



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## Hurricane Recovery, Poverty Tops Agenda for Opening Session of the 74th Winter Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors

### New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin and Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa Are Key Speakers

**Washington, D.C.** – Nearly 200 of the nation's mayors, led by Conference President and Long Beach, California Mayor Beverly O'Neill, gathered in Washington, D.C. on January 25<sup>th</sup> for the Opening Session of the 74th Winter Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM).

Featuring Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, the opening plenary session focused on the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the Gulf Coast and the realities the hurricanes revealed about poverty in America. During his remarks, Mayor Villaraigosa announced the formation of a new Task Force on Poverty Opportunity in America. This task force, to be chaired by the mayor, challenged the mayors to think differently about poverty and its changing dynamic.

"We know that growing numbers of working Americans whom we don't technically define as poor are dancing on the razor's edge of subsistence. With the shape of poverty being rapidly recast in the accelerating story of global economic change, the issue is moving from the margins to the mainstream. Poverty is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It is an American tragedy."

Acknowledging that Hurricane Katrina led to a larger political discourse on the economic condition of Americans across the country, Mayor Nagin called on the nation's mayors to help him lobby Congress and the Administration for financial assistance for New Orleans. "The U.S. Conference of Mayors stepped up when New Orleans citizens needed their neighboring cities to help them with assistance and jobs, and, most of all, peace of mind. Our citizens have been through some of the hardest times they will ever see. I thank all the mayors throughout the nation for their overwhelming support and hope that they continue to help us Bring New Orleans Back."

In addition to hurricane recovery and poverty in America, the three-day session of the Conference will highlight key issues and challenges affecting America's cities including homeland security, the Avian Flu, Amtrak, Community Development Block Grants, jobs and the economy, eminent domain, gun violence and youth, telecommunications, the environment, public education and best practices from the nation's mayors.

**All press MUST register to attend the Conference at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).** Badges will be available in the Pan American room. The draft agenda is located on the USCM website at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).

#### **Thursday's agenda includes:**

*(All events are at the Capital Hilton Hotel unless otherwise noted)*

#### **Thursday, January 26**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
(Presidential Ballroom)

**PLENARY SESSION: *Avian Flu and Homeland Security***  
*USCM President Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill, Presiding*

- James Hunt, National League of Cities President
- Focus: City Response to a Potential Avian Flu Pandemic --
- Alex Azar, U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary

- Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels – Best Practice Presentation
- Focus: 2005 National Action Plan for Safety & Security in America's Cities --
- Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, Homeland Security Task Force Co-Chair
  - Sugar Land (TX) David Wallace, Homeland Security Task Force Co-Chair
  - Denver Mayor John W. Hickenlooper, Committee on Transportation & Communications Chair – Transporting Hazmat
  - Michael Jackson, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary

11:00 a.m.  
(Statler)

**PRESS CONFERENCE: *Homeland Security and Avian Flu***

*USCM Leadership, Presiding*

- Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, Homeland Security Task Force Co-Chair
- Sugarland, TX Mayor David Wallace, Homeland Security Task Force Co-Chair
- Denver Mayor John W. Hickenlooper, Committee on Transportation & Communications Chair – Transporting Hazmat
- Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, Committee on Transportation & Communications Vice-Chair

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 noon  
(South American A)

**CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

*Chair, Richmond (CA) Mayor Irma Anderson*

Focus: Childhood Obesity and Mayoral Best Practices --

- William Dietz, M.D., Ph.D., Centers for Disease Control & U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett
- Laredo (TX) Mayor Elizabeth Flores
- Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
(Congressional)

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE: *CDBG and Housing for Hurricane Evacuees***

*Chair, Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael B. Coleman*

- U.S. Rep. Michael Turner (OH), House of Representatives Government Reform Committee
- Steven B. Nesmith, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary (HUD)
- Anna Maria Farais, HUD Office of Community Planning and Development
- Barbara Duffield, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

11:00 am – 12:30 p.m.  
(Federal B)

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

*Chair, Austin (TX) Mayor Will Wynn*

Focus: LIHEAP and Sky-rocketing Energy Costs –

- U.S. Senator Jack Reed (RI)
- Steve Crout, American Gas Association

Focus: Energy Policy Act of 2005 --

- Michael Goo, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Focus: Climate Change –

- Tim Profeta, Duke University (invited)
- Floyd DeCamps, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation (invited)

Focus: Sustainable Energy Best Practices –

- Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez
- Salt Lake City Mayor Ross 'Rocky' Anderson
- Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
(Presidential Ballroom)

**LUNCHEON: *New Best Practices from America's Mayors***

*USCM Vice President Dearborn Mayor, Michael A. Guido, Presiding*

- Alphonso Jackson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Anchorage Mayor Mark Beigich – “Building Citizen Involvement”
- Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin – “Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships”
- Wichita (KS) Mayor Carlos Mayans – “Addressing Groundwater Pollution”
- Fort Wayne (IN) Mayor Graham A. Richard – “Wired and Inspired to Compete in the Flat World”
- Kelly Caffarelli, Home Depot Foundation – Excellence in Community Trees Awards
- Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman – 74th Annual Conference of Mayors in Las Vegas, June 2-6, 2006

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
(Federal B)

**FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES TASK FORCE**

*Chair, Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street, Vice-Chair, Miami Mayor Manuel A. Diaz*

Focus: Offender Re-Entry Back into Communities --

- U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (KS)
- U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL)
- U.S. Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA)
- Eric Cadora, Justice Mapping Center
- Chuck Gould, Volunteers of America

**Friday, January 27**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
(Federal A)

**HOMELAND SECURITY TASK FORCE**

*Co-Chairs, Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, Sugar Land Mayor David Wallace*

Focus: New First Responder Funding Process --

- Chet Lunner, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Govt. Coordination
- Edward Cash, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Local Affairs
- Tracy Henke, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Grants and Training

Focus: Transportation Security –

- Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, USCM Transportation Committee – Transporting Hazmat
- Edmund “Kip” Hawley, U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Valerie Long, Service Employees International Union – Raising Standards with the Private Security Industry
- Jeff Gaynor, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Critical Infrastructure Task Force – Building Resilient Cities

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
(Presidential Ballroom)

**PLENARY SESSION: *Release of 2005 Metro Economies Report***

*USCM President Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill, Presiding*

- Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels – Mayors and Climate Change/followup to USCM Climate Change Resolution of 2005
- U.S. Senator Harry Reid (NV)
- Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick – The State of Metro Economies
- U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (CA)

**WHO:**

**The United States Conference of Mayors**

Conference President and Long Beach (CA) Mayor Beverly O'Neill

Dearborn (MI) Mayor Michael Guido, Vice-President, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Trenton (NJ) Mayor Douglas Palmer, Chair of the Advisory Board, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Tom Cochran, Executive Director, U.S. Conference of Mayors

and nearly 200 of the Nation's Mayors

**WHAT: USCM 74<sup>th</sup> Winter Meeting**

**WHEN: Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday, January 27, 2006**

**WHERE: The Capital Hilton Hotel  
1001 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-639-5422/Pan American Press Room**

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*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.*