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Contents:

CYBERSECURITY AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL: BALANCING DEMANDS FOR TRANSPARENCY AND PRIVACY RIGHTS

Sep 27, 2012 10:29 pm | SUSAN A. MACMANUS, KIKI CARUSON, BRIAN D. MCPHEE

ABSTRACT: *Cybersecurity demands are forcing public officials across the globe to focus on two core values that often conflict—transparency (the public good) and privacy (citizen and private sector confidentiality). An e-survey of Florida county government officials measures how cross-pressured they are, identifies the types of information about individuals and government employees that are the most difficult to protect, examines the interest groups (public, private, and nonprofit) that act as*

watchdogs, and delineates the actions administrators see as critical to promoting balance. The results show intense cross-pressures and greater difficulty in protecting citizens' bioinformation, medical records, and financial data than in securing employee information. Information technology professionals and their associations are the most active in tracking privacy protection. The media and citizen activists monitor transparency the closest. More funding, personnel, equipment, and training, better software, more rigorous enforcement, and clearer standards and procedures are needed to balance privacy protection and transparency in cybersecurity policy making.

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"FROM COAL TO COOL": THE CREATIVE CLASS, SOCIAL CAPITAL, AND THE REVITALIZATION OF SCRANTON

Sep 27, 2012 10:27 pm | MEGHAN ASHLIN RICH

ABSTRACT: *This study examines the processes of revitalization within small cities, using Scranton, a postindustrial city in Northeast Pennsylvania, as a case study. Through qualitative interviews, I examine the motivation factors for key players in the revitalization of Scranton's downtown, such as business owners, city and nonprofit administrators, and cultural leaders. Revitalizers are heavily influenced by Richard Florida's creative class theory in that they strongly believe that promoting arts and culture and creating a consumer-based downtown is imperative for urban renewal. However, revitalizers are also motivated because Scranton has a high level of social capital, especially in terms of bonding capital. Strong social ties (including community, family, and institutional) assist revitalizers in their creative endeavors. This study indicates that small cities attempting to achieve economic and population stability should focus on their strengths: city livability and the thick social ties that maintain communities.*

SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR AWAY? THE EFFECTS OF CITY SIZE, DENSITY AND GROWTH ON LOCAL CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Sep 27, 2012 10:27 pm | ANTÓNIO F. TAVARES, JERED B. CARR

ABSTRACT: *Recent studies in the U.S. context have suggested that political participation is a function of the size and concentration of a city's population. Most of this research focuses on the idea that there is an optimal size and concentration of population that favors active political participation in terms of a higher propensity to vote in local elections, contact local officials, and attend community meetings. The conventional argument suggests a negative relationship between city size and political participation that is mitigated to some extent by the deeper social interactions generated by increased population density. We extend this research by also investigating the influence of population growth on the broader concept of civic participation. Civic participation is a multidimensional concept that requires the use of a broad set of indicators. We expand the number of measures to gauge civic participation at the local level by including data on the formation of volunteer associations, volunteer fire brigades and not-for-profit organizations as well as voter turnout. We test the hypotheses derived from extant research using aggregate data collected from Portuguese cities and discuss the implications of our findings for the literature on local civic participation.*

LOCAL TV NEWS, CONTENT, AND THE BOTTOM LINE

Sep 27, 2012 10:25 pm | DANILO YANICH

ABSTRACT: *This study compares the nature of local stories that were presented on television newscasts across 17 television markets in the United States. It is an extension of the localism research that was conducted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2004 and the Local Television News Media Project at the University of Delaware in 2007 and 2009. The focus was on the cost characteristics of the stories that were identified as "local" using the definition adopted by the FCC. I specifically examined those attributes of the stories across the television markets that would affect the cost of presentation to the station—the proverbial bottom line. Those attributes were story type, story placement, story duration, and the presentation mode. What types of stories were covered? What was their duration? Where were they placed in the broadcast? What presentation mechanisms were used to present them to the audience? What were the differences, if any, in these attributes across television markets? What are the implications for public policy and citizenship in local places?*

OFF TO MARKET: NEIGHBORHOOD AND INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR WOMEN IN 21ST CENTURY AMERICAN CITIES*

Sep 27, 2012 10:23 pm | TIMOTHY J. HANEY

ABSTRACT: *This paper endeavors to create a better understanding of the barriers to employment faced by disadvantaged urban women in the post–welfare reform era. Using data from the Project on Devolution and Urban Change, a unique geographically linked, longitudinal, multicity set of survey data, logistic regression models weighs the relative importance of individual barriers to employment (e.g., poor health, childcare, family responsibilities) and contextual or neighborhood barriers to employment (e.g., poverty rate, joblessness rate) on labor market outcomes. Results reveal that several neighborhood characteristics are predictive of employment outcomes, including automobile access, female-headedness, vacancy, and disorder. Results suggest a more complex, nuanced interplay between neighborhood-level variables and individually measured variables in preventing some women from obtaining both modestly paying employment with few allocated hours of work per week, and also better-paying jobs with more hours of work per week.*

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MailChimp

Phone number:
Urban Affairs Association
(414) 229-3025

Mailing address:

Urban Affairs Association

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

P.O. Box 413

Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413

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