

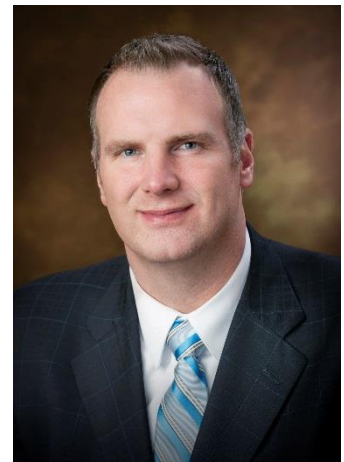
For Immediate Release
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Contact: Kevin Maloney
(203) 710-3486

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), poised for even greater success, names Joseph DeLong new Executive Director

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) has been effectively representing municipalities before the General Assembly and providing a broad array of services that provide big savings to towns for nearly 50 years.

And we have continued to excel in our efforts on behalf of local governments over the last 15 months -- a time of transition -- while preparing for even greater future success through an exhaustive search for a new executive director, one who will engage citizens and be a visionary leader with a hands-on entrepreneurial approach to creating meaningful service programs for municipalities.

In February, the CCM Board of Directors took a major step toward creating the new CCM when the Board named Joseph A. DeLong, as CCM's new Executive Director. DeLong will assume the executive leadership of CCM on April 1.



Leo Paul, First Selectman of Litchfield, chaired the search committee for the CCM Board. Paul emphasized that the Committee interviewed potential search firms and retained the Mercer Group, a nationally known firm that provides executive search services to local governments. The firm has assisted several other state municipal leagues with executive director searches.

CCM advertised for the position widely, Paul noted, and recruited aggressively among other state municipal leagues and otherwise. We received 62 applications, and after careful review, the Committee selected the seven semifinalists from which DeLong emerged as the best candidate.

"The Board of Directors is pleased and excited to make this appointment," said Matthew Galligan, Town Manager of South Windsor and President of CCM. "The board was unanimous in its view that Joseph (Joe) DeLong is the best choice to ensure maintaining and enhancing CCM's leadership and service roles with Connecticut municipalities."

"Our new executive director will engage Connecticut citizens and be a visionary leader with a hands-on entrepreneurial approach to creating meaningful service programs for municipalities," said

Galligan. “He has high energy and great enthusiasm for local government. He will quickly assess the current state and municipal government environment in Connecticut and lead the already-strong CCM staff in working even more productively with all our key constituent groups at the municipal, state and federal levels.”

Galligan emphasized that the new Executive Director will provide the leadership and vision for CCM in executing its mission on behalf of towns and cities.

Under the direction of the CCM Board of Directors, DeLong will have overall responsibility for the development and execution of CCM activities, programs, and services; development and execution of public policy and advocacy services on behalf of member towns and cities; and managing CCM relationships and interactions with other organizations and individuals in the state and federal governments and in the private non-profit and for-profit sectors.

He will have primary responsibility for strategic planning; policy formulation; execution of policies, projects, services, and programs; administering, managing, and directing the overall business affairs of CCM directing staff activities; performing varied representation and public education activities.

DeLong is currently Executive Director of the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, where he has been responsible for the State’s ten regional jail facilities and central office including daily operations, asset planning, bond management and the implementation of the agency’s \$100 million special revenue budget.

He began his public career in 2001 as Representative in the West Virginia House of Delegates, where he served through 2008. He holds a B.S. degree and MBA degree from West Virginia University. He will move to Connecticut with his wife Danielle and their daughters, London and Sophia.

DeLong has over fifteen years of executive experience in private and public sector initiatives. Prior to his service heading the Corrections facilities in West Virginia, he served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety where he oversaw the safety and security of West Virginia’s citizens by providing services through the National Guard, State Fire Marshall, Division of Corrections, Regional Jail Authority, Juvenile Services, State Police, Division of Protective Services, Parole Board, Division of Homeland Security, Justice and Community Services, and the State Fusion Center.

CCM is ready for its future with Joseph (Joe) DeLong on board. We will continue our long-tradition of excellence in municipal service, while rising to new heights in meeting the emerging needs of Connecticut town and cities in 2015 and far beyond.

