Session Objectives

- Understand and appreciate community demands on council members
- Apply the city manager’s office policy for reporting council requests
- Recognize the importance of bridging the gap between council and staff
Council-Staff Relations

Suggestions on improving relations with our elected officials.
Never compete with elected officials for public recognition/attention.

“We’re not the face or the voice of the city.”
Number 2

Do the small stuff well for them so they can trust you on the big stuff:

“Pay attention and remember what’s important to your elected officials.”
Always have time for your elected officials—don’t forget to make them your priority:

“If they don’t feel valued, it is difficult to build team.”
Implement city council decisions faithfully:

“Support the decision even if it’s not what you would have done.”
Always maintain your professionalism:

“Don’t make it personal.”
Number 6

Be realistic regarding the separation between “policy” and “administration”:

“Realize things aren’t always black and white.”
Help elected officials become better policy makers:

“Help them stay focused on what they’re supposed to do by providing them options to consider with supporting details for thoughtful analysis.”
Number 8

Present facts and information fairly and without spin:

“Never cross the line regarding influencing a policy decision.”
Number 9

Be realistic regarding the number and types of issues you can tackle at the same time:

“Don’t try to take on all of the important issues all at once.”
Number 10

Have clear communication and agreement regarding our role and the council’s expectations:

“You can’t perform up to expectations if you don’t know what they are.”
Every time the council changes it is a new job interview:

“Never take this relationship for granted.”
Number 12

If council doesn’t trust or believe that you are honest and have integrity...

Nothing else matters!