Mayor Tom Butt Represents City of Richmond During League of California Cities’ Policy Committee Meetings in Sacramento

RICHMOND, Calif., Mayor Tom Butt represented the City of Richmond in Sacramento at the League of California Cities’ (LCC) first policy committee meetings in 2016. Mayor Butt serves on the Environmental Quality Policy Committee, which reviews issues related to air and water quality, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), integrated waste management, hazardous materials, coastal issues and utilities. The committee met on January 21.

“Richmond benefits from the League’s policy committees because we are able to weigh in on issues that will affect our budgets and shape future policies. Without these meetings, our influence on the state’s decisions would be greatly diminished,” said Mayor Butt.

“At last week’s meeting, we received a thorough briefing on the governor’s budget, which was presented the same day as Governor Brown’s State of the State address. Perhaps more importantly, we were briefed in detail about transportation and cap and trade revenue, which provides a lot of opportunities for the City of Richmond.”

“These meetings provide an opportunity for city officials to learn about statewide proposals affecting California cities and have their voices heard by the League and translated into direct advocacy efforts,” said League Executive Director Chris McKenzie.

There are eight standing League policy committees including Administrative Services; Community Services; Employee Relations; Environmental Quality; Housing, Community and Economic Development; Public Safety; Revenue and Taxation; and Transportation, Communications, and Public Works. These committees evaluate proposed legislation as it relates to existing policy and make recommendations for legislation where the League currently does not have policy.

The League’s policy-making process allows the issues facing California cities to be debated and the organization’s policy directions to be established. Close to 400 city officials serve on the League’s policy committees and add their collective expertise, wisdom and opinions to the policy debate that is the foundation of League policy. The recommendations from the policy committee are forwarded to the League board of directors.

Following the January meetings in Sacramento, the League’s policy committees will meet April 7-8 in San Diego, June 2-3 in Sacramento and in October during the League’s annual conference in Long Beach.
At the same time the mayor is actively advancing LCC policy at a state wide level, he is set to represent Richmond at the New Partners for Smart Growth conference in February, a function of the Local Government Commission. Joined by Marin Clean Energy, the mayor will highlight the policy and partnerships that are supporting the development of the 10.5 MW Solar One project and the success of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) as a publicly owned energy provider. As political challenges continue to threaten the growth of CCA’s in California, the strong example set by Richmond will support state-level legislation to help cities and communities that want to reduce their carbon footprint.

“Having just returned from the historic COP 21 (Conference of Parties), UN Conference on Climate Change, it is exceedingly clear that cities are on the front lines of reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” said Mayor Butt. “The Paris agreement’s success will depend on local cities. It’s up to us to show the way.”

For more information on the League’s policy development process please visit its website at www.cacities.org/polcomm

About the League of California Cities
Established in 1898, the League of California Cities is a nonprofit statewide association that advocates for cities with the state and federal governments and provides education and training services to elected and appointed city officials.

# # #