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## **Commission Members Graduate from Institute for Elected Municipal Officials II Course**

*Vice Mayor Karlene Maxwell-Williams, Commissioner Tycie Causwell, Commissioner Mark Anthony Spence and Commissioner Sharon Thomas graduate from Florida League of Cities' premier educational program for local elected officials*

**Lauderdale Lakes, FL** – The City of Lauderdale Lakes announced today that elected officials Vice Mayor Karlene Maxwell-Williams, Commissioners Tycie Causwell, Mark Anthony Spence, and Sharon Thomas recently graduated from the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials II, a course from the Florida League of Cities' Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO), a premier educational program designed specifically for Florida's elected municipal officials.

The IEMO II course is the second level of training offered through the League's IEMO program. Participation in this course is reserved for those municipal officials who have successfully graduated from the first-level IEMO course or have completed one or more terms in office. "IEMO II was impactful in providing the essential tools needed to develop my legislative and leadership ability to assist the City of Lauderdale Lakes in moving forward proficiently," said Commissioner Sharon Thomas.

An intensive two-day program, the IEMO II course features classes and workshops focused on the numerous aspects of municipal government. Session topics include advanced financial tools, personnel and labor relations, decision-making models, media relations, and more.

"This was an interesting class. Discussions were always insightful, with something new to learn. I enjoyed group activities. They helped us get to know and understand each other's municipality," Vice Mayor Karlene Maxwell-Williams said.

"When you become an elected official, no one explains to you how to do your job, and Florida's local officials need to have a strong understanding of different aspects of leading a municipality and to ensure they are aware of any changes that could impact their responsibilities," said **Florida League of Cities President Jolien Caraballo, Vice Mayor** for the **City of Port St. Lucie**. "IEMO is the only opportunity statewide to get this caliber of education and to better understand your



position. We are proud of the positive impact that the League's IEMO course has in helping to inform, support and provide the tools that Florida's local elected officials need to become even better leaders for their municipalities. I congratulate them for successfully completing this course."

Created 30 years ago to educate newly elected officials on the intricacies of municipal government in a cost-effective manner, the IEMO program grew out of a partnership between the Florida League of Cities and the John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government. Today, the program offers multiple training levels, with each designed specifically for municipal officials of all levels. It is the most popular training that the Florida League of Cities offers.

"It was an honor to be a part of this class. I got a lot of useful information that will help me to serve my city" said Commissioner Tycie Causwell, newest member of the Lauderdale Lakes Board of Commissioners.

Those officials who completed IEMO II can receive credit towards FLCU's new Certificate Program for Elected Officials, which recognizes elected officials who participate in the League's many training opportunities. Once they sign up, this new, multi-level certificate of achievement program allows attendees to earn points for the activities and events they attend and participate in. To learn more, visit [flcities.com/certificate](http://flcities.com/certificate).

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