

March 12, 2010

Dear ICMA Awards Committee:

As the former mayor of the City of East Lansing, I am pleased to nominate East Lansing City Manager Theodore J. Staton, for an Award for Career Excellence in Honor of Mark Keane. I have known Ted for fourteen of the fifteen years he has served the City and value his longstanding commitment to working with officials from the international community to implement and enhance representative democracy at the local level, both at home and abroad. Ted's extensive work in this arena has lead to meaningful exchanges and global relationships that benefit everyone involved and, I believe, is deserving of recognition by the ICMA. I respectfully submit this nomination for your consideration.

Prior to coming to the City of East Lansing in 1995, Ted served as assistant city manager in Dayton, Ohio, where he was responsible for international visitors who came to study the city's unique method of citizen participation called "priority boards". In fact, these boards were a topic of discussion in the book "Reinventing Government" by David Osborn and Ted Gaebler. During that time, Ted was responsible for welcoming international delegations from China, Poland and Kamchatka.

Perhaps the most significant international work Ted undertook in Dayton was to host a Japanese graduate student from the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management, named

Katsuyuki Kawai. Mr. Kawai actually lived in Ted's home for part of his stay while serving as an international intern in the Dayton Office of Management and Budget in 1988. Mr. Kawai went on to serve in the Hiroshima Prefectural Assembly being the youngest member ever elected to that body and was since elected to the Japanese House of Representatives where he also served as Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Since arriving in East Lansing Ted has been involved in global outreach on numerous fronts. He takes a particular interest in working with emerging democracies and in 2002 was invited by Michigan State University's (MSU) Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID) to visit Malawi. The purpose of the visit to Malawi was to share local government experience with the council-manager form of government along with the practice of strategic planning.

In 2005, Ted was invited to be part of a delegation from Michigan State University to participate in an exchange with officials in Cluj-Napoca, Romania during which time he lectured at Babes-Bolyai University and consulted with local government officials in Cluj-Napoca. This exchange led to the establishment of a beneficial partnership between our two cities that continues to thrive. In 2006, the City hosted an International Relations Officer from Cluj-Napoca for a one-week stay in East Lansing (she and her husband stayed in Ted's home) and in June, Ted will meet with a visiting communication and media officer, also from Cluj-Napoca. Ted has especially enjoyed an ongoing relationship with the former Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, the Honorable Emil Boc, who is now the Prime Minister of Romania. In fact, we both plan to be present in May when Prime Minister Boc receives an honorary degree from MSU. Most recently,

Ted was asked to coordinate a seminar for visiting Romanian officials around the themes of “engagement” and “entrepreneurship”. He will return to Romania this June with an MSU delegation that will continue the relationship building between our two cities and between MSU and Babes-Bolyai University.

In February of 2008, Ted was again invited by CASID to be part of a delegation engaged to work with local governments, this time in Abuja and Jos, Nigeria. I also had the privilege of being part of this delegation, which included several MSU faculty, and the retired Michigan Municipal League Executive Director, George Goodman. The delegation spent ten days sharing information with local officials about the structure and function of municipal government in Michigan and the role of non-profit organizations. Sadly, Jos has been in the news lately as the site of sectarian violence.

On the home front, Ted has hosted professional affiliates from Japan, Malawi, Vietnam, Ghana, Grenada and Zambia under the auspices of the prestigious Humphrey Fellowship program. This year, Ted has invited two fellows, one from Nepal and the other from Liberia, to complete professional affiliations with the City. Also, Ted gives frequent lectures to international students at MSU on the topic of local government history, management and structure. He has helped place several Romanian students in long term internships with the City, including a doctoral candidate. I know that Ted and his staff greatly enjoy these exchanges and learn as much from their global counterparts as they teach.

In closing, I'd like to explain from a personal perspective why I am nominating Ted for an ICMA award for his work in international outreach. I served on the East Lansing City Council for twelve years, the final two as mayor. In 2007, I decided not to seek re-election and took a leave from my career in the non-profit sector so that I could fulfill a lifelong dream to explore different cultures across the globe. I succeeded in visiting 46 countries over the 18 months that followed and came away with a lifetime of lessons about the world in which we live. Since returning in June of 2009, I have made it a personal mission to speak to students, elected officials, city managers, citizens, service organizations and more, regarding the importance of globalizing our local communities in order to be competitive and to attract world talent to our cities and to our state. Ted has been responsible for arranging three such occasions and moderating two of them. At Ted's behest, I made this presentation to 600 local elected officials at the 2009 annual Michigan Municipal League Conference, to some 300 East Lansing residents as part of a community event, and later for approximately 50 city managers during the Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) 2010 Winter Institute. I look forward to continuing to bring this message to the public with the leadership and support of individuals like Ted.

Ted's effort in the area of international outreach is nothing short of impressive as indicated by the fact that he has been invited by MSU to be part of three international delegations and will be part of a fourth headed to Romania in June. His work with developing local governments provides an ideal opportunity for discussing the benefits of the council manager form of government in a democratic political system. Here at home, the fact that he embraces the international community demonstrates his understanding that being global locally, is key to

future vibrancy, economic development and sustainability. I therefore recommend him with enthusiasm and would be pleased to answer any questions the committee might have regarding this nomination. I can be reached at 517/515-1075.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and the last name "Singh" written in a connected style.

Samir Singh