Scammers when Registering the League's Annual Conference and Expo  
Orlando to Host 2015 NLC University Leadership Summit

## **Governor Brown Signs League-Supported Legislation to Improve Financial Reporting Process for Local Governments**

With bills now moving through committees and on to the floor in the second house, Gov. Jerry Brown is beginning to take action on legislation that reaches his desk. The Governor on Thursday, July 2, signed League-sponsored AB 341 (Achadjian), an important measure that enhances local government transparency by adjusting the timing under which local agencies must submit financial and employee compensation data to the State Controller. This legislation goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **July 16 Webinar on How to Monetize City and County Telecom Assets**

The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) is hosting a free one-hour webinar on July 16 on a new program that can help cities and counties monetize their telecom assets. The League sponsors CSCDA. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Mayors and Council Members Department Announces New Mentorship Program** *Applications due Aug. 3*

This year marks the first for the newly created Mayors and Council Members Department mentor program. Created by the department's executive committee, the program provides an important resource — experienced elected officials to offer advice on the fast paced environment of city leadership. *For more, see Page 3.*

Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian's (R-San Luis Obispo) legislation is the result of several months of meetings between local agency representatives and the Controller's office. These discussions focused on how to improve the accuracy of local data by adjusting the deadline for local agencies to submit annual financial transactions reports and employee compensation information to the Controller.

Under the current statute, local agencies are required to submit this data to the State Controller's office within 110 days of the end of the agency's fiscal year. Most local agencies operate on a fiscal year that runs July 1 to June 30, which means that these agencies have just three and a half months to complete final audited data. The problem, however is that typically auditing firms can take up to six months to complete their work. Local agencies potentially submitted incomplete data to the Controller and then had to resubmit updated information. When AB 341 goes into effect in 2016, the deadlines to submit this data will mean that the Controller receives complete data, increasing the transparency of local government to the public.

The legislation also changes the timing requirements for local agencies to submit employee compensation information to the Controller. Agencies had to send this data for the prior calendar year in October, which again led to outdated data. Now agencies will be required to submit the data annually by April 30, just after employee W-2 information is released. The revised process, which the leadership of the League's Fiscal Officers Department refined, will save costs and time to both local agencies and the state while providing more accurate data to the public.

The League appreciates the collaborative work of Assembly Member Achadjian, the California State Association of Counties, the California Special Districts Association and the office of new Controller Betty Yee in this successful effort.

## Details

The Municipal Telecom Market: How Local Governments are Seizing the Opportunity:

Date/Time: Thursday, July 16, 10-11 a.m.

Presenters:

- Jon Penkower, managing director, CSCDA
- Mark Widener, managing director, Jefferies LLC

[Register online.](#)

## Background

Through Jefferies, CSCDA's new program assists public agencies in identifying, measuring and valuing to monetize certain telecommunications related assets. In some cases these assets are unutilized or underutilized. The program focuses primarily on existing third party leases with cell carriers on government-owned infrastructure (towers, buildings, etc.) with the secondary benefit of identifying additional potential value from these assets.

Given the exponential growth in smartphone and tablet use, bandwidth needs are increasing at great rates and the demand is putting tremendous pressure on the telecommunication providers to expand networks. This has in turn pushed the value of existing telecommunication assets to all-time highs and fueled demand for new tower and alternative infrastructure needs for antenna placements.

Many states, cities, counties, and municipal utilities have developed communications infrastructure to support their own needs: public safety, 9-1-1, First Responder, SCADA, etc. In some cases, excess capacity on this infrastructure has been made available to telecommunication service providers and other third-parties for communications needs. These third-party leases are being purchased by tower companies for some of the highest valuations

ever seen in the industry as the cell tower market continues to consolidate. In other cases, the excess capacity has not been made available to third parties and now provides the government owner significant future value waiting to be tapped.

---

#### **'Mentorship Program' Continued from Page 1...**

Interested city officials must apply by Aug. 3. Mentor-mentee pairings will be made prior to the League's Annual Conference in late September. This free program is only available to League members.

### **Background**

There is a growing interest among the membership for the department to offer a mentorship program. In the fast paced political arena, often mentoring becomes a priority that gets put on the back burner. Newly elected members stand to gain a tremendous amount from more seasoned members who can share their experiences and offer advice about how they have handled challenges in their tenure.

### **Mentors**

Mentors should have at least eight years of experience in elected office. Experience can be in a variety of areas including the planning commission and other boards or commissions. The Membership Committee encourages applicants to have achieved the Advanced Leadership level of the Mayors and Council Members Academy.

### **Mentees**

Mentees are typically members who have been elected within the last four years. Newly elected members will be given priority but any member interested in having a mentor can sign-up through the application process.

### **Time Commitment**

The Mayors and Council Members Mentoring Program is designed for elected city officials to receive advice and counsel from one another. The mentoring experience is what the mentor and mentee make of it, but the following minimum participation from both individuals is encouraged:

- Establish a timeline of monthly communication (i.e. email, phone calls or coordinating to meet during various League activities/meetings);
- Agree to meet at the MCM Executive Forum, New MCM Academy or Annual Conference; and
- Provide feedback to the Mentorship Committee via periodic emails and a year-end evaluation.

### **Application Process**

Applications are available on the League website or contact Sara Rounds to request a Mentor or Mentee application. Completed applications can be faxed to (916) 658-8240 or [emailed](#).

Aug. 3 is the application deadline.

- [Mentor Application](#)
- [Mentee Application](#)

For more information about the program, please contact [Sara Rounds](#) at (916) 658-8243.

---

## **Beware of Hotel Scammers when Registering the League's Annual Conference and Expo**

The League has received word that hotel scammers are at it again. Some are saying hotel rates have dropped and may ask for your booking information. Beware of unauthorized housing and hotel reservation services (two examples are Global Travel Partners and Exhibitor Housing Services) that may solicit your business. They may say the League's hotel block is sold out or use some other ploy to book you into a hotel for a room that may not exist. All legitimate communications regarding housing will come directly from the League of California Cities<sup>®</sup>. Using unauthorized reservation services may create real problems for you and the conference as a whole. You cannot be assured that your credit card information is secure and your room reservation may not actually be made if you use an unauthorized service.

If you receive a suspicious email or phone call asking to book your hotel room for the conference, please contact the League so staff can take immediate action. As always, the League is available to answer your questions on any aspect of the Annual Conference. The League does its very best to ensure your participation is both enjoyable and highly productive.

---

## **Orlando to Host 2015 NLC University Leadership Summit**

The National League of Cities (NLC) 2015 Annual Leadership Summit will be held at [Loews Portofino Bay Hotel at Universal Orlando](#), in Orlando, Florida, on Sept. 16-19. This year the theme of the program is "Leading through Tough Times." Leadership scholars and experts will explore how to handle challenging community situations, and prepare local leaders to address real-world problems.

This year's summit will feature:

- A keynote address from Mayor Buddy Dyer, who will speak about how the city of Orlando is becoming a hub for innovation, thereby leading to a surge in the younger demographic;
- Special presentations by members NLC's new [R.E.A.L. \(Race, Equity, and Leadership\)](#) initiative;
- A leadership workshop on building trust and resilience, by [Roy W. Reid](#), executive director of communications, University of Central Florida College of Business; and
- Two special receptions hosted in conjunction with the city of Orlando.

The Annual Leadership Summit is as an interactive leadership retreat designed specifically for local government officials. It features presentations by noteworthy leadership scholars and provides many opportunities for engaged learning and networking with leaders from across the nation.

The summit's limited group size fosters a more personalized experience and encourages an actively involved audience. A smaller, more intimate group environment enables the trainers to focus more effectively on the needs of the communities that the participants represent. The aim of the program is to cover leadership skills and topics that are valuable to local leaders on every level.

## **Michael Lynch Scholarship Available**

NLC created a scholarship to attend the Annual Leadership Summit in remembrance of one of their former members, Michael Lynch, who died in a shooting at a city council meeting in Kirkwood, Missouri, in 2008. The [Michael H.T. Lynch Memorial Scholarship](#) awards the recipient a stipend in the amount of \$2,500 to cover travel expenses and your registration fee. Michael H.T. Lynch exemplified the leadership skills that the Annual Leadership Summit attempts to cultivate in its participants: a devotion to public service, and pursuing continuing education in order to improve their leadership skills and better serve their community.

For more information about the Michael H.T. Lynch Memorial Scholarship or the 2015 Annual Leadership Summit, please visit the [NLC website](#) or contact [NLC University](#).

---