



City of Seat Pleasant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Seat Pleasant begins the New Year with Governance Team and Strategic Planning Workshop

Seat Pleasant, MD - On February 24th and 25th, the City of Seat Pleasant's Mayor, Eugene W. Grant and the City Council members held a two-day workshop that focused on leadership for the governance team and setting a strategic direction for the City of Seat Pleasant. Specifically, the objective of the workshop was to present and review information, develop a mission, vision and other strategic plan components that promote effective and efficient utilization of collaboration and authority to meet the needs of the citizens of the City of Seat Pleasant.

Back on November 14, 2011, the Seat Pleasant City Council approved and scheduled the workshop, anticipating that this would be a priority for the City in 2012. The Council reviewed several proposals and selected Seat Pleasant's own, Mrs. E. Kim Rhim, Executive Director of The Training Source, Inc. The Training Source, Inc. is a nationally recognized not-for-profit that provides job skills training and development services, located in the City of Seat Pleasant.

During the two day workshop the Mayor and Council learned about their colleagues and the type of leadership style they exhibit along with how to work with each of these different styles to accomplish the business of the City. The Team then spent time conducting a very thorough SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis for the City of Seat Pleasant. This analysis served as the framework for the full day of strategic planning that followed, held on Saturday, February 25, 2012.

On Saturday, the Mayor and Council members rolled up their sleeves again to begin working on the strategic direction for the City. During the very informative day, the Council was able to create a draft Vision, Mission, major strategic goals and a beginning action plan for the City of Seat Pleasant. Next steps include a review of the work accomplished by the Council, along with a staff review and presentation to the City's residents and stakeholders. The Council will also look for ways to increase accountability with regard to achieving the goals and making sure the strategic direction is incorporated into all parts of the organization.

Council Member Elenora Simms, Ward I, indicated, "I think the Workshop was a success and I was able to connect the dots on different leadership and strategic planning concepts I have learned over the years." Additionally, Council President Kelly

Porter, an avid supporter of the workshop, indicated, “The workshop allowed us to accomplish a lot for the City and continue our efforts to move the City forward.” Porter went on to say, “The City Council has a great working relationship with our Mayor and management staff and this workshop moved us even closer at becoming a cohesive government.”

Mayor Eugene W. Grant summarized the importance of the workshop with, “It is very important that the Mayor and Council come together, especially in the tough economic climate in which we find ourselves working to provide services to our citizens and residents. This process allowed us to focus our efforts, by finding common ground in a cooperative spirit to move Seat Pleasant forward in becoming, A City of Excellence.”

The plan developed on Saturday will be developed into a package that will be given to the City Administrator who will present to the management team for comment and feedback. Later citizens and residents will have an opportunity to give public comment on the **document before it is adopted as the official Strategic Plan of the City.** “As we prepare the 2013 fiscal budget it is important that we adopt the Strategic Plan which will give us direction on how we will appropriate tax payer dollars,” concluded Mayor Eugene W. Grant.

Seat Pleasant: “A City of Excellence” is one of Maryland’s 157 municipalities with a population of 5,000 residents, 100 businesses, 13 houses of faith, and 20 non-profit organizations. The Seat Pleasant government has a mayor, seven member city council and 35 government employees operating a \$3.2 million dollar budget.

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