



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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LONG BEACH MAYOR BEVERLY O'NEILL ELECTED 63rd PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Will Serve as National Spokesperson for Mayors, Promote Cities for a Stronger America

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors elected Beverly O'Neill, the Mayor of Long Beach, California to serve as the 63rd President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors during its 73rd Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, held June 10-14, 2005.

Mayor O'Neill is Long Beach's only three-term, citywide elected Mayor. Initially elected in 1994, she was re-elected in 1998 with almost 80% of the vote. In 2002, she was re-elected to a third term as a write-in candidate, the nation's only large city Mayor to accomplish such an historic feat.

As President, Mayor O'Neill will set the Conference of Mayors' agenda, appoint committee and task force chairs, and serve as the national spokesperson for the organization.

During her inaugural address outlining her vision for the next year, O'Neill stressed that the Conference must continue to focus on the importance of metro economies. "Metro economies are essential to the prosperity and continued health of our nation. It is a story that we must continue to tell," she said.

O'Neill went on to say that she looks forward to capitalizing on the strength of this organization to bring a new sense of energy to the Conference's efforts and will focus her attention on ten key areas:

- CDBG (Community Development Block Grant)
- Gang Violence
- Homeland Security
- Transportation and Infrastructure Investment
- Jobs and Education
- Housing and Homeownership
- Tax Reform
- Military Base Closings
- International Affairs, and
- Metro Economies.

“With respect, hope and vision, let us use the potency of our cities and our unique opportunities as mayors, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to strengthen America,” O’Neill added.

The mayors also elected Michael Guido of Dearborn, Michigan, Vice President, and Douglas Palmer of Trenton, New Jersey, Chair of the Conference’s Advisory Board.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1139 U.S. cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and, create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. The Conference has historically assumed a national leadership role, calling early attention to serious urban problems and pressing successfully advocating and pressing for solutions. More information is available at www.usmayors.org.