Springfield, Illinois – Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder is one of 40 American mayors selected to participate in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative’s intensive leadership and management program. He joins a class of dedicated mayors, who will attend immersive, online classes taught by faculty from Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Business School and featuring other renowned management experts from across the Bloomberg Philanthropies network. With mayors playing a central role in driving social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, this year’s program will focus on the skills required to respond to emerging challenges with an emphasis on equity.

The virtual program begins today, Thursday, July 9, 2020, which Mayor Langfelder is attending at no cost to the city. Based on case studies developed at Harvard, sessions will focus on the latest management and leadership practices and cover a range of topics on advancing recovery, from developing new policy and driving government performance to leading civic and resident engagement.

“I’m honored to have been selected to participate in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and look forward to joining this year’s class of mayors to exchange ideas and discuss how to best approach social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,” Mayor Langfelder said. “Small businesses, the backbone of our community, have suffered immensely, and government is working to create financial bridges. This pandemic has reemphasized the importance of technology including e-learning, telehealth, and delivering services. We have to capitalize on these new opportunities while continuing to build up our local economy.”

Langfelder continued, “I believe in analyzing data, collaborating across public and private sectors, and engaging our citizens to best address our community challenges in this ever-changing environment. This program will enhance my capabilities in these areas, while connecting me with other mayors, so we can share our innovative approaches and learn from one another regarding social and economic recovery.”

The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative will connect Mayor Langfelder to some of the university’s top educators, coaching from experts, a network of peers, and technical assistance. The program provides an opportunity to share promising approaches and learn from fellow mayors about the ideas that are already helping to enhance the quality of life in cities around the world.

Launched in 2017, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative is a collaboration between Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to equip mayors and senior city officials to tackle complex challenges in their cities and improve the quality of life of their citizens. To date, the Initiative has worked with over 1,000 mayors and senior city officials in 350 cities worldwide. For more information about the 2020 class, visit https://bloombg.org/3fj5iCc.

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