



# Conference/Seminar Summary

City of Watsonville  
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Watsonville, CA 95076  
(831)768-3008

To: The Honorable Mayor & City Council

Council Meeting Date: 02/13/2024

City Council Member: Vanessa Quiroz-Carter

Conference/Seminar: New Mayors & Councilmembers Academy

Location: Monterey, California

Dates of Travel: 01/24/24- 01/26/2024

Please provide a brief report on the conference, seminar, or meeting you attended. I attended the Mayors and Council Members Academy at the Monterey Marriott January 24 and January 25th. The conference ran until the 26th, however, due to the annual Legislative breakfast falling on the 26th, I was only able to attend the conference for 2 days instead of the full 3 day duration. I attended one training and several workshops but for the purposes of this report I will only be discussing a few of them. As required annually, I completed "Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors and Officials (AB1661)". Though I have taken this training before, there were some updates and new information in this training pertaining to AB 2188. Under AB2188, after January 1, it is now unlawful to discriminate against a person due to their use of cannabis off the job and away from the workplace, except in the case of pre-employment drug screenings. A workshop I attended was "Developing an Effective City Council and City Manager Team: The Key to Good Governance and

City Success”. This workshop highlighted the need for clear, timely, and efficient communication in order to build trust and a good working relationship. The workshop suggested that cities clarify roles and responsibilities, have clear methods for resolving conflicts, and have a code of conduct. The workshop stressed the need for understanding and respect to build trust and suggested cities establish ground rules, statements of norms and values, and have a chart stating how communication flows. The workshop stressed the need for these items specifically during emergencies to maintain clear, consistent internal and external communication. Another workshop I attended was “Your Legal Powers and Obligations; Open Government and Conflicts of Interest”. This workshop went over some basics of ordinances and resolutions, due process for the public (including the right to be heard and the right to be notified), reiterated how councils work with other bodies to receive recommendations, individual conflicts of interests, and the authority of charter cities. I also attended Effective Advocacy and Key City Issues, where League of Cities legislative team relayed state goals and potential issues in 2024 such as homelessness, AI, organic waste, cyber security, and Brown Act and Public Meeting Modernization. I also attended Social Media / Digital Communications and Civic Engagement for a great refresher on how to utilize social media as an elected public official and Brown Act rules regarding social media. Finally, I attended “Financial Responsibilities, City Revenues Workshop (Part 1)” which served as a review of things like budget cycles, taxes, revenue, and all things relating to municipal financial issues.

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*At the conclusion of the event, a brief report on the conference or seminar attended at the expense of the City must be presented to the City Council at the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.*

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*Government Code Section 53234*

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