



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of

Date: November 3, 2008

To: Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole

Subject: Presentation from Russian Delegation, Open World Program

Recommendation: Receive and file

Previous Directives: None

Prepared by: Lauren Maker, Senior Resource Coordinator, Grants & Special Projects, 612-673-2588

Approved by: *Dene Renner*

Presenters in Committee: Lauren Maker, Yulia Kudryashova, Galina Ronzhina, Marina Sapegina, Natalia Masalskaia

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- City Goals: A premier destination

Supporting Information

This is the second year that the City of Minneapolis has participated in an Open World Delegation visit, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Minneapolis. In addition to observing/participating in the Committee of the Whole, today the delegation will be having meetings with Results Minneapolis, the Sustainability program, and Intergovernmental Relations. On Saturday, they met with Cindy Reichert of Elections, and have received a basic primer on Minneapolis local government from former Mayor Don Fraser.

The delegation has asked for the opportunity to address the Committee of the Whole to introduce themselves, and inform the Council about the Open World program and their visit.

Their report is attached, with information on the individual delegates.

Presentation to Minneapolis City Council
Committee of the Whole

November 6, 2008

Open World Program
Russian Delegation

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Minneapolis

Yulia Kudryashova, Moscow, Delegation Facilitator

Galina Ronzhina, Tobolsk

Marina Sapegina, Izhevsk

Natalia Masalskaia, Nizhni Tagil

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Open World Russian delegation I would like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to speak to you, and to learn more about your work. We are grateful for the time and attention you were so kind to give to our delegation.

We are visiting Minneapolis with the Open World program. The mission of the program is to develop and support mutual understanding and cooperation between Russia and the USA. The Open World Leadership Center is an independent agency of the US Congress. The program was initiated ten years ago by the Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and Russian academician Dmitriy Sergeevich Lichachev. The program is proud to have numerous positive achievements such as joint Russian-American projects, professional and not-for-profit partnerships in different areas and friendship ties between Russians and American families. It has brought more than 12,000 young leaders from Eurasia to the United States. On the local level the program is organized and hosted by the League of Women Voters.

The purpose of our visit is to learn more about the US electoral system, to understand the behavior and motivation of American voters, and to observe the elections process itself. We are also very interested in the structure and the responsibilities of municipal bodies, the cooperation between different city, county and state legislative and executive institutions, media coverage of government activities, sources of funds for government activities and fund raising for different city and county projects and activities.

Activities and responsibilities of local governments in Russia are regulated by Federal Law N 131 of June 2001. It is titled "About General Principles of Local Government Organizations in Russian Federation". This law determines the structure and functions of local legislative and executive bodies. The main functions of both are addressing the immediate needs of a city, organizing housing-related systems, developing transportation, communication, supporting and managing education and medical systems, assuring regional ecological security, fostering the development of cultural institutions and libraries, and supporting the development of artisanship and local arts.

My name is Galina Ronzhina. I am from the town of Tobolsk – the historic and spiritual centre of Russia. I am Head of City Clerk's Office of Tobolsk City Parliament. The City Parliament is a legislative body consisting of 25 members.

My name is Marina Sapegina. I represent the City Duma of Izhevsk town. I am Head of the Organization Department. I represent the city legislative branch. Our office provides for the operation of the city mayor and the city parliament. Our city parliament consists of 42 members who represent 42 city precincts. The main role of our office is to ensure that the wishes of the city population are communicated and carried out by the city executive branch.

My name is Natalia Masalskaia. I am a press secretary of the City Parliament called City Duma of Nizhni Tagil. The Duma consists of 27 deputies which represent 380,000 people, similar to Minneapolis. I am also a Deputy Director of the Organization Department. I work with local mass media, and prepare speeches for city government officials thus providing for the transparency of the city council.

We strongly believe that the Open World program is extremely important. Learning about American society, seeing the way Americans live, open discussions of disputable questions are for developing mutual understanding and friendship between our countries.

Open World Program at the Library of Congress, 2008
Delegate Profile

Ronzhina, Galina Vladimirovna

Current Employment: Organization Department Head, Tobolsk City Duma

Current Professional Information

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
03.97 -	Organization Department Head	Tobolsk City Duma

Past Professional Information

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
01.02 - 01.05	Department Head	Socio-Labor Relations Regulating Department
03.97 - 01.02	Committee Chairperson	Tobolsk Administration Administrative Committee

Job Description

Organization of activities of representative and executive bodies of Tobolsk City Municipality.

Current Workplace Information

Is this an elected position?	No.	Type of Work:
Duration of employ with this organization:	Over 10 years	Government: Local
Total number of employees in this organization:	21-50	
People directly supervised by the individual:	Less than 10	
People supervised by the individual's manager:	21-50	
Management levels above individual's supervisor:	0	
Supervisor's job title:	Chairperson of City Duma	

Current Work Activities

Conduct training of staff or clients	Perform data analysis
Respond to public inquiries	Give interviews
Gather and/or analyze public opinion	Give lectures
Teach school students	Provide information to the public
Make government/public policy decisions	Attend meetings with govt. officials
Draft legislation or policy statements	Meet with constituents
Work on an election campaign	

Teaching Activities

<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>	
01.02	Teacher	Tobolsk Technical School of Fishing Industry	3 hrs per month

Interests

Citizens' role in local governance
Relations among executive, legislative, and judicial branches of federal government; system of checks and balances
Small cities development strategy
Transparency and openness of government and access to information
Mass media role in politics, campaigns and elections

Describe your main work activities

What knowledge and experience would you like to gain from your participation in the program?

Legal regulation of public relations.

The Constitution of Russian Federation, while guarantying local self-government, however does not uncover what issues are to be considered as local. The reply to this question is of principal importance. The frame of given issues is defined by federal laws and legislation of subjects of Russian Federation on local self-government and specifically are reflected in charters of municipalities. According to legislation on local self-government local issues touch upon all spheres of vital activities of population of municipalities. Therefore, public relations (i.e. organizational, administrative, property, financial and so on) are combined into one independent kind by one general feature: they all are appeared in the process of solution of problems of local significance by population of municipalities directly or indirectly through bodies of local self-government.

Practice of realization of public relations?

Open World Program at the Library of Congress, 2008

Delegate Profile

Sapegina, Marina Anatolyevna

Current Employment: Organization Department Head, Izhevsk City Duma

Current Professional Information

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
02.02 -	Organization Department Head	Izhevsk City Duma

Job Description

Ensuring organizational, technical, informational and documentation support of the City Duma, deputies' associations, and events carried out by the Mayor of the City of Izhevsk.

Current Workplace Information

Is this an elected position?	No.	Type of Work:
Duration of employ with this organization:	6-10 years	Government: Local
Total number of employees in this organization:	51-100	
People directly supervised by the individual:	21-50	
People supervised by the individual's manager:	51-100	
Management levels above individual's supervisor:	1	
Supervisor's job title:	Head of Administrative Office of "Izhevsk City" Municipality Head and City Duma	

Current Work Activities

Plan and/or monitor finances or budgets	Coordinate or manage human resources
Conduct long-term planning/forecasting	Perform data analysis
Write articles/press releases/reports	Attend meetings with govt. officials
Draft legislation or policy statements	Meet with constituents
Work with databases	Perform evaluations of projects or work performed

Interests

Governance and administration of states and municipalities
Relations among executive, legislative, and judicial branches of federal government; system of checks and balances
Relations among federal, state, and local levels of government
Congress and federal legislative process
Citizens' role in local governance

Describe your main work activities

What knowledge and experience would you like to gain from your participation in the program?

1. organizing the City Duma sessions and deputy permanent and temporary committees.
2. documenting the City Duma activity and the events carried out by the Duma and by the Mayor of the City of Izhevsk.
3. participating in law making by the City Duma and in preparing necessary drafts.
4. providing appropriate formulations to the City Duma decisions, their sending to the legal databases and the media.
5. Miscellaneous.

The objective of my participation in the program is:

1. learning and systemizing the US local government experience, the cooperation between different branches of power, learning the US law making and the role of the population in managerial decision making, the ways of voters' errands realization.
2. Information exchange.
3. Learning the ways of applying some achievements of the US local governments in the City of Izhevsk.

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Open World Program at the Library of Congress, 2008

Delegate Profile

Masalskaya, Natalya Yuryevna

Current Employment: Organization Department Deputy Head, Nizhni Tagil City Duma

Current Professional Information

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
08.05 -	Organization Department Deputy Head	Nizhni Tagil City Duma

Past Professional Information

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Organization</u>
	Leading Specialist	Nizhni Tagil Metallurgical Complex, Research and Information Department
	Press Secretary	Nizhni Tagil City Duma

Job Description

Preparation of the informational materials about Duma activity, cooperation with mass media.

Current Workplace Information

Is this an elected position?	No.	Type of Work:
Duration of employ with this organization:	1-5 years	Government: Local
Total number of employees in this organization:	21-50	
People directly supervised by the individual:	Less than 10	
People supervised by the individual's manager:	11-20	
Management levels above individual's supervisor:	1	
Supervisor's job title:	Chief of Organizational Department	

Current Work Activities

Plan and/or monitor finances or budgets	Perform data analysis
Write articles/press releases/reports	Respond to public inquiries
Give interviews	Gather and/or analyze public opinion
Work in journalism	Provide information to the public
Attend meetings with govt. officials	Perform evaluations of projects or work performed

Interests

Freedom of speech in a democratic society
Mass media role in politics, campaigns and elections
Transparency and openness of government and access to information
IT utilization
Governance and administration of states and municipalities

Describe your main work activities

What knowledge and experience would you like to gain from your participation in the program?

I prepare informational materials about Duma activity such as articles, press releases, analytical reports. I also cooperate with mass-media, prepare life broadcasts, programs on radio and TV. I publish and edit "Vestnik Nizhnetagilskoi Dumi". I am involved in budget planning of the Nizhnetagilskoi Dumi activity.

I would like to learn about: ways of the local self-government organization, interaction between the authorities and mass-media, organization of election campaigns, modern system of information and communication, development of the democratic institutions in the civil society, problems of information accessibility and authority transparency.

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