Council – Manager Relations

MML Capital Conference

Presented by:
Dr. Sheryl L. Mitchell
City Administrator, Lathrup Village, MI

Council – Manager Relations **THE GOOD**

Good

- Regularly scheduled meetings in person
- Frequent communications on emerging issues
- Council/Mayor Reads materials; provides questions in advance so Administration is prepared to provide responses at meeting



Council – Manager Relations **THE BAD**

Bad

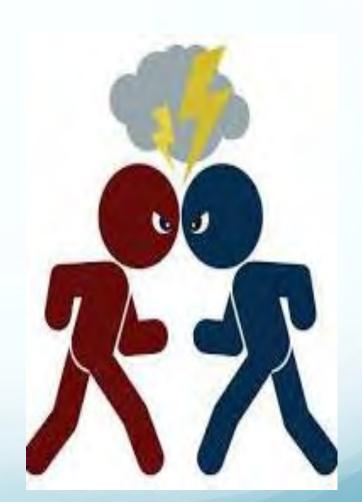
- Smiles in face; throws under bus as 1st sign of trouble
- Cares; but unavailable
- Is provided information; but doesn't read it prior to meeting



Council – Manager Relations **THE UGLY**

Ugly

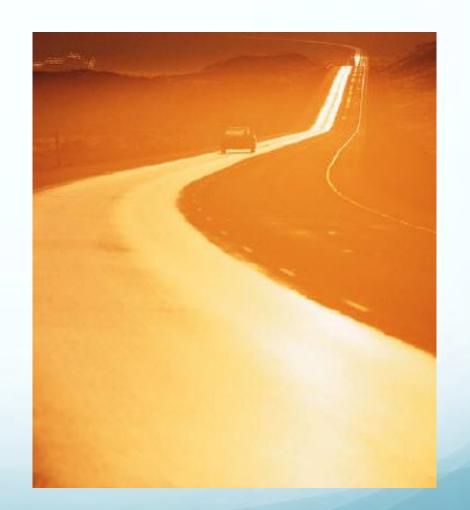
- Mayor or Manager refuses to meet
- Makes disparaging remarks on social media; fake news
- Doesn't believe/trust anything that they are told
- Plays "gotcha" at public meetings



Council – Manager Relations **BOUNDARIES**

BOUNDARIES

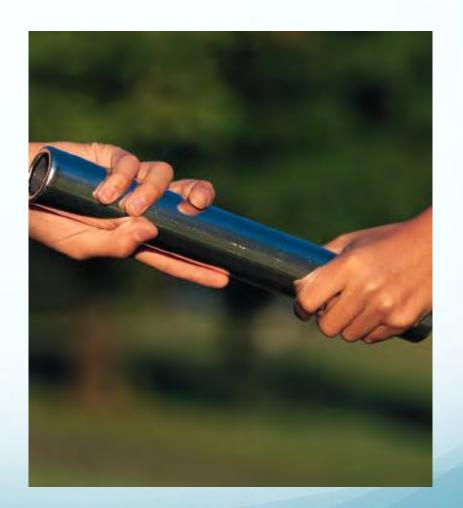
- Regular, 1-on-1, faceto-face contacts
- KNOW your lane...and
 STAY in your lane
- Every elected official has a constituency – know what is important to them



Council – Manager Relations COMMON GOALS

COMMON GOALS

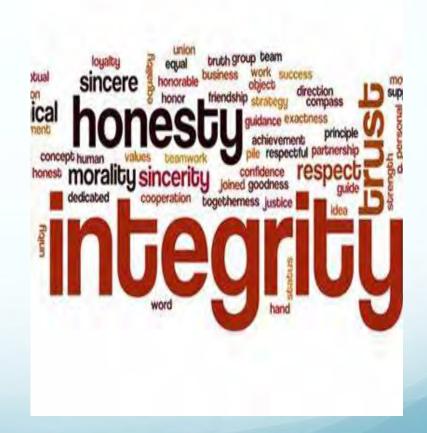
- Align the goals of Council and Manager
- Focus on common threads and build upon them
- Deep dive into & understanding of critical issues – builds trust & goodwill



Council – Manager Relations CIVILITY

CIVILITY

- More than politeness
- Disagreeing without disrespect
- Listening past ones preconceptions



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