



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Smart Cities Roundtable Welcomes Mayor Eugene W. Grant**

**Seat Pleasant, MD** – On October 16, 2017, Mayor of Seat Pleasant, A Smart City of Excellence, Eugene W. Grant, joined a host of subject matter experts for a Smart Cities Roundtable panel discussion at the American Association of Blacks in Energy annual event in Washington, D.C. Mayor Grant shared that the City of Seat Pleasant selected IBM as their partner to build the foundation establishing Seat Pleasant as a Smart City of Excellence, and how cities are just now tapping into data to improve city operations and to deliver services in a digital way.

The discussion addressed that smart cities is not just a trend, but it is a race. A race for jobs and talent. A race for cleaner, safer, more livable cities. A race for financial and environment sustainability. A need for federal policy efforts required to incentivize smart cities development. As innovative cities move rapidly towards smart infrastructure, they urgently need to bring their city elite and concentrate on the next stage of urban development.

“Seat Pleasant, a Smart City of Excellence, is joining other Smart Cities who use data to improve outcomes in security, safety, resilience, and social services. What makes our Smart City of Excellence unique is that they are a small municipality with the bold vision to deliver services that were previously limited to much larger cities,” said Mayor Eugene W. Grant. “These cloud-based services will provide personalized experiences for the constituents and will optimize program delivery and service outcomes for city services.”

The Smart Cities Roundtable panelists included: Timothy Robinson, Chief Counsel, Democrats, US House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Malcolm Glenn, Strategic Partnerships, Uber Technologies; David Woessner, General Manager, Local Motors National Harbor; Kwame Canty, Director External Affairs, Edison Electric Institute; and was moderated by Council President Hanifa Shabazz, City of Wilmington DE and President National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

Mayor Eugene W. Grant identified how cities can use information and communication technology to enhance economic development, sustainability, resilience, and quality of life across urban, suburban and rural communities while improving the operational efficiency of city and local government.

“Seat Pleasant will offer Smart City services that are better, faster and more personalized making it a “City for Me,” said Mayor Eugene W. Grant. “Furthermore, we will be better at delivering services to our citizens and faster in keeping pace with an ever-changing world and that is tailored specifically to the needs of our constituents.”

To view the video footage for highlights from the event, visit the City of Seat Pleasant Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/cityofseatpleasant>

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