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The City and the Texas Senate have proclaimed June as Small Cities Month. That's significant because the City of Burleson is playing host to the National League of Cities Small Cities Council Steering Committee summer meeting June 11-14. Dual proclamations were presented at the June 2 Burleson City Council meeting.

The designation draws attention to the importance and accomplishments of small cities and celebrates their efforts to build better communities. During the June meeting in Burleson, elected officials will share best practices and discuss the implications of federal policy and funding decisions on small cities and towns.

Small cities and towns under 50,000 (as of January 2014, Burleson's population was 39,920) make up the majority of municipalities across the nation. Small cities are strengthened through a partnership that includes the cities, federal government, state government, and organizations, businesses and citizens.

The states that will be represented at this month's meeting in Burleson include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. Stuart Gillaspie, Burleson's mayor pro tem, was appointed to the Small Cities Council of the National League of Cities, and became chairman in 2014. He has been an active part of the City government for almost 23 years.