



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## **Hundreds of Mayors Will Gather in Chicago for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors June 10-14, 2005**

**Highlights Include Community Development Block Grants, Homeland Security, Tax Reform  
and Unfunded Federal Mandates**

*Key Resolutions to be Considered Include the Transportation of Hazardous Materials, Gangs,  
Telecommunications, and the Kyoto Protocol*

**Chicago, IL --** More than 200 of the nation's mayors, led by Conference President and Akron, Ohio Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, will gather in **Chicago June 10-14 for the 73rd Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM)**, hosted by USCM Past President and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. The mayors will discuss a variety of issues affecting America's cities.

Conference of Mayors President and Akron (OH) Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic said, "Nearly 300 hundred of the nation's mayors have come together this week to meet with Administration officials, Congressional leaders, and those in the business and non-profit sectors to discuss a variety of issues that directly affect America's cities. Mayors will continue to fight to save the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and we will also address tax reform, homeland security, gang violence and base closures."

One of the highlights on the agenda on Friday is **the Homeland Security Task Force meeting** where mayors will have a discussion with Department of Homeland Security officials on port and border security. Also mayors will get an update on the Advance Notification of Hazmat Rail Transport and update on Regional Logistic Centers. Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn will also give his report on Aviation Security.

Other highlights on Friday include a **Community Policing Workshop on Gang Violence in America**. This workshop will focus on the gang MS-13, which is considered to be the fastest growing and most violent street gang in the United States. Mayors and Discussion will include new federal initiatives aimed at curbing gang violence and stemming gang recruitment of young children.

Topping the agenda on Friday is a **special session on "Making Cities Competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"**. Economic studies have proven that metro economies – made up of cities and suburbs – are the engines that drive the nation's economy. This interactive discussion and debate among three national experts and a panel of mayors will focus on how metro economies can position themselves to compete for workers and businesses in the U.S. and global economies.

During the opening plenary session on Saturday, mayors will hear from **Senator Richard Durbin (IL), Congressman Mike Turner (OH), and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.**

Also on Saturday, mayors will hear from **HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman** during the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Luncheon.

On Saturday afternoon during the **Housing and Community Development Standing Committee Meeting**, Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman will give an **update on the Conference's campaign to Save the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program**.

On Sunday during the plenary session, mayors will hear from **Senator Norm Coleman (MN)**, and **U.S. Ambassador to Poland, Victor Ashe**. **Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels**, **Trenton (NJ) Mayor Doug Palmer**, and **Sugar Land (TX) Mayor David Wallace** will discuss the **"State of America's Infrastructure"**. **Reg Weaver, the President of the National Education Association**, will also address the mayors. Also during this plenary session, **Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley** will lead a discussion on **"Cities without Borders: Building Regional Agendas"**.

One of the highlights on Monday is **the workshop on Responding to Base Closings**. This session, led by **Long Beach (CA) Mayor Beverly O'Neill**, will discuss the impact of military base closings on local communities.

During the Business Plenary Session on Monday, **Conference President and Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic** and **Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley** will **release a preliminary report on federal unfunded mandates**. **Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne** will address the mayors on the **10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**.

**Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of the UN-Habitat**, will address the mayors urging greater support for health, education and economic development, as well combating HIV/AIDS in Africa.

During the final luncheon on Monday, the Conference of Mayors and the Americans for the Arts will honor **Mrs. Maggie Daley**, Chair of After School Matters, and **Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs for the City of Chicago**, with the **Vanguard Arts Leadership Awards**.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will end on Tuesday with the **Inaugural Breakfast** honoring the president-elect of the United States Conference of Mayors, **Long Beach (CA) Mayor Beverly O'Neill**.

**All press MUST register to gain access to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting events. Advance registration is recommended. Press can pre-register online at [www.usmayors.org/73rdAnnualMeeting](http://www.usmayors.org/73rdAnnualMeeting), as well as, access the full agenda, press releases and media advisories. On-site registration will also be accepted at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel in the Private Dining Room #2 on the 3rd floor.**

Working press covering any part of the meeting will be required to show a valid press identification with photograph. Only registered, credentialed members of the press will be permitted access to meeting events.

For more information, contact the press office in the Private Dining Room #2 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel at (312) 294-6796.

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.*

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