



## **2015 Maryland Municipal League's If I Were Mayor... Essay Contest**

The theme for this year's contest, to be explored in 275 words or less, was: "RESPECT. If you were Mayor..."

- There is a vacant lot in "Happy Town." Some want to build a playground, others want to build a skate park. In the end the Town Council decides on the playground.
- How would you get both sides to work together to build a playground?
- What would you do to help citizens and elected officials stay nice to each other even though some may not like the final decision?
- What would you do, after the decision is made, to make sure the whole town supports the playground?

### **If I Were Mayor**

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If I were Mayor I would hold a town meeting to discuss the playground problem and listen to the citizens' ideas on how to make the City's solution fair.

Officials and citizens would be notified that all people must treat each other respectfully, responsibly and safely so no one gets hurt in any way. These would be our ground rules of the meeting. Council members will be told to be role models of correct civility.

As Mayor, I would work closely with the City Manager and City Council to develop a fundraising program so we could get the money to build a skate park after the playground project is finished. Any extra money that was raised would go towards enforcing laws and helping poor parts of the community. In addition, I would work with the City Council to find space for the skate park project.

The City should be the best it can be no matter what. All people should follow the Golden Rule no matter what problem, big or small. That's what I'd tell the people of Happy Town.

That's what I'd do If I Were Mayor.