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Smart Cities Council Announces 2018 Readiness Challenge Grant Winners
Birmingham, Cary, Las Vegas, Louisville/Jefferson County, and Commonwealth of Virginia to Receive Readiness Workshop, Products and Services

Washington, D.C. – March 8, 2018 – Smart Cities Council, the sector's largest coalition, announced today the winners of its 2018 Readiness Challenge Grants. Birmingham, AL; Cary, NC; Las Vegas, NV; Louisville/Jefferson County, KY; and the Commonwealth of Virginia will receive mentoring as well as tailored products and services to accelerate their smart city initiatives.

"We're so pleased to see the strides cities have made since we launched the Challenge last year" said Jennifer James, Global Director of the Smart Cities Council Readiness Program. "The entrants are knowledgeable and committed, and they have large ambitions. We're approaching the end of the 'pilot phase.' Cities are beginning to deploy at scale."

"The five winners had three important things in common," explained Smart Cities Council Chairman Jesse Berst, "including a focus on uncovering synergies and cost-efficiencies between departments. They also fostered coordinated collaboration between internal departments, external stakeholders, and nearby regions. Finally, they exhibited a determination to include underserved and vulnerable populations."

The 2018 Readiness Challenge Grant winners are:

- **Birmingham, Alabama**: Birmingham is an inspiring example of how a mid-size city can lead the way towards livability, workability and sustainability. Birmingham works diligently to ensure that its initiatives benefit multiple departments and multiple populations. The city will use the Council's Readiness Roadmap to provide a collaborative framework for the many projects it has underway, including an Open Data portal, smart street lighting, community Wi-Fi, bus rapid transit, and a violence reduction initiative that uses data to spot problems early.
- **Cary, North Carolina**: The judges were impressed by Cary's efforts on smart parking, smart mobility and smart street lighting. And by the city's efforts to create "Destination Centers" in underserved neighborhoods to encourage jobs and housing. Cary will use the Council's Readiness Workshop to further advance several of its projects, including "One Cary." This initiative seeks to gain a 360-degree view of the city by creating a single core platform to promote data sharing between departments and with citizens.
- **Las Vegas, Nevada**: Given last year's tragic mass shooting, it is no surprise that public safety is front and center in Las Vegas. The city is hard at work on an open and adaptable public safety platform to pull in

data from many sources for "collective analysis." Las Vegas' dedication to public safety also extends to traffic and pedestrian safety. They have three pilot projects underway using video analytics to identify potential problems. Las Vegas will leverage the Council's coaching and assistance to make its infrastructure smarter, towards its goal of becoming a fully connected smart city by 2025.

- **Louisville/Jefferson County, Kentucky**: The consolidated government of Louisville/Jefferson County has long been at the forefront of civic technology and understands that smart cities require smart infrastructure. The Council will help it craft a collaborative approach to use smart technologies to address challenges in transportation, telecommunications and public safety. Louisville/Jefferson County is deploying 115 miles of new fiber optic cables so it can roll out smart city projects at scale throughout the region. Digital inclusion is also a priority – ensuring that vulnerable populations get access to broadband, computers and smartphones.
- **Commonwealth of Virginia**: The Council believes that it is essential for states to take a "shared services" approach to smart technologies, so each town does not have to reinvent the smart city wheel. Virginia's Smart Communities Working Group embodies this – working hard to become a smart state government to achieve cost efficiencies and service improvements for the state itself while also lowering barriers for all Virginia communities. The Council will apply its Readiness Program to help Virginia create a framework for its multiple initiatives, including expanding broadband throughout the state; adopting interoperability standards; setting out a cybersecurity and privacy plan; and creating sustainable funding for smart projects.

The five Challenge Grant winners will receive a full year of expert, vendor-neutral mentoring plus an on-site Readiness Workshop custom-tailored to each community's needs and priorities. The Council will bring in some of the world's most experienced experts from the private, philanthropic, academic and research sectors to help advise the winners.

The Council will take the information it receives from each workshop and develop a Readiness Roadmap that can be shared with that community's staffers and citizens. The winners will also receive free products and services worth hundreds of thousands from leading organizations and Smart Cities Council partners, including Qualcomm, Battelle, SYNEXXUS, CompTIA and IES.

All applicants will receive feedback and guidance from the Council, including the runner-up cities of Albuquerque, NM; Aurora, IL; Fairfax County, VA; and Los Angeles, CA.

About the Smart Cities Council
The Smart Cities Council envisions a world where digital technology has been harnessed to improve livability, workability and sustainability. A leader in smart city education, it has worked with cities and states that are collectively home to more than 200 million people, including Austin, Dallas, Indianapolis, Illinois, Jaipur, Miami, New Delhi, Orlando, Philadelphia, Puerto Rico, Sydney and many others.

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Media Contact:
Sarah Blanchard
Public Relations Director
sarah.blanchard@smartcitiescouncil.com
206-412-0947