

## **Local GOVERNMENT/Public officials**

### **Principles of Being Relevant to Local Government:**

- Think win-win: what's mutually beneficial
- Governments are made up of people with their own Needs, Interests, Concerns
- Governments are interested/dependent on others--voters, other governments, media, academics, religions, etc.
- Do research on them and their interests
- Treat them with respect
- Be concise and relevant
- Dress appropriately
- Avoid jargon (ISKCON speak)
- Don't align with any particular political party
- When meeting, offer them appropriate prasadam

### **Advice and Action Steps**

To relate to local government officials, it is important to always be respectful and cordial towards them, their office and their position. Overall, reach out and get to know them. Invite them to temple and make friends

It is in the Local Government's interests to get to know neighbors, voters and community members. Including the Hare Krishna temple and community.

It is important to know what their priorities are, to build relationships and to help them solve their problems (education, pollution, economy, ...) It is important to build shared networks:

Government people themselves need community support in the form of:  
Votes

Good reputation --- being caring and connected to the community and effective leaders  
Maintaining a presence in the community, etc.

**These things are important for us to do to have their support:**

Pay taxes properly

Comply with laws, zoning codes, construction codes, health requirements, etc

Have a cooperative mood

Be a peaceful communities and coexist, don't be trouble makers

Zoning laws followed properly—no shortcuts

Not disturbing neighbors

Respect other's properties

Overall, to be:

--transparent

--honest

Do not to be "preached to". Make friends.

Develop a personal relationship with them

Share credit with the govt, others who supported us (or a shared event)

**Be a dependable contact for them:**

Provide a contact persons for them to be in touch with

--remember: Secretaries and assistants represent and influence the boss

--treat them with respect also

--email

--phone

--whatsapp, etc.

--call them back!

**Get involved in Community events**

--attend public services

--host community events

--be a polling place

--support Neighbor Watch

--report suspicious people, etc.

**Be a contributing partner in area events**

**--if we make friends, they look for clergy to open sessions with a prayer**

--be sure it's an inclusive prayers (Caru can offer specifics)

--bring prasada

--offer to share our tents, stages, etc.

--when participating, remember we are part of the "show".

--Be respectful and share time and events.

If asked to speak, consider the Time, Place and Circumstance

--don't speak about blissful chanting if invited to offer a prayer at a vip's funeral!

### **Participate with other tourist attractions—think win-win!**

- Share information
- Participate in tours, posters, calendars
- meet and plan events with them
- invite them to the temple

### **Brainstorming NIC of Local Govt (a preliminary study)**

#### **Needs, Interest, Concerns Of:**

County Commissioners, City council, State Congresspersons, Health Dept, Fire and Police  
Convention Center Officials/Tourist Agencies, Schools officials

Community support

Votes, etc.

- attend festivals
- get a profile
- be cool (at the HK temple)

Good reputation

Tax payers

Compliance with laws, mandates, health requirements, etc

- cooperative mood

Support Neighbor Watch

- report suspicious people, etc.

Helping them solve their problems (education, pollution, eco...)

Involvement in Community events

- public services
- hosting community events
- polling places

Peaceful communities and coexistence

No trouble makers

Zoning laws followed properly—no shortcuts

Overall

- transparency
- honesty

Not disturbing neighbors

Contact persons for institutions they work with

--email

--phone

Calls back

Get word out to share with congregation

Respect for their office/position/self

Cordial

Not to be “preached to”

Respect other’s properties

(Most) have a personal relationship with them

For Tourist folks—think win win!

--Share information

--Participate in tours, posters, calendars

--meet and plan events with them

--invite to the temple

Overall, reach out and know them. Invite to a temple. Make friends