

Commerce City, CO

Legislative management success with an all-in-one solution



When creating an online digital government, the tools we select to achieve success are just as important a decision as choosing to start the initiative. In the case of Commerce City, CO, finding the right tools ended up being a five year process of trial and error. The city finally realized the success they sought with Granicus' Legislative Management suite.

The Digital Challenge

In 2006, Laura Bauer became City Clerk and immediately undertook the project to digitize meeting agendas and reduce her office's paper consumption.

"We were pushing out forty packets and going through an entire case of paper per week. It took hours and hours of staff time to gather and collate the information. But the real kicker was that we had to make a fifty-mile, two-hour round trip just to distribute the paper agenda packets," Bauer explained.

“With the previous agenda packet production solution, there were integration issues, weekly updates that caused problems, and even support problems. Ultimately, we knew we needed a reliable all-in-one solution, so we looked to Granicus.”

- Laura Bauer, City Clerk

Success Highlights

- Solution dependability
- Increased office efficiency
- Approximately 75% reduction in agenda prep time
- 66% of council members are using iLegislate instead of paper agendas
- Hands-on in-person training to get the most out of the system
- Heightened awareness of committee goals and initiatives

Fast Facts

Agency Type: City

Population: 45,913

Solution:

Granicus Platform

Government Transparency Suite

Legislative Management Suite

Meetings per month: 8-12

Bauer took the issue to her IT department and they came up with an in-house solution using Adobe Contribute to publish digital copies of agendas to the Web. This was a great move that allowed the public to see agendas at the same time as council members. However, it didn't address the exorbitant amount of time required to compile the agendas, not to mention taking minutes and routing agenda items to the appropriate departments or committees. The next step was to find a full agenda management solution. While it was initially an exciting step to take, disappointment soon set in.

The All-in-One Solution

Meanwhile, Commerce City began using Granicus' Open Platform to stream meeting video. Again, Bauer and company hit a roadblock: the agenda solution did not integrate well with the meeting video. Bauer immediately looked at Granicus' Legislative Management suite, featuring the nation's leading agenda management and legislative tracking solution, Legistar®.

“The Legistar application has been a successful time management tool in that we have saved countless hours of agenda preparation time.”

- Laura Bauer, City Clerk
Commerce City, CO

The all-in-one Granicus solution became the clear answer. More than just compatibility, the solution was an enhancement to transparency. Agenda Coordinator Lyndsy Willette commented on the choice, “We had an increased commitment to transparency. When we made the shift to Legistar, it was so easy to become transparent. So, with transparency obligations, it made sense to unify everything.”

Keys to Commerce City's Success

- ✓ Agenda item drafting in Microsoft Word™
- ✓ Attach supporting documents
- ✓ Automatically assemble and publish agenda packets
- ✓ Publish legislation, agendas, and minutes to a customized online legislative research center
- ✓ Create templates for each meeting body
- ✓ Index archive meeting video with agenda items on meeting minutes
- ✓ Put agendas on the iPad with iLegislate

iLegislate® - Governing on the iPad

To increase the solution value, two-thirds of the Commerce Council started using Granicus' free iPad app, iLegislate, to review, manage, and annotate agenda packets before, during, and after meetings.

It became so popular that now all the department heads, leadership figures, and the majority of the council members all use it. Lyndsy Willette noted the ecological effect of iLegislate as well, “We made a decision to go paperless, and the ease of iLegislate helps us achieve our paperless goals.”

An all-in-one streaming meeting video and legislative management solution combined with the most advanced agenda mobility technology has created a recipe for government transparency and efficiency success in Commerce City.

“iLegislate? LOVE it. For the less tech-savvy, it's much easier to use than other apps available.”

- Laura Bauer, City Clerk
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