

# 10 Things I Wish I Knew

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## Moderator

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## Panelists

**Katherine Woerner Caffrey**

Assistant City Manager  
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City Attorney  
Colorado Springs, CO

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Lake Zurich, IL

# 5 Themes

- Relationships
- Mentoring
- Balance
- Active Learner
- Stop Worrying/Start Living



# Thoughts from Dave



# 1. Relationships

# Relationships



*Katherine*

- City management is as much about working with elected officials as it is about running an organization.
- Choose the right life partner because they live in the fishbowl with you.



*Wynetta*

- Government isn't intuitive for average humans.
- Cultivate acquaintance with many whom you meet.



*Ray*

- “What’s in it for me?”
- Accolades & arrows (external) vs. purpose & validation (internal).

# 2. Mentoring

# Mentoring



*Katherine*

- The best career moves can also be the most unexpected



*Wynetta*

- There is an art to navigating the grey
- Never do math in public



*Ray*

- Evolving “Mentoring” needs and roles over your career

# 3. Balance



# Balance



*Katherine*

- There is only one municipal government in every community- so be ready to move.
- Don't quit your gym, book club, or photography club.



*Wynetta*

- If someone is dead set on hanging themselves, never hand them the rope, but don't feel obligated to hide it
- Start with the assumption that everyone is trying to do good



*Ray*

- Leading without losing everyone along the way

# 4. Active Learner

# Active Learner



*Katherine*

- Raise your hand and volunteer for the unpopular projects.



*Wynetta*

- Government runs on myth and lore
- It's better to know why the bodies were buried rather than where



*Ray*

- Strategic perspective needs an attention to detail
- Taking calculated risks while being sufficiently “afraid to fail”

# 5. Stop Worryin', Start Livin'

# Stop Worryin', Start Livin'



*Katherine*

- You do not have to know how to fill a pothole.
- Don't let salary drive your decisions.



*Wynetta*

- Things are never so bad they can't be worse
- When asked your opinion, give it



*Ray*

- Public service is a calling – not a life sentence

**Thank you!**

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