

Charles C. Wemple

QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Executive Director of the Houston-Galveston Area Council oversees all programs and services including transportation planning, community and economic development, public safety, aging services, and workforce development. Manages over 240 staff and an annual budget of more than \$300 million. Reports to 36 member elected official Board of Directors.

Extensive experience in addressing infrastructure, housing, small business, and economic recovery needs following natural disasters and economic downturns.

Chaired H-GAC's regional sustainable communities initiative which convened stakeholders from rural, suburban, and urban areas to establish priorities for improving quality of life, resiliency, mobility, and community health for the 125 local governments within the H-GAC service area.

Current initiatives include working with cities and counties to embrace a regional approach to flood mitigation, exploring privately funded solutions to address infrastructure and housing needs in impoverished rural and suburban areas, and preparing the region for autonomous vehicle technology.

Extensive experience working with State and Federal agencies to provide assistance to local governments in the wake of natural disasters including FEMA ESF-14 long term recovery planning, HUD Community Disaster Recovery Funding allocations and eligibility criteria (over \$2 billion), and State Legislative Task Force on increasing the delivery of disaster recovery housing.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council covers over 12,500 square miles along the upper Texas coast, includes 13 counties and over 100 cities and towns, with more than 7 million people.

Proven ability to establish relationships built on trust, balance opportunity against risk, step up to lead, listen and seek input, and provide innovative win-win solutions to local and regional issues. 29-year history of progressive responsibility. Customer service oriented. Nationally recognized expert in disaster recovery and resiliency.

On the ground experience in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the Houston- Galveston

Area Council region – from assessing the effects of natural disasters, improving historic downtowns, participating in economic development, hazard mitigation, and transportation workshops, to presenting at City Council and Commissioners Court meetings.

Substantial experience on developing disaster recovery guidance with the H-GAC Board of Directors and committees, local government officials, stakeholder groups, state and federal agencies, special interest groups, and citizens.

Seasoned professional adept at motivating staff; communicating mission and vision; developing strategic plans; facilitating meaningful discussion; fostering sense of ownership in team members; and, working with groups exhibiting a high level of diversity in education, profession, gender, personality, work styles and ethnicities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Leadership

Developed agency's first disaster recovery housing program following Hurricane Rita. Established allocation process for distribution of over \$2 billion in HUD Community Development Block Grant funds across 13-counties and over 100 cities following Hurricanes Rita, Ike, and Harvey.

Assisted the State of Texas in negotiating a conciliation agreement with housing advocacy groups associated with a HUD complaint regarding fair housing, freeing up nearly \$1 billion in HUD recovery funds for our region while improving relationships with advocates.

Appointed to State of Texas task force on housing recovery to streamline application processes and explore new construction technologies to increase the pace of recovery following natural disasters.

Developed innovative approach to incorporating disaster recovery into Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration plan for region, securing over \$55 million in relief funds for local communities.

Served on task force to develop recommendations to assist HUD and FEMA in integrating response efforts after Hurricane Ike, with National Association of Development Organizations and International Economic Development Council.

Key resource in FEMA's ESF-14 activities following Hurricane Ike in our region, resulting in three heavily impacted communities developing long term recovery plans and implementing projects.

Chaired H-GAC Committee for HUD/EPA/DOT Sustainable Communities grant. Included input from local governments and stakeholders to identify local case studies and voluntary strategies to improve housing, economies, transportation, natural resources, and resiliency in urban, suburban, and rural settings.

Provided testimony at State and Federal public hearings, legislative committees, and at request of congressional delegation.

Created knowledge-sharing and collaboration initiatives across entire agency to increase customer service, build internal capacity, and foster a team-based culture. Examples include – public outreach, Harvey housing, public safety, and resiliency.

Coached Directors, Assistant Directors, and Program Managers to re-envision service goals, fully consider staffing needs and strategic hires, expand opportunities for capacity building and professional development, and spotlight achievements at the local, state and national level.

Lead staff through strategic planning, internal re-organization, and culture shift during a seamless transition from State- administered to regionally managed 9-1-1 District.

Coordinated with Federal, State, and Local Governments to identify and address Hurricane Ike recovery needs. Toured impacted communities, convened meetings with elected officials to determine local priorities, and facilitated meetings and field visits with federal and state agencies to identify funding and technical resources.

Management & Program Development

Over 20-years of experience in the development, and management of complex multi-million dollar programs.

Completed H-GAC's first FEMA Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, designed to address vulnerability to natural disasters and provide participants ongoing access to FEMA mitigation funds. Included 80+ local governments and 300+ projects. Interfaced with County Judges

and Commissioners, Emergency Management Coordinators, and city councils.

Reorganized agency procurement program. Expanded activities to include all-staff training, guidelines revisions, compliance checks, increased efficiency, documented cost reduction/avoidance, and risk reduction.

Managed disaster recovery, economic development, and small business loan projects. Annual budget of \$3-10+ million.

Rejuvenated local participation in the Gulf Coast Economic Development District by focusing on services that directly benefit local economies (i.e., economic impact analyses, and access to EDA staff).

Created the Community Enhancements grant program and reinvested over \$1 million of loan program revenue into communities across the region to spark downtown revitalization and beautification projects.

Collaborated across agency departments to increase effectiveness of Hurricane Rita recovery. Used HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing contracts to reduce procurement time and cost associated with manufactured housing.

Substantial experience working with attorneys and subject matter experts to identify solutions to the variety of legal issues and compliance needs associated with operation of the Houston - Galveston Area Council and its affiliates.

Developed comments and provided testimony in response to a variety of state and federal rules, policies, and guidelines.

Work History (previous 15 years)

2003-Present:

Houston Galveston Area Council

Executive Director

Chief Operating Officer

Economic Development Program Manager

Senior Planner

Education

Bachelor of Arts- Geology, University of Montana, 1989