



GFOA Member Spot Light



Laura Aker Reece, MPA, CPFO
Director, OMB
City of Fort Lauderdale

Laura Aker Reece

We're writing to let you know that Laura Reece with the City of Fort Lauderdale in Florida won GFOA's TimeBackChallenge.

This international competition was designed to help shed light on workplace productivity in local government, and her thoughtful insights will not only help her team get time back in the workday, but also sets an example for other GFOA members, and anyone interested in improving workplace productivity more broadly. As a prize, she will receive a copy of #1 New York Times bestselling author Adam Grant's latest book "Think Again," generously donated by the author himself.

Various ideas emerged from the Challenge. For example, booking meetings in 25-minute increments in order to keep them short, gives participants time to tie up loose ends, and still get to their next meeting on time, combined with clear agendas, objectives, and follow-up minutes, can help teams save time while staying on track and understanding the path forward.

Remote work and video meetings were also a top time-saving theme; and one that likely wouldn't have been as prominent before the pandemic.

Some participants said they block out specific times of day to respond to email, and/or stack meetings back-to-back so there are larger blocks of time to get projects done. Others come into the office early or stay late so they can have quiet time to work when there are fewer colleagues around. Tactics like closing the office door and/or silencing device notifications to encourage focus during work blocks were also popular, as was prioritization and delegation of work items by importance.

Listen to [our podcast discussion with Challenge winner Dan Olivieri \[anchor.fm\]](#) to learn more about some of his strategies.

The TimeBackChallenge campaign generated over 50,000 social media engagements and more than doubled downloads of the related research reports.

We very much appreciate Laura's participation.

Thanks and all the best,

Sincerely,
Chris Morrill

Executive Director/CEO
Government Finance Officers Association

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