

March 26, 2024

Rose Vaughn Williams, Executive Director  
NC League of Municipalities

Dear Ms. Williams:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to provide this letter of reference for Richard Turner, Mayor of Belmont, in regards to his being considered for appointment as the District 11 representative to the NCLM Board of Directors. Based on my experience in knowing and working with Richard over a number of years, I believe that he would be a valuable member of the League Board.

I have had the opportunity to work directly with Richard on two separate occasions. The first period began in 2013 when Richard was first elected to the Belmont City Council and I was then serving as City Manager. That working relationship continued until my retirement in 2016, as Richard continued to serve on the Council throughout that period. The next period of my working with Richard began in December 2022, when I was chosen to come back to Belmont and serve as the Interim City Manager, a position I held until May 2023.

Throughout all the time that I have had the chance to work directly with Richard, I have found him to consistently be someone who will research the issues facing him and come to his own decisions as to the proper manner to address them. This independent judgement means that you are always going to here Richard's own assessment of those issues and the rationale for his decisions. He will always let you know where he stands on any issue and why. As Belmont's City Manager, I always felt this straightforward communication to be both informative and helpful in our working relationship. He was also open and available to discuss any matter at any time, which, again, made for a more efficient and effective relationship.

Richard's interest and involvement in local government issues has allowed him to extend his service beyond Belmont's jurisdiction. He was appointed by City Council to serve as Belmont's representative to the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization, and, during his tenure with that organization, was selected to serve as its Chair, leading the group through many important transportation decisions affecting the three-county area. He has also consistently maintained close communications and relations with the Gaston County Board of County Commissioners and Gaston County's representatives to the NC General Assembly to ensure that Belmont's needs and interests are heard clearly in those forums.

In summary, I believe that Richard's background, experience, and his dedication to service would make him a valuable addition to the NCLM Board of Directors.

Sincerely,



Barry Webb