



NEWS RELEASE

Chase Eder of Spring Ridge Is Winner in 'If I were Mayor, I would ...' Essay Contest

FREDERICK, MD – May 23, 2018: Chase Eder of Spring Ridge was honored today as the District 6 winner of the Maryland Municipal League's 2018 annual "If I were Mayor, I would..." essay contest. Out of more than 3,000 entrants, Chase was selected, along with 10 other Maryland fourth graders, who shared their thoughts on how they would lead their local municipal government as mayor.

Frederick Mayor Michael O'Connor and the Board of Aldermen recognized Chase at their workshop May 23 at 3 p.m. The state's winners also receive a Governor's Citation, an award plaque and \$100 cash.

Since 2001, MML's "If I were Mayor, I would..." essay contest has challenged students to learn about municipal government through creatively sharing their thoughts on being a mayor. Each 275-word essay had to open with the line "If I were Mayor, I would..." and lay out a vision of how they would tackle an issue or problem in their city or town.

If Chase were mayor, he would establish a program to change how people treat other people, especially those with disabilities. [[Read the whole essay here.](#)]

"[M]y program would create positive changes because people everywhere would see the benefits of forming relationships with people who have special needs or disabilities," he wrote in part. "This would promote the long term goal of changing the way people treat other citizens in our community."

That kind of creative thinking is what MML intended when the contest began.

"This contest is a fun, yet important way to bring together students from all over Maryland to not only share their creative ideas as mayor, but also help them learn more about the importance of municipalities and inspire them to become our next generation of local leadership," said Scott A. Hancock, executive director of the Maryland Municipal League.

The contest was sponsored by Maryland Municipal League in partnership with the Maryland Mayors' Association, Local Government Insurance Trust, and Injured Workers' Insurance Fund. Essays were

judged based on: essay relation to contest topic; displayed knowledge about municipal government and the role of a mayor; creativity; and proper use of grammar. For more information, visit www.mdMunicipal.org.

“I especially appreciate the vision for a better community that inspired Chase,” O’Connor said. “In his essay, Chase shows great heart, and I hope his interest in serving our community will continue, whether he becomes mayor or takes the lead in another meaningful way.”

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