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National League of Cities visits Harrisonburg as part of Centennial Roadshow *Delegation tours Lucy Simms Center, learns about community's efforts to become A City For All*

HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg City Council members welcomed a delegation from the National League of Cities (NLC) to the community on Wednesday as the local government advocacy organization tours the country for its Centennial Roadshow: 100 Years, 100 Cities.

The event, which included stops at Harrisonburg City Hall, the Bishop Edgar Love Historical Marker, the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center and Ralph Sampson Park, focused on the history of The Friendly City and Harrisonburg City Council's vision for the community's future. Highlights of the visit included a tour of the Lucy Simms exhibit at the Simms Center; a conversation on the City's investments in the Northeast neighborhood, including upcoming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects like the Spraygrounds at Ralph Sampson Park; and the Harrisonburg 2043 Vision, which outlines the City's goals and values for the next two decades.



(Above, from left) Harrisonburg Councilman Christopher Jones; Harrisonburg Vice Mayor Laura Dent; NLC Second Vice President Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens, Ohio; Harrisonburg Mayor Deanna Reed; NLC President David Sander, Mayor of Rancho Cordova, Calif.; Harrisonburg Councilman Dany Fleming; Harrisonburg Councilwoman Monica Robinson; Harrisonburg City Manager Ande Banks; and Harrisonburg Deputy City Manager Amy Snider outside Harrisonburg City Hall with the National League of Cities Centennial Roadshow bus.

Harrisonburg Mayor Deanna Reed believes that being selected as one of 100 communities in NLC's Centennial Roadshow is a testament to the hard work of leaders in the community to enact transformative change in Harrisonburg.

"We're honored to be included in this historic visit from National League of Cities, and for the opportunity to show the important work taking place in Harrisonburg to lift our community up, overcome barriers to progress and boldly address inequities," Reed said. "We will always strive to be a city that our community is proud of, and that our peers look to as a model locality. I am grateful to NLC for recognizing our efforts with their visit today."

Harrisonburg City Council members are active participants in NLC programming and committees focused on advancing local government. In addition to attending the organization's annual conference, Council members have been appointed to multiple leadership positions within NLC:

- Vice Mayor Laura Dent is Vice Chair of the NLC Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee.
- Councilman Dany Fleming is Vice Chair of the NLC University Communities Council and a member of the NLC Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.
- Councilman Christopher Jones is Co-Chair of the NLC Racial Equity and Leadership Council, Treasurer of the NLC National Black Caucus, and a member of the University Communities Council and the Community and Economic Development Committee.

For more information about the roadshow or to learn more about NLC's centennial events or initiatives, visit www.nlc100.org.

For more information on the Harrisonburg 2043 Vision, visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/city-council-vision, and for more information on City ARPA projects, visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/ARPA.

***The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,990 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.*

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