



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.
Better Michigan.

1675 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

TEL 734.662.3246 800.653.2483
FAX 734.662.8083
WEB www.mml.org

Contact:

Matt Bach, Director of Communications
Michigan Municipal League
734-669-6317
mbach@mml.org
www.mml.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2011

**Michigan Municipal League Honors Officials, Organizations from
Hamtramck, Howell, Kentwood and Detroit**

LANSING, Michigan – Several people, communities and organizations were honored with Outstanding Service Awards on Wednesday during the Michigan Municipal League's annual Capital Conference April 5-6 in Lansing.

Each year, the League's Outstanding Service Award is given to recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in supporting our legislative efforts in Lansing. Those honored with Outstanding Service Awards for 2011 were:

Mayor Rick Root

Kentwood Mayor Rick Root is a passionate advocate for the city of Kentwood and the League. He is an avid participant in the legislative process by testifying in legislative committees and attending rallies. Mayor Root readily comes to Lansing any time he is asked and he has proven to be a valuable resource for our lobbying staff. He is active in his local media by writing letters to the editor and fighting for our communities in the media. Mayor Root's commitment to our communities is invaluable.

Mayor Karen Majewski

Hamtramck Mayor and League Board Vice President Karen Majewski has been a fantastic voice for communities across Michigan when it comes to speaking about the financial concerns cities are facing. She takes time out of her schedule to come to Lansing as often as she can to testify on issues such as revenue sharing, speaking as both a mayor of one city and a concerned leader for communities statewide. Her testimony is poignant and her passion shines through as she talks to legislators from around Michigan.

(MORE)

Mike McGee

Attorney Mike McGee of Miller Canfield in Detroit is instrumental in providing the League's Lansing team feedback on various bills that address local government in Michigan. He is an expert at giving both legal and practical advice on legislation and its impact on our communities. He dedicates a significant amount of time to answer questions from League staff, participate in workgroups, or come up to Lansing to be our "expert in the field." His dedication to helping Michigan communities succeed is recognized by everyone and appreciated greatly.

City of Howell

The city of Howell has dedicated many resources to advancing the legislative agenda and causes of the League. City Manager Shea Charles testifies frequently on a variety of issues as the League's chair of the Municipal Finance Committee. He has helped shed light in legislative committees on issues from municipal bonding to tax exemptions. Mayor Geraldine Moen also serves as a board member for the Michigan Association of Mayors and helps ensure mayors remain active advocates for our issues. Howell Police Chief George Basar is an active participant in the League through his role as legislative chairman for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Basar works closely with League staff on various legislative issues and has testified on multiple occasions.

Detroit Economic Growth Corporation

The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) has been instrumental in talking to legislators, legislative leadership, and the Granholm and Snyder administrations about important urban issues. President and CEO George W. Jackson, Jr. has been a driving force for urban redevelopment in Detroit and has worked with the League to show legislators the importance of economic development tools to keep urban areas on equal ground with greenfields. Vice President of Board Administration Art Papapanos has testified in Lansing on issues like Brownfield and historic credits working in conjunction with local abatements. Vice President of Business Development Olga Savic-Stella is an active contributor on the League's Economic Development and Land Use Committee, and is in frequent contact with League staff about important legislative issues. The DEGC provides a necessary avenue for the city of Detroit to assist the League in pushing for important urban issues, and provides the League with an avenue to work with Michigan's largest city.

###

Photos available at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/michigancommunities/sets/72157626263761805/>