

Mayor Hafen stated that local governments have faced many difficulties and hardships and local government budgets have been decimated. He commented that for the first time in 22 years, the City of Henderson had to make cuts to services and personnel. Henderson has been ranked as one of the best places to live in America and has earned that distinction because of our commitment to safety, parks and open space, and good planning. Mayor Hafen said the local entities need to come away with a single voice when it comes to the importance of city services, including quality of life elements that our local businesses, residents, and families want, need, and deserve. The residents provide the fuel for the economic engines that drive our economy.

Mayor Hafen said the state leaders and representatives must understand that if they made decisions to take away money from cities and counties, they are actually doing harm to their own constituents. And the notion of giving local entities the ability to utilize revenues as we grow or even allow us to raise our own taxes only to take it away when the state is in a bind, is tantamount to the old cliché of robbing Peter to pay Paul. We need a clear understanding of what the state needs to provide versus what cities and counties need to provide. We need a clear understanding of how these services will be funded, while keeping in mind that equity is a very important part of that discussion.

Mayor Hafen stated that Senate Bill 264 is an interim study concerning the powers delegated to local governments. SCR-37 will be a review of Nevada's revenue structure; and Assembly Bill 494 requires a report on the consolidation or reorganization of certain local government functions.

Mayor Hafen introduced Mike Alasteuy and Marvin Leavitt, technical advisors on fiscal matters in our state, and Thom Reilly, facilitator. He also thanked Terri Barber, Henderson Intergovernmental Relations Director, and Monica Simmons, Henderson City Clerk, for their tireless work in putting this summit together. He also acknowledged staff in every city and county across the state for ensuring this meeting was properly noticed.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUMMIT FACILITATOR

Thom Reilly, Facilitator, suggested that the information gleaned from this gathering be used for direction, discourse, and dialog in all jurisdictions. He asked that speakers state their name and jurisdiction they represent for recording purposes. He stated that this summit is of utmost importance to local government. Mr. Reilly noted the tight time constraints and asked that comments be as concise as possible. Mr. Reilly reviewed the format and noted that flip charts will be used to capture information relating to understanding what the legislation means and how to move forward to address the issues.