Winter Leadership Meeting on Sports, NYC:

JOHNSON CONVENES MAYORS, NBA LEADERS ON IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS TO AMERICA’S CITIES

At left, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver discusses sports in cities with USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson.

At left, USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson with NBA Commissioner Emeritus David Stern after a conversation about the growth and future of the NBA and the role sports play in Cities 3.0.

Left to right, CNN Anchor Wolf Blitzer, WNBA President Laurel Richie, Nike Senior Director of Business Affairs Sonja Henning, NFL Agent Kelli Masters, San Antonio Spurs Assistant Coach Becky Hammon, and WNBA All-Star Sue Bird during the Women in Sports Panel.

Mayors, staff fill food packages for needy families in the New York metropolitan area.
Sports Leadership Meeting – All Star Weekend – New York City

Conference President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson presided over our first-ever Leadership Meeting on sports over the NBA All-Star Weekend in New York City this past weekend.

No doubt, there were festivities, because, after all, it’s the NBA All-Star Weekend where the game of basketball is celebrated on a grand scale.

Without question, on a serious and substantive note, Mayor Johnson took us to a new plateau in understanding how innovative the National Basketball Association is as it relates to the life, style, philanthropy – and yes, the business, of making American cities what they are today.

It is significant that the NBA invited mayors to attend the event in New York, because outside groups are seldom invited. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver was most generous, and his staff, in all our dealings, was professional and thorough.

Conference President Johnson designed and presented to us a solid day of dynamic panels on Saturday, February 14. The morning started at 8:30am and we finished with nonstop star-studded panels that dealt with women in sports, race relations, media and press relations and the business investment and entrepreneurial side of sports.

In addition to the panels, mayors heard a “one on one” interview with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and the renowned icon of American Basketball, former NBA Commissioner David Stern.

In response to Mayor Johnson’s question to Commissioner Silver as to what made him act with such rapidity against Clippers owner Donald Sterling, Mr. Silver replied to say that, while he is a trained lawyer, he had to go with his heart to ban Mr. Sterling from the game. He moved courageously without lawyering up. It was quick and it was bold. And we must mention that President Johnson played a large part to this conclusion because, at the time, Mayor Johnson was, through a set of unusual circumstances, the acting Executive Director of the NBAPA.

Conference President Johnson did a masterful job in his talk with the former Commissioner of the NBA. David Stern has been with the organization since 1966 and served for 30 years as Commissioner. For an hour and a half, Mayor Johnson took us through the modern history of American basketball with the living icon. It was amazing, and you didn’t want Mr. Stern to quit explaining through funny stories and tough decisions in his life that he lived with American basketball as it emerged to the powerhouse we see today – the NBA.

On Saturday while in New York, we learned that the NBA has selected Mayor Kevin Johnson as a 2015 finalist to be inducted into the National Basketball Association Hall of Fame. Mr. Silver made the announcement to the mayors and there was a resounding standing ovation.

Congratulations Mr. President! Your team knows you are a Hall of Famer! Thanks for your leadership.

Sports, Tourism, Arts Is Business

Mayors continue to emphasize to Washington and our Business Community just how important tourism and sports are to the economic success of today’s cities. We recognized that when Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard created our successful Mayors Sports Alliance. In 2008, former Conference President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz led the movement to name Arts and Tourism as a Conference of Mayors top five priority for the 2008 Presidential Campaign. Today, we have as our Tourism, Arts, Parks Entertainment and Sports Committee Chair, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu who has emerged as a national spokesperson for arts and tourism. And

See COCHRAN on page 3
when Mayor Landrieu speaks, he teaches all of us just how important arts, sports and tourism are to the economic strength of a city and its people.

Tourism, High Tech Jobs Surge

And here’s something you may not know that backs up my point: On the train home from New York City, I picked up the New York Times. There on the front page, the upper right-hand story entitled “In New York City, Jobs Come Back Without Wall Street — Not That Kind of Boom” by Patrick McGeehan gives you facts that New York has created more jobs in the last five years then any five-year period in the last half century. What’s missing? Wall Street. Before, in the boom years of the 1990s, high-paying security industry jobs make up more than ten percent of all private sector jobs. Today it’s less than one percent.

Today in New York City, tourism and technical fields are the growth areas and these two fuel growth for our largest city. If it’s tech, sports, tourism, arts and entertainment as it has been documented here, then we can all recognize what mayors have been saying for some time. Indeed, this phenomenon, this new development confirms what Conference President Johnson told us during his inaugural address on 3.0 Cities at our Dallas Annual Meeting in June.

Every mayor in America wants full employment. It’s jobs, jobs, jobs. What has happened with these new private sectors increasing jobs in New York City is occurring in so many other cities. We must continue to listen to Mayors Johnson, Landrieu and others who say there are jobs in sports, arts, entertainment, tourism and high-tech businesses. We must move forward to share best practices, bring in new partnerships and strengthen this growth in our cities in 2015. New York’s kind of growth validates Mayor Johnson’s vision for Cities 3.0. We will continue to build on this theme and in that way we will find new ways to sustain and grow our cities. The economies of our cities are changing and with change, there is a new awareness, new opportunities and new challenges. We are aware; and we welcome the new opportunities and challenges as we move forward a new agenda, a Cities 3.0 agenda, for our great organization - The United States Conference of Mayors.
Mayors Engage with NBA, Sport Leaders

By Tom McClimon and Jocelyn Bogen

“Sports play an essential part in our cities’ economic, social, and cultural health, especially as we strive to embrace 3.0 cities,” said Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson in opening up the special leadership meeting on sports. Taking place during the annual National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star weekend in New York City, February 12-15, the meeting brought together the Conference of Mayors leadership with senior executives in the sports, entertainment, business and media worlds.

“Its not just about the game,” Johnson said. “Sports allow us to talk about societal issues, like race relations. Sports are also global and allows for different countries, societies and people to connect to one another.” The mayor also added, “The business of sports is also good business.”

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran discussed the importance that sports has played within the organization and to cities.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio welcomed the mayors to his city and discussed how the NBA was good partners in sponsoring the NBA All-Star Game and its affiliated activities.

USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson opens the working sessions on Mayors, Cities, and Sports February 14.

NBA Commissioners

The mayors had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with both the new and immediate past NBA Commissioners, “The public and private sectors must work together to address some of our problems, such as kids fitness,” stated NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. The new Commissioner also discussed his views on gaming, the league’s involvement with “My Brothers Keeper” program, and how new technology will be changing the game for both players and fans.

Immediate Past NBA Commissioner David Stern discussed with the mayors how technology is changing both the game and the facilities in which they are played. “Technology will play a ever increasing role for cities and the League,” said Stern. “ Arenas are becoming cultural centers, they are no longer limited to one sport.”

Women and Sports

Introduced by Conference of Mayors Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, this session focused on some of the biggest challenges facing women in sports and issues facing professional women’s sports franchises. Moderated by CNN Anchor Wolf Blitzer, the panelists included Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) President Laurel Richie, NBA San Antonio Spurs Assistant Coach Becky Hammon, Nike Business Affairs Senior Director Sonja Henning, National Football League Agent Kelli Masters, and WNBA All-Star Player Sue Bird. The discussion centered on issue facing establishing equality with men’s sports. “Different, but no less than,” is how Richie characterized the WNBA in comparison to the NBA. “There is a feeling of less importance of women sports.” “We need to start at the education level,” stated Henning. “It will take one person at a time,’ said Hammon. Masters encouraged the mayors to show appreciation for young women athletes for the leadership roles. And Bird encouraged the mayors to support and encourage women athletes.

Mayors and their spouses pack food for City Harvest as part of the NBA Cares program February 13. Left to right, San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor, Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan, Larry McMillan, Denton Mayor Chris Watts, Shayne Williams, and Wilmington (DE) Mayor Dennis P. Williams.

See SPORTS on page 5
Sports Facilities in Cities

Introduced by Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, this session focused on the best practices and challenges mayors face when dealing with sports infrastructure financing and development. Moderated by Arthur Miller, Associate Dean of the Tisch Center for Sports Management, Media, and Business at New York University, the panelists were Tim Romani of ICON Venue Group; Tim Leiweke of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment; Michael Kuntz, Turner Construction; Stacey Sonnenberg of Goldman Sachs; and Bruce Miller of Populous. The centerpiece of the discussion was how sports facilities can be the “heart and soul” of an urban core. Sports facilities are no longer just about the team, but can be both the economic engine and heartbeat of a city, as the mantra voiced by all the panelists. They can be the “special sauce” as one of the panelists stated. The panelists encouraged the mayors to get involved with the planning and development of sports facilities – “know what’s important to your community” and armed yourself with data and information in dealing with facilities designers and builders.

Role of Media

Introduced by Conference of Mayors Second Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, this session focused on the impact of the 24-hour news cycle on our society. Moderated by ESPN from page 4

See SPORTS on page 6
broadcaster Sage Steele, the panelists included Jason Hehir of ESPN’s 30 for 30 series, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill of CNN and BET, Adam Mendelsohn of Mercury Public Affairs, and Rowland Martin, host of TV One’s Morning Show. The session began with the mayors viewing the ESPN 30 for 30 short documentary “Judging Jewell,” the story of Richard Jewell, the alleged perpetrator of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic bombing who was later exonerated but not before his name was destroyed and his life ruined.

All the panelists felt that mistakes by media need to be admitted to, and in some instances penalties need to apply. Social media has helped to “democratize” the story, which means more people involved today in exposing the news, but also more of a chance that a story could be wrong or only partially correct. Mayors were encouraged to use all types of media in making sure that their stories get out to the public unfiltered.

NBA Sponsored Events

As part of the leadership meeting, mayors got the opportunity to attend and participate in events sponsored by the NBA including a Tech Summit in which mayors heard from leading experts on ways technology will influence issues, as gaming, in the years ahead. Mayors also participated in a NBA Newsmaker Event – Race and Sports in Society – where they heard panelists such as former Newark Mayor and now United States Senator Cory Booker, former United States Senator Bill Bradley, former NBA All-Star player Kareem Abul-Jabbar, and academian and author Michael Eric Dyson discuss how sports plays a role in addressing societal issues such as race relations. Both of these events were very limited in attendance and it was through the NBA’s generosity that the mayors participated.

Mayors, spouses, staff and friends spent part of the meeting helping at a food bank program organized by NBA Cares. NBA Cares is the league’s community outreach effort that addresses important social issues such as hunger, education and youth and family development. Mayors joined with NBA players, league officials and celebrities in helping to pack over 160,000 pounds of food for the needy of the New York City area.

Mayors also were able to attend the weekend’s NBA games including the Celebrity game, the All-Star Saturday Night and the 2015 NBA All-Star Game.
Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson has been nominated for the NBA Hall of Fame. Johnson learned of his nomination while leading the Conference of Mayors special leadership meeting on sports, February 14 in New York City. The three time NBA All-Star player is one of 12 nominees for induction into the NBA Hall of Fame. Other nominees include former NBA players Dikembe Mutombo, Tim Hardaway, Spencer Haywood, and Jo Jo White.

“The finalists for the Class of 2015 are a group of very distinguished individuals who have each make a unique impact on the game of basketball,” said Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Chairman Jerry Colangelo. “To be recognized as a finalist is a great achievement in and of itself, and each of the finalists recognized today should be very proud.”

The Class of 2015 will be announced April 6 at a press conference in Indianapolis prior to the NCAA Men’s Championship game. Enshrinement will take place in September.
Ensuring Your Employees Are “Retirement Ready”

By Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland

State and local employees have historically been perceived as having more than adequate retirement savings, as being on track to maintain their standard of living in retirement. A 2011 study by the Center for Retirement Research under a grant from Great-West Retirement Services found, however, that many public sector retirees may fall well short of their pre-retirement earnings. A number of factors continue to make it more difficult for public employers to sustain the level of retirement, health and disability benefits they have traditionally provided to their employees. Certain benefits are being eliminated entirely for new employees.

As public employees are increasingly called upon to take personal responsibility for their economic future, many employers are looking for ways to help. Designing your eligible 457(b) deferred compensation plan to cover more employees and provide the type of financial education and planning tools they need to make informed decisions is an excellent way to improve their retirement picture!

Monitoring your program to ensure the plan design is serving the best interests of your participants will assist them to prepare for a secure future. Here are five specific recommendations:

Retirement Readiness at the Plan Level. Partner with your plan’s service provider to evaluate current retirement readiness at the plan level. Look at various factors, such as the overall rate of employee participation, the median contribution rate, the median account balance and the most popular investment alternatives. At Empower Retirement, for example, plan sponsors can use our Retirement Readiness Report Card to gauge the plan’s retirement readiness. The Report Card tracks four participant attributes: investment portfolio allocation, savings rate, years to retirement and income replacement percentage. Armed with that information, plan sponsors can make targeted changes to their 457(b) plan to improve participation and savings rates and drive better outcomes for employees.

Plan Design. Certain plan design features are proven to simplify employee decision-making and encourage participation. Auto enrollment gets more employees into the plan and studies show most of them continue to participate. Auto escalation keeps contribution levels up and increases savings. Limiting the number of providers and investment options encourages participation by employees who become overwhelmed by too many choices. A default investment is particularly helpful to participants seeking a quick and easy way to enroll. It can also improve investment results for participants who are not experienced investors.

Employee Readiness. Partner with your plan provider to develop a roadmap for improving employee retirement readiness. For example, at Empower Retirement, employees have access to a Retirement Income Control Panel on the plan’s website. It provides a realistic assessment of each participant’s level of retirement readiness by calculating an estimate of their projected monthly income after they retire based upon their current account balance, contribution rate, expected retirement age, Social Security benefits, and any other assets the participant has listed in their profile. If there is a project-
ed shortfall in desired retirement income, participants can choose from a number of action items to close that gap, such as increasing plan contributions, changing their investment selections or delaying retirement.

Financial Literacy and Investment Advice. Implement targeted, action-oriented communication and education programs that stress the need for employees to prepare for retirement, and demonstrate how participating in the 457(b) plan can help reach their goals. Educational meetings should focus on financial literacy to improve participants’ knowledge about the various types of plan investments. Work with the plan’s service provider to offer investment advice, not just guidance. Advice tailored to each employee’s unique situation and financial goals can be very beneficial to those who are not well versed in investments. Ask your provider about managed accounts and other tools to help employees make informed investment decisions.

Guaranteed Lifetime Income. Consider adding a guaranteed lifetime income payout option to ensure participants won’t outlive their retirement savings. Ask your plan service provider for options.

For more information on this subject or the USCM/Empower Retirement Deferred Compensation program, contact either Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland at kweyland@usmayors.org or Jeff Bean at jbean@usmayors.org.
Show Your Employees Love with Critical Illness Coverage

Offering This Insurance Can Help Your Employees Protect the Things They Value Most in Life

By Carey Adamson

Love was in the air last weekend as the nation celebrated Valentine’s Day weekend. There were chocolate hearts, candy hearts and cartoon hearts everywhere in every store window you passed. But have your employees taken the time this month to consider the health of their hearts?

That’s the goal of American Heart Month, which is celebrated each year in February.

Heart disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control, has been the leading cause of death in the United States for more than 90 years. And strokes ranked fifth in 2013. About 600,000 people die in the United States each year from heart disease – that accounts for 25 percent of all deaths, according to the CDC.

Millions of Americans are at risk. The American Heart Association estimates there are 85 million people living with cardiovascular disease in the United States. That means millions of Americans are at risk of experiencing heart attacks and strokes.

Make sure your city’s employees are protected and keep their hearts strong this year by reminding them of these ways to improve their heart health:

- Drinking two cups of coffee each day can reduce your risk of heart failure, according to WebMD (2012).
- Laughter can help reduce artery inflammation and increase “good” cholesterol, according to the AHA (2013).
- Moderate consumption of flavanoid-rich foods like chocolate, red wine and tea can improve your heart health, according to the Cleveland Clinic (2014).
- And talking out a potential problem that includes unresolved stress or conflict can reduce your risk for heart disease, according to the AHA (2014).

But even if your employees do all four of these things, it won’t completely eliminate their risk of suffering heart attacks or heart disease. In 2015, millions of Americans will still suffer heart-related injuries and illnesses, which can take them away from work and their paychecks for days, weeks or months at a time.

Medical coverage can cover many of the health-related expenses incurred as a result of a heart attack (myocardial infarction) or stroke, but employees can still be left with significant out-of-pocket costs for deductibles and copayments. Medical insurance also doesn’t cover everyday living expenses or other costs related to the illness, including home modifications, travel expenses and rehabilitation charges.

Critical illness insurance supplements your existing major medical coverage by providing employees a lump-sum benefit, ranging from $5,000 to $100,000, if they are diagnosed with a covered illness. These illnesses or procedures include such things as heart attack (myocardial infarction), end-stage renal failure, coronary artery bypass surgery, stroke or a major organ failure.

In addition to critical illness coverage, other insurance products can also be used above and beyond medical coverage to help protect your employees, their families and their assets in case of an emergency.

Hospital confinement indemnity insurance and cancer insurance are also key ways that employers can provide crucial benefits to their employees for when hard times hit. Hospital confinement indemnity insurance can be used to help cover costs related to outpatient surgery, diagnostic tests, doctor appointments and emergency room trips. Cancer insurance can help cover home health care, lost income, child care, care at out-of-network specialty centers and experimental treatments.

These additional costs can have serious negative impacts on a family’s financial health. A study released in 2012 by the American Journal of Medicine found that 62 percent of all bankruptcies were caused by overwhelming medical bills. Three-quarters of those who filed for bankruptcy had medical insurance, according to the study conducted by Harvard University.

Allowing your employees to purchase these voluntary benefits — at no direct financial cost to your company — can help them pay their mortgages, keep the lights on, fill up the car with gas and pay other bills if they are out of work for an extended period of time.

So this February, while most of the country is celebrating Valentine’s Day and love, make sure your employees are able to protect their hearts and Valentines with the financial protection products they need and deserve.

About the Author

Carey Adamson is Vice President of Public Sector Market Services for Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company.

Colonial Life is a market leader in providing financial protection benefits through the workplace, including disability, life, accident, cancer, critical illness and hospital confinement indemnity insurance. The company’s benefit services and education, innovative enrollment technology and personal service support more than 80,000 businesses and organizations, representing more than 3 million of America’s workers and their families.

For more information about Colonial Life’s products and services, contact Adamson at 803-678-6156, send e-mail to CLAdamson@ColonialLife.com or visit the website www.ColonialLife.com.
Wells Fargo and U.S. Conference of Mayors CommunityWINS℠ Grant Program

Strong support = stronger cities

Make a difference in your community by applying for a CommunityWINS℠ grant

Wells Fargo Bank and the Wells Fargo Foundation are teaming up with the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) to offer the CommunityWINS℠ (Working/Investing in Neighborhood Stabilization) Grant Program.

CommunityWINS will be administered by USCM with the goal of awarding $3 million over three years, to support local nonprofits in promoting long-term economic prosperity and quality of life for their community.

Who’s eligible?
Your community is eligible! As a member of USCM, you’re qualified to nominate up to three initiatives or programs through an eligible nonprofit of your choice that addresses one of the following categories:

- Neighborhood stabilization – projects designed to stimulate growth and stability while assisting in the removal of blight and the rebuilding of neighborhoods
- Economic development – projects designed to promote business development
- Job creation – projects designed to aid in local job creation or assist in job training

How can you apply for a CommunityWINS grant?
Grant requirements, application details, application checklists, and the online application forms are available now at usmayors.org/communitywins. Please visit and apply by March 16, 2015.

Go to usmayors.org/communitywins beginning on January 21, 2015 to submit your application.

For questions, please email CommunityWINS@wellsfargo.com or contact Gene Lowe at USCM at 202-861-6710.

Together we’ll go far
U.S. Communities Cooperative Purchasing Program Saves Port of Miami Time, Money

By Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland

Hosting 4.8 million cruise passengers and 1,348 cargo vessels last year alone, the Port of Miami is known as both the “Cruise Capital of the World” and the “Cargo Gateway of the Americas.”

The Port includes seven cruise terminals, with most modern cruise ships hosting approximately 5,000 passengers. Security is a top priority. From cruises to cargo ships, ensuring passenger safety, monitoring the premises, and minimizing crime is no easy task.

Due to the large volume of activity taking place on a daily basis, the Port of Miami faced a number of security and operational issues ranging from theft to “slip and fall” passenger lawsuits.

Additionally, security personnel struggled to monitor the Port at night – darkness made it difficult to identify who or what was approaching the docks. Luxury boats often tied up to restricted docks, stealing water space reserved for cruise and cargo vessels and delaying the flow of vessel traffic.

The Port of Miami needed to find a way to ensure the safety of civilians and maximize efficiency on both land and sea. To update their surveillance system, the Port of Miami partnered with UNICOM Government under the U.S. Communities contract – a government purchasing cooperative that provides world class procurement resources and solutions to state and local government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education, and nonprofits. UNICOM Government, a division of UNICOM Global, works with federal, state, and local government organizations to deliver the IT solutions, services, and financial options that support mission success.

Leveraging the U.S. Communities contract, the Port of Miami expedited project planning and outsourcing without compromising quality – completing a 14-month process in 45 days.

The U.S. Communities contract eliminated the need for multiple vendor contract procurements, allowing the Port of Miami to select tried-and-true U.S. Communities’ subcontractors in a hassle-free, efficient manner. Working under one contract allowed for UNICOM Government and subcontractor accountability throughout the duration of the project, streamlining the process without complications typically found in the traditional RFP process.

Valued at $6 million, the project expanded the Port’s existing video surveillance system from 450 cameras to 1,000 cameras, and integrated an advanced video management system (VMS) into security controls.

New facilities and terminals were built with newly manufactured mounts and poles, power cabling infrastructure, and network video recording (NVR) software integrated within the control system. The U.S. Communities contract accelerated the process of acquiring electrical permits for underground boring and trenching prior to physical construction of the terminals.

UNICOM Government installed state-of-the-art radar technology and a coastal automatic identification system (AIS) to provide domain awareness of the waterway that surrounds the Port of Miami.

In addition to these installations, UNICOM Government partnered with NICE Systems, whose NiceVision Net IP video surveillance solutions upgrade analog video surveillance systems to help secure all of the Port’s facilities. The NICE solution enables Port officials to remotely monitor and manage pre-existing analog cameras and newly installed IP video surveillance cameras.

Waterside surveillance was a significant task – from physical construction to technology integration. When small vessels like jet skis or canoes approach the port, the coastal tracking system detects incoming signals, allowing officials to see vessels that may encroach or violate the secured area. Geo-scanners track the target and notify a security officer, who is dispatched to investigate the area. The radar technology helps prevent unauthorized port intrusions.

The physical security alarm and water surveillance system is monitored on the nation’s largest port security video wall. Integrated with the Port’s physical security alarming systems, Barco’s video-wall solution, and NICEVision’s video management matrix, the wall enables officers to control and modify everything placed on the system. The video wall is designated for alert systems, intercom use, analytics, and cabling, however most importantly was configured to multi-task – operators are able to modify and view specific sections of the wall, while the remaining layers stay untouched. With this purpose in mind, the wall was configured to prevent overload and serve as a foolproof, user-friendly system for operators.

The Port of Miami and UNICOM Government worked together to find a security solution that mitigates many of the significant risks the Port previously faced – from unauthorized intrusions to false “slip and falls.” Thanks to these solutions, Port officials are now able to monitor and maintain security control of the vast area, allowing for smooth operation through one of our nation’s busiest ports. The team continues to monitor and update security processes and tools to keep passengers on their cruises safe, and cargo en route to its destination.

For more information on the U.S. Communities Cooperative Purchasing Program, contact either Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland at kweyland@usmayors.org or Jeff Bean at jbean@usmayors.org.
Mayors Reiterate Support for Immigration Executive Action in Face of Temporary Injunction

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Responding to a Texas federal judge’s temporary injunction that halted implementation of President Obama’s executive actions on immigration, 23 mayors, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities issued a statement February 17 reiterating their support for the executive actions and confidence that they will be upheld by the courts:

“Despite this temporary delay, we are confident the President’s executive actions will be upheld and enforced as the law of the land, benefitting millions of families and spurring much needed economic growth nationwide. We are undeterred and will continue this campaign to fully integrate all our citizens, and keep our cities centers of vitality, creativity, and the engine of small business growth. These reforms will be implemented, and we look forward to ensuring all eligible persons will be brought out of the shadows and granted their full rights under the President’s lawful executive actions.”

Signing onto the February 17 statement were: New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Washington DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay Central Falls (RI) Mayor James Diossa, Richmond (CA) Mayor Tom Butt, Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales, Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

During the Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, de Blasio, other mayors, and Conference of Mayor CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran announced at a January 23 press conference that more than 30 mayors, the Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities were filing a friend-of-the-court brief in this case, Texas vs. United States, in support of President Obama’s executive actions.

While U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen’s 123-page order issued late on February 16 sided with the 26 states that challenged President Obama’s executive orders issued November 20, the judge did not rule on the legal issues raised in the case, such as whether the administration overstepped its legal authority to implement a new deferred deportation program.

The immediate impact of the ruling, however, was to delay implementation of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). To comply with the ruling, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announced February 17 that the Department would not begin accepting requests for the expansion of DACA February 18 as planned and would also suspend the plan to accept requests for DAPA until further notice.

Johnson said that he “strongly disagree[s]” with the Judge’s decision to temporarily enjoin implementation of DAPA and DACA and that the Justice Department will appeal it. “In the meantime, we recognize we must comply with it,” Johnson stated. “The Department of Justice, legal scholars, immigration experts and even other courts have said that our actions are well within our legal authority,” Johnson continued. “Our actions will also benefit the economy and promote law enforcement. We fully expect to ultimately prevail in the courts, and we will be prepared to implement DAPA and expanded DACA once we do.”

Johnson also emphasized that, “The Court’s order does not affect the existing DACA. Individuals may continue to come forward and request initial grant of DACA or renewal of DACA pursuant to the guidelines established in 2012.” In addition, he said, “The Court’s order affect this Department’s ability to set and implement enforcement priorities.” He said that the Department would continue to prioritize public safety, national security, and border security.
Mayors Call on Congress to Pass “Clean” Homeland Security Spending Bill

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Houston Mayor Annise Parker and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter urged Congress to pass a “clean” spending bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the end of the fiscal year during a February 10 press conference call with Senators Jeanne Shaheen (NH) and Corey Booker (NJ) and New York Police Department Deputy Commissioner John Miller.

While it provided funding for all other federal agencies through the end of the current fiscal year in the omnibus passed late last year, Congress funded the Department of Homeland Security through a short-term continuing resolution that is set to expire February 27. This was in response to the President’s immigration executive actions announced November 20 and was intended to give Congress an opportunity to stop those actions early this year when Republicans controlled both houses. The House has passed an appropriations bill that blocks the executive actions. The Senate on four occasions has blocked that bill from consideration because of partisan politics. … We want a nation, not holding funding hostage to Congress an opportunity to stop those further attacks on the Western targets. It’s vital that Congress provide stable funding for the remainder of the year to this agency that is charged with keeping all of us safe and secure.” (See letter on Page 14)

Homeland Secretary Johnson Highlights Need for Full-Year Funding

During the Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in January, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson discussed the importance of Congress passing a clean homeland security spending bill to carry the agency through the rest of the current fiscal year. He explained that operating under a continuing resolution, as the Department is until February 27, means it cannot undertake any new spending initiatives or release any grant funding for non-disaster programs.

Johnson issued a statement February 3 that listed a few of the activities vital to public safety and security that the Department has funded, including new communications equipment for over 80 Los Angeles area public safety agencies, surveillance cameras and environmental

See CLEAN SECURITY on page 15
Dear Senators Cochran, Mikulski, Hoeven, and Shaheen:

I write on behalf of the nation’s mayors to urge you to expeditiously report out a “clean” bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for the remainder of the current fiscal year. A fully functioning Department of Homeland Security is critical to the security of our nation, our cities, and our citizens. A Department operating on a short-term continuing resolution, despite its best efforts, faces uncertainty and delays and simply cannot be fully functioning.

Under its current short-term continuing resolution, DHS cannot undertake any new spending initiatives to respond to national needs, including those along the border, or release any grant funding for non-disaster programs. Among the non-disaster programs it funds are the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which provide vital resources to our cities to help them prevent and prepare for the threat of a terrorist attack. The Urban Search and Rescue System is a national resource that provides lifesaving aid to disaster-stricken communities both at home and abroad. The Assistance to Firefighter Grant programs help local fire departments meet their baseline readiness needs. Emergency Management Performance Grants help to fund the emergency managers so critical to our preparedness to prevent and respond to disasters when events – manmade and natural – occur.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson recently listed just a few of the activities vital to public safety and security that the Department has funded, including new communications equipment for over 80 Los Angeles area public safety agencies, surveillance cameras and environmental sensors used by NYPD to detect in real time potential terrorist activity, upgraded oxygen masks and tanks for over 30 Denver area fire and law enforcement agencies; and 150 firefighter jobs in Detroit.

The current threat environment is serious, given the terrorist attacks in Paris, Ottawa and Sydney and public calls by terrorist organizations for further attacks on the Western targets. It’s vital that Congress provide stable funding for the remainder of the year to the agency charged with keeping all of us safe and secure, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
Permanent Internet Tax Ban Reintroduced in House, Senate

By Larry Jones

Leaders in both houses of Congress have reintroduced legislation (the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, H.R. 235) that would permanently ban state and local taxes on Internet access fees. A similar measure cleared the House last year by voice-vote. And although it enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the Senate, the leadership decided not to act on the measure in part because the House leadership refused to allow a vote on the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA), a bill that passed the Senate on May 6, 2013 by a strong bipartisan majority (69 – 27). This legislation would enable state and local governments to collect an estimated $26 billion annually in sales taxes due on Internet and other remote sales.

Instead of passing a permanent bill, Congress approved a temporary extension last year, which keeps the current Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) in place until October 1 of this year. However, House and Senate leaders remain divided over ITFA and MFA. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (VA), a key sponsor of PITFA, can be expected to work for final passage of the bill in the House and work to block House action on the Senate’s version of MFA. On the other hand, the key sponsors of the MFA, Senators Mike Enzi (WY), Lamar Alexander (TN), and Richard Durbin (IL) are expected to continue to push the House to schedule a vote on MFA before any action is taken on a bill extending the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

The Conference of Mayors and other state and local groups are strong supporters of MFA, but oppose PITFA because it would preempt state and local taxing authority on Internet access fees and eliminate a grandfather clause that would cause seven states (and their local governments), which had taxes in place before the original law passed in 1998, to lose an estimated $500 million annually in revenues.

Goodlatte, along with Representatives Anna Eshoo (CA), Tom Marino (PA), Steve Chabot (OH) and Steve Cohen (TN), introduced the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act on January 9. Similar legislation, the Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act, was introduced in the Senate on February 11 by Senators John Thune (SD) and Ron Wyden (OR). The House measure has 29 cosponsors and the Senate bill has 39 cosponsors.

The Conference of Mayors and other state and local groups are strong supporters of MFA, but oppose PITFA because it would preempt state and local taxing authority on Internet access fees and eliminate a grandfather clause that would cause seven states (and their local governments), which had taxes in place on Internet access fees before the original law passed in 1998, to lose an estimated $500 million annually in revenues.

CLEAN SECURITY

from page 13

sensors used by NYPD to detect in real time potential terrorist activity, upgraded oxygen masks and tanks for over 30 Denver area fire and law enforcement agencies; and 150 firefighter jobs in Detroit.

Also that day, Johnson was quoted as saying that a DHS shutdown would inflict “terrible disruption” on Americans at border crossings, customs offices, and airports. “It is horribly unfair to ask people in the critical role of Homeland Security to come to work and not get paid because Congress can’t fund the department,” he commented.
In Memoriam:
Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins

D. Michael Collins, lifelong resident and mayor of Toledo, passed away on Friday, February 6. He was elected mayor in November 2013 after serving on the Toledo city council for six years.

After graduating from high school, Collins enlisted in the Marines and then continued his service by joining the Toledo Police Department. He worked in the vice squad, metro drug unit, and crimes against persons and was elected president of the Toledo Police Patrolman’s Association in 1988 and served in that position until he retired in 1999.

Collins first joined The U.S. Conference of Mayors at the 82nd Winter Meeting in Washington (DC) just a few weeks after being sworn in as mayor. He was an active member of the Criminal and Social Justice Committee and a staunch advocate of improving water quality for America’s lakes and rivers.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins,” Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson said in a statement. “Mayor Collins attended The U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in Washington (DC) last month, and we were pleased to work with him on various policy issues impacting the city of Toledo and its residents. We are very saddened to hear of his passing, and the nation’s mayors stand with the people of Toledo during this difficult time.”

Calendar of Events
(Updated 02/18/15)

March 22-23

May 13-15
Mayors Bike Summit, Madison. Contact: Kevin McCarty kmccarty@usmayors.org / 202-861-6728

June 19-22
83rd Annual Conference of Mayors, San Francisco. Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Opens March 2015

For updates or changes, check our web site at usmayors.org
San Francisco Mayor Lee “Rolling Out Red Carpet” for the 83rd Annual Conference

San Francisco • June 19-22
Registration will open March 2015
Details will be available at USMAYORS.ORG

“Thank you for being mayors!” San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee said, as he expressed his pleasure in hosting the next USCM Annual Conference in June. He encouraged the mayors to also bring their families to San Francisco.