



## **Chief Innovation Officer: 2019 Accomplishments**

January 2020

In 2019, with the leadership of the Mayor, the Chief Innovation Officer accomplished the following:

- Prepared the City of Racine application to compete with over 130 Canadian, American, and Mexican cities in the Smart Cities Council Readiness Challenge
- Assisted the City in winning one of only five 2019 North American Smart Cities designations, becoming the smallest Smart City in North America and the first Smart City in Wisconsin
- Planned and executed two-day conference with over 50 local, regional, and national speakers—some from as far away as California and Virginia
- Developed public-private partnerships with a range of companies and organizations, including U.S. Cellular, Carthage College, CNHI Industrial, Cree Lighting, Gateway Technical College, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Paychex, RAMAC, RCEDC, Smart Cities Council, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, CDW, Racine Public Library, Foxconn, SC Johnson, Racine County, Kapur, Village of Mount Pleasant, Racine Unified School District, Sprint, Twin Disc, B2 Civic Solutions, University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Engineering, State of Wisconsin, Dream Hustle Code, Legacy Redevelopment Corporation, InSinkErator, Accenture, UMOS, WANDR, ESRI, Rockwell Automation, Cityworks, Ubicquia, Elan Lighting, and Badger Meter
- Planned and executed daylong Smart Cities community planning session, engaging residents, businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, and government agencies to determine 2020 goals
- Issued a first Racine Smart Cities Initiatives supplement distributed to 16,000 Journal Times residents and businesses

- Raised private funding to support Racine Smart Cities events and associated marketing
- Hosted the Racine Innovation & Technology Gala, celebrating Racine's continuing arc of ingenuity and honoring its first Racine Innovation Awardees, including Andis, InSinkErator, Cree Lighting, DesignsTouch, and Twin Disc
- Assisted in positioning the City of Racine as the first municipality to announce a Wisconsin 5G network with U.S. Cellular and select tower sites
- Coordinated with State of Wisconsin Departments of Administration and Workforce Development, Gilbane Building Company, YMCA First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Program, and WRTP/Big Step to add Safety Professional training as part of the Fast Forward construction trades training initiative
- Advocated with Wisconsin Department of Children & Families for \$700,000 in Transitional Jobs Program wage subsidies, allowing employers to receive \$7.25/hour for up to 1,040 hours in exchange for hiring and training for longer-term unemployed Racine residents
- Led the effort to create Badger State Opportunity Fund, the first investment fund of its kind, which will leverage federal and state Opportunity Zones tax benefits and raise up to \$25 million in private capital to support economic development