

To: Mayor Ed Braddy
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins
Commissioner Lauren Poe
Commissioner Yvonne Hinson-Rawls
Commissioner Todd Chase
Commissioner Susan Bottcher
Commissioner Randy Wells
City Manager Russ Blackburn

From: Kurt Bressner, ICMA-CM, ICMA/FCCMA Range Rider

Re: Government Form Options Meeting – Gainesville, FL

Date: August 22, 2013

Thank you for inviting me to discuss the Council-Manager Form of city government at your meeting of August 27, 2013. While Gainesville is no stranger to the Council-Manager Form having been one of the first cities in Florida to adopt the form, it is a good idea to take stock of the form and options for local governance.

By way of background, I am a retired City Manager with 33 years experience as City or Village Manager in four Council-Manager Form municipalities. The four communities were different in local governmental structure yet all operated under the Council-Manager Form. One community, a City, had a governing board of a Mayor who did not vote except in ties and eight Aldermen elected from wards (Wood Dale, IL). The next was a Village with four Commissioners and a Mayor all elected at large (Downers Grove, IL). A Village with a President and four Trustees all elected at large (Bensenville, IL). My Florida experience was from 2000 to 2011 in Boynton Beach, which has a Mayor and four Commissioners each elected from a district. The constant feature in all four communities was the Council-Manager Form where the Manager was the

administrative head of the municipality and the elected governing body the policy making arm of the community. Each community had a different flavor, politics and path, yet the Council-Manager Form works well.

After leaving Boynton Beach I have remained engaged in the city management as a volunteer via the Range Rider Program under the auspices of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA). I have attached the brochure about the Range Rider Program to better describe the purpose and function of the program. We moved from Boynton Beach to Vero Beach last year to be closer to our two young grandchildren and help with their care giving two very busy professional parents a break.

The materials I have provided for the meeting are as follows:

1. A PowerPoint Presentation on the Council-Manager Form
2. National statistics – Most Prevalent Form of Local Government in Specific Populations (2013) Council-Manager (CM) compared with Mayor-Council (MC) – the Council-Manager Form operates in 69% for cities in Gainesville’s population range between 100,000 and 249,999
3. National statistics – Form of Local Government: Longitudinal Statistics (1984-2012) – The chart shows the growth of the Council-Manager Form in the United States
4. CNN Money Magazine Top 100 “Best Places to Live 2011” 51% were Council-Manager Form communities
5. CNN-Money Magazine Top 50 “Best Places to Live 2013” 66% were Council-Manager Form Communities
6. FCCMA Range Rider Brochure

Thank You