

City Government Week – Celebrating during COVID-19

April 6-10, 2020, has been designated City Government Week in North Dakota. While we realize that many activities that you may have had planned for that week will not be possible, we encourage you to find other ways to celebrate your city and enhance public awareness of the role local government plays in the lives of citizens every day.

Ideas that can be promoted and shared on social media and/or your web site:

- Highlight the different departments in your city and how each one enhances the lives of your citizens.
- Interview your elected officials and staff and post their responses.
- Video your staff and/or elected officials reading a kids book and share on Facebook or your web page.
- Hold trivia contests or post fun facts about your city.
- Have a poster contest or encourage your younger citizens to submit drawings.
- Have a yard decorating contest.
- Have a parade with your city vehicles. Include your police cars, fire trucks, public works vehicles, etc.
- Send your citizens on a scavenger hunt for information and history about your city.
- Hold a baking contest with a city theme and invite citizens to post pictures of their baked goods on social media.
- Invite citizens to share something in their windows similar to the #aworldofhearts movement.
- Promote participation in the Census and why it is important to your city.

Visit www.ndlc.org/citymatters for resources and ideas that you can adapt to create your own unique city celebration.

Social Media Campaign

As a part of City Government Week, we will hold a social media campaign to celebrate local government services and facilities. City leaders, staff and residents are encouraged to take self-portraits in front of municipal property – city halls, police departments, libraries, recreation centers, parks and more – to show their pride in the important work happening at the local level. The selfies can be posted on social media with #ILuvNDCities. The League will also share the posts on our social media and use them in future publications. I encourage you to promote this selfie campaign in your community.

Future Events

Once the restrictions for COVID-19 have been lifted and life gets back to normal, your citizens will be ready to participate in social activities and celebrations. We encourage you to move forward with those community events and activities that you had planned for City Government Week. Whether they be held in the summer or fall, it is still a great opportunity to engage your citizens.

And don't forget to send pictures and a brief description of your activities to Carissa for publication in *CITYScan* and let us celebrate with you – no matter when they are held. We love hearing about the creative things you do!