



## *Broomfield City Council Training and Travel Report*

**Elected Official Name:** Greg Stokes      Councilmember Ward 4, Mayor Pro Tem

**Date of Travel or Training:** June 6,7,8 2016

**Description of Travel or Training:** Summer Conference for Colorado Counties (CCI)

**Total Amount Expended:** Registration: \$350 Hotel: \$248.00, Meals: \$0, Parking and transportation \$0.0 Total: \$598.00

*(include airfare, hotel, registration, and all other reimbursements)*

### **How this Travel Benefits the Citizens of Broomfield:**

Broomfield is a member of Colorado Counties, Inc. I have participated at various times in CCI meetings and meetings involving county commissioners in the region. Our participation is critical to understand the areas where CCI as an organization will be supportive of Broomfield goals in their collective lobbying efforts and more importantly where we might diverge. CCI is struggling with a loss of members (which could lead to a loss of revenue, and loss of influence regionally) Some of this is a direct result of members with idealistic viewpoints that diverge and have not been reconciled. I was at the elections for all of the committee chairs at the early part of the season. As a city that runs a county, Broomfield is especially at a deficit to other counties in the ability to interact and network on state and local issues related to counties. We need to be able to depend on Broomfield staff for representation when we are at our "day jobs" but there is no better source of keeping up with these issues than intense networking and attendance at particular meetings on relevant regional issues.

I attended a pre-conference tour of the XCEL Energy Plant in Routt county called the Hayden Station. Between the Coal Mine and the Coal Plant, these two account for the two largest property tax payers in Routt County. The South Routt School District contains almost the entire coal mine (44% of the districts property tax revenue!) , which has a direct rail to the power plant. The dependence on this industry for both county and school operations was particularly interesting in talking to their county commissioners, as others in the area have decided that Marijuana may help their economy. Many advancements in clean coal burning and technology were toured and discussed.

I attended a rather fundamental session on Urban Renewal, but was especially interested in how other counties are dealing with Marijuana, both the positive and negative, as well as unanticipated aspects of legalization as Broomfield was preparing for a vote on our existing ban. One idea that we should consider is related to home grow operations and the impact on neighbors.

Finally, we need to prepare better as a group regarding how to represent even the differing views among Broomfield's elected members as we had a misstep with a call out vote on supporting statewide ballot issues. Since that time we have been called upon to support or oppose other items and our success in cooperating on those is mixed.

At the end of the meeting we had a Front Range District meeting, where we viewed a presentation from JeffCO on Human Trafficking. At the business meeting, I nominated Councilmember Taylor to be our representative as the person in the Vice Chair seat. As he is term limited, Broomfield needs to be prepared to be chair of the Front Range District with a succession plan.