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Mayor Johnson Touts the Benefits of an Open and Transparent Government with Representatives from 18 Countries

KYLE, TX – Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson touted the City's commitment and accomplishments regarding openness and transparency in government to an international delegation brought to the United States as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program.

The delegation, representing 18 countries from all over the globe and with varying forms of governments, engaged Mayor Johnson in the importance of open government and how government transparency and ethics is a key component to healthy and prosperous communities.

"People have to have trust in their government and know that their leaders are working the best interest of the communities and its residents," said Johnson. "Almost every aspect of Kyle's government is readily available on our web site or by contacting our city officials. Simply by visiting our web site you can view our city council meetings, research our city ordinances, find contact information for our city departments and elected officials, and view our current and past city budgets and audits. You can even see every check we've written for the past three years."

The meeting between Mayor Johnson and the delegates occurred on Thursday, April 4th, at the Kyle City Hall. The Mayor, with the assistance from Cody Faulk from the Kyle City Attorney's office, also discussed the importance of maintaining a high ethical standard in government.

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“The City of Kyle has a very strict ethics policy that ensures our city officials are conducting the people’s business in a proper and ethical manner,” said Johnson. “Any accusations of ethical behavior is reviewed by a panel of citizens who report to the City Council. This assures that any reports are dealt with properly and openly.”

Openness and transparency is a vital part of how governments in Texas and the United States conduct the people’s business. The City of Kyle has been recognized repeatedly for making make its government as transparent as possible, most notably by receiving a Gold Star Leadership

The International Visit Leadership Program is designed to educate young leaders from across the globe on democracy, citizen participation in government, the diversity of public perspectives in American government, and youth involvement in politics. The City of Kyle has now hosted five delegations sponsored by the US Department of State’s International Visit Leadership Program.

"It is so exciting to see our city being recognized internationally as an example for how government should conduct business,” said Mayor Johnson. “I hope that the State Department continues to bless Kyle with future opportunities to share our experiences with people from other countries and to learn from other cultures. I'm always excited about the prospect of another visit!"

The countries represented in this visit are: Bahrain, Belize, Estonia, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe.

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