

Interview Assessment #3

Name of Professional: Henry Hill

Profession/Title: Deputy City Manager

Business/Company Name: City of Frisco

Date of Interview: Thursday, September 27, 2018

Assessment:

My third informational interview this year was actually the same day as my second interview, with Ms. Wagoner. Having a “two in one” was certainly somewhat exhausting, but the opportunity to spend so much of my day out in the professional sphere speaking with actual employees in the City of Frisco was very cool.

My interview with Mr. Hill gave me a lot of insight into how the city runs on a day-to-day basis. Up until that moment, I had spoken with an elected official and someone working in economic development, but Mr. Hill was the first person actually working a full-time job in City Hall. Some of the biggest things that surprised me about his job was how much he interacts with the residents of Frisco on a daily basis. He said that he received emails from daily, and as a city worker, is obviously expected to respond and listen. I definitely thought that elected positions would interact with residents, but it was interesting to hear some people just do it because that’s what comes with their job.

Like Mr. Maso, Mr. Hill has been working long enough in Frisco that he’s seen the city undergo a tremendous amount of growth. He said that with this growth, working as a city manager, a lot of his job is dealing with rather practical situations. With more people comes more traffic, a need for better roads, more books in the library, a bigger police force; things like that. I think being able to speak to both Ms. Wagoner and Mr. Hill in the same day was a really cool way to bookend my interviews on development because Ms. Wagoner works to build the city through more abstract things like business while Mr. Hill with the more physical repercussions and results of that growth.

Another aspect of the interview that shocked me is when I learned there are 1100 full time employees working in the City of Frisco. I think I have this thought that the city is basically comprised of only the people who work at City Hall, but hearing about the actual number of employees was quite a surprise. It definitely gives me some perspective on the vastness of local government and how

even in a seemingly “small-town-feel” city like Frisco, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to keep the functions and resources of the city running smoothly. Even though these jobs manifest themselves in a variety of departments and ways, Mr. Hill has a hand in a lot of those processes with his position as the Deputy City Manager.

Overall, my interview with Mr. Hill was incredibly informative and I’m so glad I had the chance to speak with him. I learned the distinction between the elected positions and the hired positions, how politics is aimed at learning what the community wants while city managing revolves around making those desires happen. It felt like a very smooth transition seeing how the dynamic of his city office works and what he does daily to ensure the growing city of Frisco remains successful and prosperous. Moving forward in my ISM journey, I want to explore some of these other Frisco positions and hopefully gain more insight into the “politics” side of local government too.