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Groveland Vice-Mayor, Mike Smith Graduates from Leadership Academy Course

*Duane 'Mike' Smith graduates from Florida League of Cities' premier educational program
for local elected officials.*

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GROVELAND, FL – The City of Groveland's Vice-Mayor Mike Smith recently graduated from the Leadership Academy I course. An educational program from the Florida League of Cities' Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO), designed specifically for Florida's elected municipal officials.

The Leadership Academy I course is the third level of training offered through the League's IEMO program. Developed in 2013, it focuses entirely on leadership and is reserved for those municipal officials who have successfully completed the program's first two courses.

"This program is a great continuation of the training that the Florida League of Cities provides to elected officials," said Vice-Mayor Mike Smith. "Building upon my previous two courses, this course has served to enhance my leadership capabilities and benefits not only me, but also the wonderful citizens of Groveland, the *"City with Natural Charm."*"

This two-day course is facilitated by Scott Paine, Ph.D., Florida League of Cities director of Leadership Development and Education. It revolves around an assessment that details participants' ability to connect and work effectively with others. Class participants take an assessment ahead of the class, to assess their skill sets. During the course, attendees learn their scores, interpret the characteristics of each component and learn how to apply this information through case studies.

Because of the course's collaborative environment in which challenges and best practices are shared, graduates have access to new "tools" for addressing leadership challenges and finding solutions to local problems.

"Communities aren't static, and neither is municipal government. They're constantly moving, changing, and growing; which means our local leaders must do the same," said Florida League of Cities President Tony Ortiz, commissioner for the City of Orlando. "I applaud this class of graduates for taking the initiative to do just that by participating and successfully completing the League's Leadership Academy I. It's because of dedicated local leaders like them that we're building stronger cities day by day."

Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.