

## LEAGUE OF CITIES 2012 IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

### WHAT IS THE LEAGUE OF CITIES?

ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN WESTERN CITIES MAGAZINE BY CHRIS MCKENZIE, IN DECEMBER 1898, A SMALL GROUP OF CITY OFFICIALS GATHERED FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE LEAGUE OF CITIES. THE LEAGUE ADDRESSES THE APPROPRIATE ROLE OF THE STATE IN RELATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE NEED TO PROTECT LOCAL CONTROL OVER LOCAL MATTERS. THE LEAGUE DEFENDS LOCAL CONTROL BY LOBBYING, THE INITIATIVE PROCESS, AND LITIGATING WHEN NECESSARY.

THIS YEAR, THE CITY OF GALT SENT 5 COUNCIL MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE MAYOR, THE CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, AND THE CITY ATTORNEY TO SAN DIEGO TO THE LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE. SO OFF WE WENT TO BE LIKE SPONGES SOAKING UP IDEAS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO CHALLENGES FACING OUR TOWN. AS MAYOR, I CHOSE TO ATTEND SOMETHING TITLED "HOMEGROWN ECONOMIES". I LEARNED HOW SOME CITIES ARE SURVIVING THE IMPACT OF THE GOVERNOR'S DOING AWAY WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES. ONE TOOL WAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS LIKE THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE HAS CREATED. THEY WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE \$5 MILLION TO INVEST IN SEED MONEY TO START THIS PRIVATE/PUBLIC CORPORATION. I DON'T SEE GALT HAVING THAT KIND OF MONEY AT THIS TIME TO INVEST IN THAT IDEA, BUT IT IS AN IDEA TO EXPLORE. THE CITY OF VISTA DISCOVERED A NICHE INDUSTRY IN THE BREWING INDUSTRY THAT THEY FEEL IS SUCCESSFUL. I HAVE FELT THAT IDEA MIGHT WORK WITH OUR OWN DAIRY INDUSTRY.

THERE WERE SOME FUN AND CREATIVE IDEAS THAT WOULD MARKET YOUR TOWN AND ALSO CREATE PRIDE IN COMMUNITY. PETER KAGEYAMA TALKED ABOUT, "FOR LOVE OF CITIES". GALT DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT A WHILE BACK CALLED "I LOVE GALT"

ONE SESSION I WENT TO THAT I THOUGHT WAS ESPECIALLY HELPFUL WAS, "EFFECTIVELY REDUCING PUBLIC SAFETY LIABILITY EXPOSURES". IF THERE IS WAY THAT WE CAN QUIT GIVING ALL THOSE LAWYERS SO MUCH MONEY, I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT IT. THE MAIN POINT OF THIS SESSION WAS, IT BEGINS IN THE HIRING! AS A MOTHER, IT REMINDED ME THAT IF YOU WANT TO HAVE GOOD CHILDREN, YOU HAVE TO START IN THE BEGINNING. THEY ALSO TALKED ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS HAVE EXCELLENT REPORTING BY POLICE OFFICERS, OR ANYONE ELSE DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC.

A MOST INTERESTING SESSION WAS TITLED, "TOP TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CITY FINANCES TODAY". THIS WAS MORE ABOUT UNDERSTANDING HOW THE STATE IS ABLE TO TAKE MONEY FROM THE CITIES AND THE SCHOOLS TO FILL THE GAP THE STATE NEEDS TO BALANCE THEIR BUDGET WITHOUT ANYONE REALIZING WHAT THEY ARE DOING SUCH AS "THE TRIPLE FLIP".

WHAT WAS APPARENT TO ME IS THAT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WANTS TO DICTATE TO GALT JUST WHAT THEY WILL ALLOW US TO DO. AT THIS LOCAL LEVEL, WE ARE CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE AND WHEN YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THE CITIES, YOU ARE DIRECTLY TAKING AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE.

WAS IT WORTH OUR TIME AND THE CITIES MONEY TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE? I BELIEVE TO PROTECT OUR CITY AND THE PEOPLE OF GALT AND AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE, IT IS IMPORTANT. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE PART OF A BIGGER GROUP THAT CAN MAKE LOUDER NOISE THAN I CAN BY MYSELF AND TO ALSO LEARN NEW IDEAS, SOLUTIONS, AND RESOURCES LIKE GRANT MONEY. I ALSO FEEL THAT I NEED TO SHARE WITH THE PEOPLE OF GALT WHAT THE LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE IS ABOUT. OBVIOUSLY, I LEARNED MORE THAN WHAT I SHARED HERE AND I HOPE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IN THE FUTURE.