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Left to right, USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, USCM 2nd Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Arizona Senator John McCain, USCM Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson.



National pollster/messaging expert Dr. Frank Luntz discusses education priorities.

Mayors Highlight City Energy Successes with EECBG Funds

By Conference of Mayors Staff

The nation's mayors released the results of a new survey pointing to city successes in using Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Gresham (OR) Mayor Shane Bemis, Bridgeport (CT) Mayor Bill Finch and Carmel (IN) Mayor Jim Brainard presented the survey findings on a national press conference call to highlight local energy innovations championed by mayors in every part of the country. The results document the responses of 204 may-

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Proposal Would Impose Surtax on Muni Bond Interest, Eliminate Deduction for State, Local Taxes

By Larry Jones

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (MI) unveiled a comprehensive tax reform proposal on February 26 that would, among other things, impose a new surtax on interest earnings from tax-exempt municipal bonds for individuals with annual incomes of \$400,000 and couples with

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**February 28, 2014
Washington (DC)**

Mayor Reed: The Mayors Brand

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed brought a strong message to our leadership mayors assembled in Mesa, hosted by our President Scott Smith.

Mayor Reed told his colleagues that the brand of "mayors" is stronger than ever. He urged the mayors, of all size cities, to step up, and stand tall because he says it is our time. He brings a message from Davos, the power meeting in Switzerland. He brings this message of strength, power and trust from the boardrooms of business and the bar rooms of our neighborhoods across this nation.

As Chair of our Transportation Committee, he thanked our staff for the testimony he gave before Congress recently. The testimony resonates; its bipartisan and it makes sense. Our transportation system must meet the needs of our people, and today, 84 percent of our people live in our cities.

The question is whether we will continue to send transportation funding to the State House, where in many instances it goes to where the pine trees are and not where the people are.

Today, traffic is a universal daily issue when the sun rises across our great nation. One U.S. Department of Transportation survey showed that single mothers spend 75 minutes a day in the car, and that mothers spend more time driving than the average time a parent spends providing primary child care. The long commute where a 16-mile distance equals more than an hour is not just a big city problem. Throughout America, we wake and get the weather report and the traffic. If it's bad weather some people do

blame God. But if it's traffic, many blame the mayor, and in many cases the mayor has no control over the roads they ride in a metro area. And in most cities, there is a constant battle between cities and state highway funders over funding issues and design issues.

Mayor Reed is telling us to stand up, to work with our House Chair Bill Shuster and Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx for a more balanced and modernized transportation system.

Over the next few weeks, we will work with Transportation Chair Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed. It is a defining moment and we are blessed to have his vision, commitment, passion and leadership.

Soon you will receive an action agenda for our transportation campaign. Kevin McCarty, my Assistant Executive Director of Transportation, is working with Mayor Reed's staff in Atlanta to bring you focused information that you can translate into political action for you and your city's transportation needs. Together, we must go forth in a bipartisan manner to demand that Congress follow us, as we are about the business of moving people and goods and services throughout our nation.

Mesa Leadership Meeting

We profusely thank Conference President Scott Smith for opening up our organization, for letting mayors speak, for giving mayors the opportunity to learn from one another, for respecting my staff – The A Team of Urban America – and for listening to mayors of all sizes voice their priorities.

Mayor Smith has believed, as I do, that our strength is with our mayors. Respect is a word that goes a long way and he has acted to stop the overload of Washington law firms and political consultants espousing their grand ideas of policy and strategy.

He resisted us continuing to bring B-string TV talking heads to tell us over and over that Washington is broken. We

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COCHRAN

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almost had a rebellion in Orlando at our Annual Meeting because of the talking heads that overshadowed and prevented a "give and take" learning opportunity that has been a cardinal virtue of this organization since its inception over 80 years ago.

In today's world with little federal money, no pork special projects, mayors really have to assess whether they need to hire lobbyists or law firms to tell me and my staff and our mayors which position we should take on any given position. We must listen to the mayors. We must act for them.

From the headquarters of The United States Conference of Mayors have come the best ideas and progressive issues that have carried our nation forward. We must resist any move that will interfere with using our great organization for the common good.

We thank Mayor Smith for opening up our organization. In many ways he has rolled away the stone and there is light, there is new energy. There is a buzz within our organization. New mayors are coming in strong; the older ones are renewing their energy.

Mayor Smith has announced he is running for Governor of Arizona. He lives in a state with a resign-to-run statute. Hence he will soon resign his office as mayor of Mesa and the Presidency of The U.S. Con-

ference of Mayors. Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, under our constitution, will automatically become the 82nd President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayor Johnson's openness, his respect for other mayors and the staff of our organization will continue the thrust to strengthen the mayor-driven organization even more. If there is one thing he knows something about, it's team building. As one of the star professional athletes of our time, he is innately a team builder and he will continue the spirit of openness, participation and respect that Mayor Smith has given all of us – our mayors and USCM Executive team.

The future is ours. This is a defining moment. It's renaissance time for mayors. Where there is no leadership, we shall provide it. Where there is a vacuum, we will fill it. That was the spirit of that band of brothers that assembled in Detroit, 81 years ago when we were founded in 1932.

As Mayor Kevin Johnson takes over, the spirit is still there. It is the nature of the beast. It is the best part about being mayor. Together, hundreds of mayors come together and it is true magic. Mayor Johnson will need your support as he leads us forward through two Annual Meetings – Dallas '14 and San Francisco '15 – and into the very beginning of our new era of the post-Obama presidency as we forcefully forge a new pro-growth agenda for the presidential campaign of 2016. Let's do it!

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

We know you have good news to share about your mayor or a unique local program. Tell us about it so other cities can learn from your success! Send your press releases and photos for U.S. Mayor newspaper to
USCM Public Affairs Office: etemple@usmayors.org
202-861-6719

Calendar of Events



(Updated 02/27/14)

March 27

Mayors Water Council Meeting, Washington (DC). Contact: Rich Anderson randerson@usmayors.org / 202-861-6795. Registration Open

April 21-26

National Community Development Week. Contact: Gene Lowe glowe@usmayors.org / 202-861-6710

April 25-27

Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports TAPES Committee Meeting, New Orleans. Contact: Jocelyn Bogen jbogen@usmayors.org / 202-861-6727. Registration Available Soon

June 20-23

82nd Annual Conference of Mayors, Dallas. Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Available March 2014

USCM Community Policing Meeting at Clinton Presidential Center, and USCM Ports/Exports and Imports Meeting, Little Rock

- Community Policing: October 8-9
- Ports/Exports and Imports: October 9-10

Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Available Soon

For updates or changes, check our web site at
usmayors.org



Parks Key to Communities, Need Federal Partnership

By Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price

As mayors, we all face budgetary challenges and the difficult decisions that inevitably accompany them. We look for effective solutions to serve the current needs of our communities and prepare for the future, including ways to leverage limited public funding with private resources. The U.S. Conference of Mayors provides an ideal forum for sharing best practices and new ideas for finding the path forward on so many pressing issues. By working together, we can make all of our cities better places to live, raise families, do business and so much more.

With this goal in mind, we started the bi-partisan Mayors for Parks coalition in partnership with the City Parks Alliance to advocate for a critical program that has benefited urban areas across the country. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created by Congress in 1965 to reinvest revenues from offshore oil and gas development into our nation's parks and waterways. LWCF has played an important role in helping to create and improve urban parks, which as we all know have a huge impact on nearly every aspect of life in our cities.



Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock

LWCF makes smart and efficient use of federal dollars by providing matching grants that leverage additional funds, which has helped create more than 42,000 state and local parks, playgrounds, urban wildlife refuges, greenways, trails and open spaces. LWCF is also critical to protecting and improving recreational access to America's national parks, forest and wildlife refuges.



Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price

Fort Worth, one of the fastest growing large cities in the country, has used LWCF for park projects that will boost wellness and the quality of life as the population grows. In Denver, LWCF has supported a transformational park and trail system on the South Platte River's banks, spurring more than \$2.5 billion in economic activity along the river corridor.

However, LWCF is in trouble. If Congress does not reauthorize it, LWCF will expire next year, essentially ending the program. In addition, LWCF has been chronically under-funded in its nearly 50-year history. Billions of dollars in revenues that were intended to go to LWCF have been diverted elsewhere.

As advocates for our cities, it is incumbent upon us to work together and see that programs like LWCF continue to provide benefits that will last for generations to come.





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Mayors Discuss Strategy on Transportation Reauthorization, Education Excellence, Unfunded Mandates, Immigration

By Conference of Mayors Staff

Led by Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, more than 40 members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors leadership gathered in the Mesa/Phoenix area February 20-22 to refine the organization's advocacy agenda on top priorities facing the nation's cities and the people who live in metro areas.

Smith reiterated the findings of Conference of Mayors most recent economic report showing employment and economic growth projections for 2014 in all of the nation's 363 metropolitan areas. Done in conjunction with IHS Global Insight, the report shows all of the nation's 363 metropolitan areas are expected to see real economic growth in 2014, unlike in 2013 when 96 metropolitan areas experienced declining economies. The report is available online at: <http://www.usmayors.org/metroeconomies/2014/0114-briefing.pdf>.

On the heels of the Conference of Mayors landmark 82nd Winter Meeting in Washington (DC), where mayors met with President Obama, Congressional leaders, top CEOs, and nine Cabinet Officers, Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran said, "We are gathered here for one reason – cities and their suburbs drive the national economy. As we all know, U.S. cities and their metropolitan area economies account for over 90 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, nearly 90 percent of wage and salary income, and nearly 86 percent of all jobs. Congress needs to invest in, not hinder, our metro areas because most of our future economic growth and the vast majority of our Gross Domestic Product will come from them."

Overarching priorities identified for action over the course of the meeting included:

- Passing a more metro-focused surface transportation bill – with the current law set to expire at the end of September 2014;
- Passing the bi-partisan Marketplace Fairness Act in the House;
- Preventing adoption of the Administration's proposed 28 percent cap on municipal bond interest, which would result in the loss of 311,000 jobs and \$24 billion in GDP;
- Supporting the Community Development Block Grant program – now celebrating its 40th anniversary;
- Achieving meaningful relief from unfunded federal mandates – especially those related to water issues - from both the EPA and Congress;
- Enacting comprehensive immigration reform;
- Promoting ways that mayors – regardless of their level of control - can improve public schools and student achievement;
- Expanding U.S. manufacturing, and promoting trade and exports; and
- Highlighting the local leadership being provided on energy efficiency.

Senator McCain/Immigration

Arizona Senior Senator John McCain had an extensive discussion with the mayors on prospects for immigration reform. "I believe we have galvanized a broad base of support for this legislation. But I am very disappointed that it seems to be stalled. What kind of a nation are we if we have a permanent population living in the shadows in our country?" McCain said that he will never give up and urged the mayors not to either. He expressed confidence that House Speaker John Boehner will stand up for what is right.

McCain also reminded the mayors, "If



Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin, center, highlights the benefits to cities of partnerships such as the USCM/Great-West deferred compensation program.

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there is any group that people rely on and respect, it is our nation's mayors. You are in a unique position to help move this legislation forward. Mayors are respected and influential, and bring an incredible amount of focus and energy to this policy discussion." He urged the Conference to make immigration reform a top priority.

Smith, who sees fixing the broken immigration system as a key economic driver said, "Our experience tells us that the economic gains our cities and country will reap from fixing immigration make the effort well worth it. One thing about which we are certain is that maintaining the status quo is simply not acceptable. The social, political and financial costs of not securing our borders and fixing our immigration system will be staggering. These are costs that our cities, and we as a nation, cannot afford to bear."

Later in the meeting, Immigration Reform Task Force Co-Chair Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait discussed planned efforts, including encouraging additional mayors to join the 115 mayors who co-signed a letter sent to the House at the end of January urging action and organizing mayor-



Education Excellence Task Force Chair Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, second from right, discusses the four pillars of his education agenda.

al visits to key House members. Cochran has recirculated the letter to all mayors and invited them to sign on.

Transportation Reauthorization

Conference of Mayors Transportation and Communications Chair Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed led a discussion with mayors on the renewal of the federal surface transportation law (MAP-21), due to

expire September 30. Reed's remarks featured three key priorities for mayors: support House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) in securing additional resources to fund a multi-year renewal bill; maintain balanced trust fund support for both transit and highway investment; and place more emphasis on mayors and local decision-makers, including raising financial commitments to metropolitan planning organizations through greater suballocation of highway program funding.

Reed praised Shuster for his leadership in moving legislation forward, stating, "This is a serious man and he wants to get something done." During the discussion, mayors indicated their strong support for the agenda that Reed presented, emphasizing that the time had come for more federal attention and focus on the nation's metropolitan areas and empowering their decision-makers to have more say over how available federal dollars are invested. Reed urged mayors to commit to a communications agenda over the next several months to remind the public about the economic necessity of continued investment in the nation's metropolitan transportation infrastructure.



At left, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and Amy Hill from Walmart outline the new \$10 million partnership to promote domestic manufacturing, and the application schedule for the first round of grants.

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Luntz/Education Excellence

"Every child regardless of zip code and where their parents live deserves a good education," communication strategist Dr. Frank Luntz said in the opening discussion session of the Winter Leadership Meeting. "We need to capture the nation's imagination again to combat fear in education excellence." The mission of ensuring that every child is "college and career ready" was the focus of the discussion, as mayors grappled with ways to communicate their commitment to effective education opportunities for every family they serve.

The commitment began with "expecting, rewarding and retaining quality teachers, and standing up for students to ensure measurable results." The focus was on creating career paths to improve quality of life. Mayors are expected to deliver accountability and measurable results to achieve education excellence.

The mayors also discussed the Common Core State Standards – rigorous academic standards adopted in 46 states – that were largely supported in 2009-2010, but now face increasing opposition. Sovereign rights and local control are the debate. Every common core message must include "common sense reasonable standards with total local control and genuine flexibility," Luntz told the group. The Conference of Mayors is partnering with the Gates Foundation in support of the Common Core standards and Conference leadership will meet with Bill Gates in Washington (DC) March 13-14 to continue this critical discussion.

Related to this presentation, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Chair of The U.S. Conference of Mayors Education Excellence Task Force, outlined the task force's formal adoption of an education agenda focused on four pillars designed to eliminate the achievement gap. These four guiding principles are: 1) Increase Access to Early Childhood Education (specifically Pre-K and preschool programs; 2) Increase the Number of High Performing Seats in Schools; 3) Keep Kids

on Track to Graduate; and 4) Increase Access to Post-Secondary Pathways, to ensure students finish with the skills needed to obtain a job.

New EECBG Report

Conference of Mayors Energy Chair Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis reported on the Conference of Mayors new survey report on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. Bemis highlighted a number of key findings from the 204-city survey that highlighted successful city initiatives funded under EECBG. Specifically, the survey reports on how cities invested their EECBG program funds to help further local initiatives to reduce energy use, deploy new energy technologies and curb harmful energy emissions, among other local outcomes. The full report is available online at usmayors.org.

Marketplace Fairness Act

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Chair of the Metro Economies Policy Committee, told mayors that last year's passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act by a strong bipartisan majority of 69-27 in the Senate could not have happened without the leadership of Senators Dick Durbin (IL), Michael Enzi (WY) and Lamar Alexander (TN). Once enacted, the legislation will enable state and local governments to collect an estimated \$23 billion annually mostly from out-of-state Internet retailers. He also said it could not have happened without the strong support and involvement of mayors across the nation.

"The challenge we now face is getting the House to act on a similar bill," Fischer said. He pointed out that House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (VA) does not support the Senate bill and that Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT) will take the lead in drafting an alternate bill. Although the Committee plans to hold a hearing in the next two weeks on issues related to how certain sectors may be impacted by a bill, currently no schedule exist for developing and moving an alternate bill in the House.

Tax-Exempt Municipal Bonds

Cochran told mayors that last year

they were successful in blocking action on proposals introduced by the Administration and the Senate that would have eliminated or imposed a 28 percent cap on deductions for interest earnings from tax-exempt municipal bonds. He said a joint study released last year showed that if the 28 percent cap had been in place over the last ten years, it would have cost state and local governments an additional \$173 billion; and if the deduction had been totally eliminated, it would have cost an additional \$495 billion. Cochran told the mayors that if the 28 percent cap is included in the Administration's 2015 budget, due to be released on March 4, Conference of Mayors will continue to work with champions in Congress to prevent its passage.

Exports and Ports

Smith reviewed the relationship the Conference of Mayors is developing with U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker to strengthen trade ties with Mexico, Latin and South America through the Administration's recently announced "Look South" Initiative. Smith signed an MOU with the Mexican Association of Mayors at the Winter meeting to help guide this new effort.

Exports and Ports Task Force Chair Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown reported significant progress in efforts to ensure that a greater portion of funds collected through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for the modernization of ports. The HMTF has a \$7 billion surplus because Congress in the past has used the funds for other purposes. Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Vice Chair of the Task Force, announced a Ports and Exports Summit would be held in Little Rock October 9-10.

Metro Economies and New American City

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman reviewed U.S. Metro Economies reports issued over the last year, including those related to the Conference of Mayors "Saving our Bonds" Campaign and efforts to

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pass the Marketplace Fairness Act. The Conference of Mayors also released reports forecasting 2014 job growth and economic output for the nation's 363 metro economies.

Coleman announced a new effort with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that will allow cities to link their 311 systems to CFPB counselors as part of the bureau's consumer hotline. Findings from the pilot effort will be reviewed at the Conference of Mayors annual meeting in Dallas.

Conference of Mayors Membership Grows

As chair of the Membership Committee, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler reported that so far this year, the Conference of Mayors has twice the number of new members as it did this time last year. Wahler thanked the mayors for their efforts and said, "Many of you have spent significant time on recruiting new members in your state, and it really shows."

He also thanked those mayors that have participated in the "buddy program" and said, "I continue to hear lots of positive feedback from new mayors, this is such an important program and your participation is crucial to its success."

Wahler continued, "The 82nd Winter Meeting had a record number of first-time attendees and new mayors and there is a lot of great enthusiasm; I encourage everyone to continue that momentum in recruiting new members in your states."

Wahler closed by highlighting the 82nd Annual Meeting in Dallas, June 20-23 and called on Conference of Mayors leadership to reach out to the mayors in their state to encourage them to attend, saying "this is a great opportunity for new mayors to come see first-hand the benefits of the Conference [of Mayors]."

CDBG

Newton Mayor Setti Warren, Chair of the Community Development and Hous-



Lou Mosca updates mayors on the USCM Partner America small business program.

ing Committee, updated the mayors on activities that will take place over the next several months in support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The Conference of Mayors has developed a website (<http://cdbg.mayors.org>) that will allow cities to create their own CDBG page, highlighting CDBG projects. Cities will have to register before creating their page on the website.

Warren also announced that for the 28th year, cities, counties and states will recognize the importance of the CDBG program during National Community Development Week, April 21 – 26. The HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program will also be recognized. The week long recognition brings together citizens, government officials, local businesses, the media, and non-profit agencies through events that highlight the work of the programs in the community.

Finally, Warren said that over the next several months, several events will be held throughout the nation recognizing the 40th Anniversary of CDBG. Warren encouraged the Mayors to sponsor activities to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the program.

Water and Wastewater Mandates

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, Baltimore Mayor Rawlings-Blake, Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic, and Monrovia Mayor Mary Ann Lutz gave an update on the Conference of Mayors latest efforts to reduce the impact of water and wastewater unfunded mandates on local government.

The mayors have been in negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency to determine the financial capability of cities and their citizens as it relates to implementing the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act. The document is in the final stages and will be hopefully released in the Spring. The other strategy is to push for legislative changes to provide cities money for infrastructure improvements or more flexibility with implementing the Clean Water Act. Mayors were asked to inform their Congressional offices of the costs facing their citizens.

Partner America

American Management Services (AMS) Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Lou Mosca updated the mayors on the Partner America Program.

Partner America is the Mayors' Small Business Initiative that provides technical assistance, best practices and resources to small businesses across the country. Mosca reminded the mayors that it was fifteen years ago that AMS and the Conference of Mayors kicked off the program and over the years, the program has worked with hundreds of cities to promote and support small businesses.

Mosca encouraged the mayors in attendance to, "get intimate with the small businesses in your communities and keep a dialogue going. The Partner America program is here to help you help your small business owners to become successful and profitable."

For more information about the Partner America Program, contact Jeff Bean at jbean@usmayors.org or 202-446-8140.



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Left to right, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP Partner Scott McGlasson, USCM Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, Comcast Cable Executive Director of Government Affairs Ron Orlando, and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Vice President and Senior Manager Office of Corporate Responsibility Peter R. Villegas.

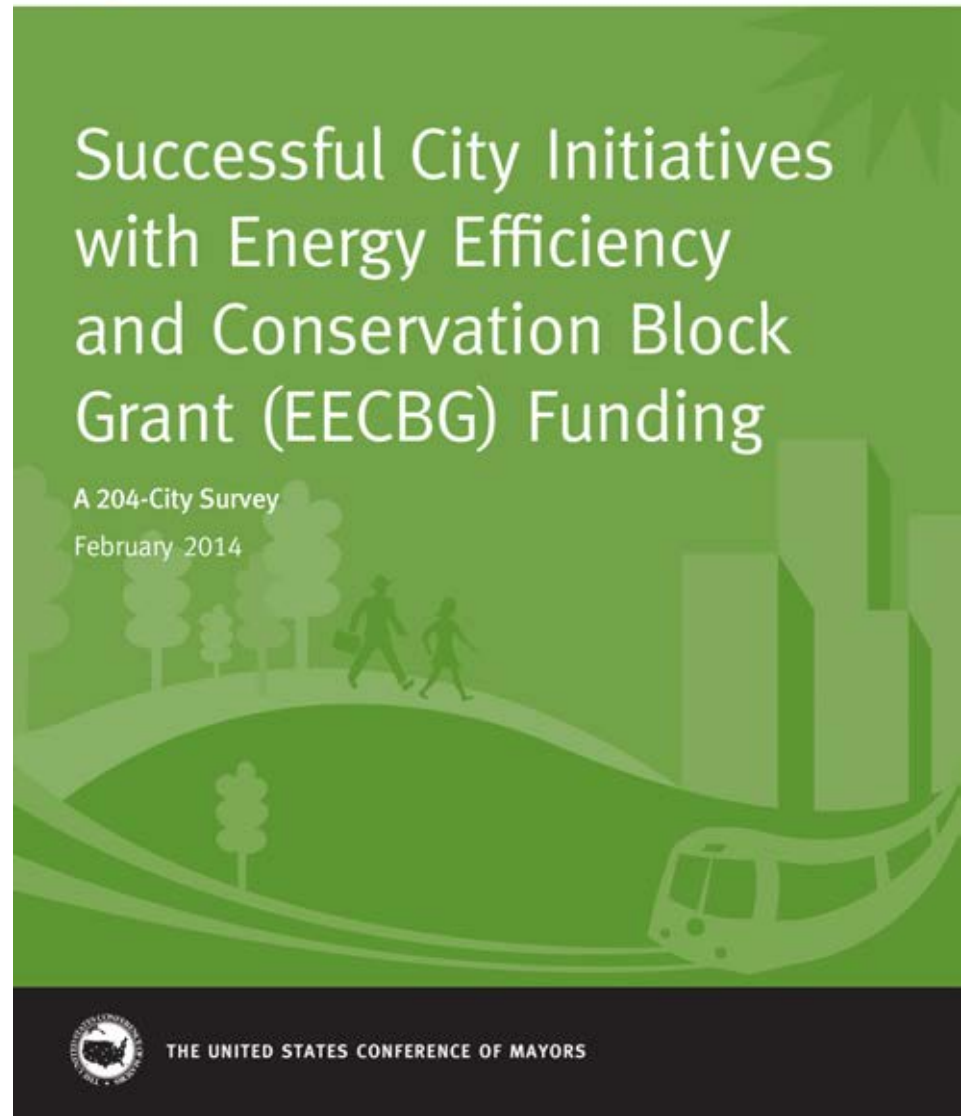


ors – representing cities of all population sizes and from all regions – to a series of questions from the Mayors' Climate Protection Center designed to show generally how cities invested their EECBG program funds to help further local initiatives to reduce energy use, deploy new energy technologies and curb harmful energy emissions, among other local outcomes.

"These findings underscore that mayors have been leading by example on energy efficiency and conservation for years," said Bemis, Chair of the Conference of Mayors Energy Committee. "Mayors all across the country have been actively working to advance energy-saving measures in communities large and small, and what we see in this report translates into real budgetary savings, local job creation and small business growth."

While the full report can be found online at www.usmayors.org, some of its key findings are listed below:

- The three top uses of EECBG dollars by cities were energy retrofits of government buildings (83 percent of cities), LED/other energy-efficient street lighting (42 percent), and solar energy systems on public buildings and facilities (31 percent).
- Most mayors directed a majority of their EECBG funds to investments in municipal projects and operations. Nearly seven in eight mayors (87 percent) expended a majority of their EECBG grant dollars on municipal projects and operations.
- LED/other energy-efficient lighting ranked first among energy technologies that have already been deployed by cities, with local and federal resources, most notably EECBG grants, providing the primary sources of funding for these deployments.
- The availability of EECBG funds to cities has influenced city budgetary priorities, and also prompted new partnerships with a range of private sector and governmental entities.
- A majority of mayors cited energy service contracting as the innovative energy financing strategy that EECBG funds helped most often.



Of the report's findings, Finch, who Co-Chairs the Conference of Mayors Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force, said, "Even as mayors were confronting budget constraints due to the recession and federal spending cuts, this report shows that cities leveraged EECBG dollars by making investments that are still paying dividends today. In my city, we are reducing electricity usage and making solid waste and sewage sludge operations more efficient. So, clearly, this modest federal commitment has bolstered mayors' efforts to advance energy efficiency, conservation and technology deployment initiatives in their cities."

Five years ago, as part of

ARRA, EECBG formula grants were distributed directly to cities by the U.S. Department of Energy. Of the \$2.7 billion provided to the program in formula funding, about half of these dollars (\$1.3 billion) were distributed directly to cities to support their energy and climate efforts, a commitment that ranked among the largest provided to local governments in the ARRA legislation.

The Conference of Mayors conceived the EECBG Program to engage the federal government in supporting the nation's mayors in accelerating local energy and climate initiatives, especially the more than 1000 mayors who have joined as

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\$275,000 in Grant Awards
for
**DuPont/USCM Lead Safe
for Kids Sake Grants**



**Only 9 weeks left to apply
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Application:
<http://usmayors.org/cusp/LeadSafe2014>
Questions:
scienceintheschoolday@verizon.net

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signatories to the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which was a landmark pledge for mayors all across the country to take bold action to significantly reduce carbon emissions in cities in alignment with Kyoto Protocol standards.

"The mayors who signed the USCM Climate Protection Agreement represent more than 86 million people in the U.S. who are learning how important it is to work locally to curb harmful greenhouse emissions and adapt to climate change," said Brainard, Co-Chair of the Conference of Mayors Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force. "The success mayors are having in deploying these resources makes the case for a

stronger local-federal partnership on our nation's energy and climate challenges, including continued EECBG funding to support cities and local areas as they develop new energy solutions."

Last month, the Conference of Mayors released a related report, Energy Efficiency and Technologies in America's Cities, which was unveiled during the Conference of Mayors 82nd Winter Meeting in Washington (DC) at a session with mayors and U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz at the Capital Hilton. That survey can be found online at usmayors.org/2014energysurvey.



Significant Drop in Childhood Obesity Rates Due in Part to Local Policy Efforts

By Crystal Swann

According to a new study released on February 25, obesity rates in children aged two to five have decreased a stunning 43 percent over the past decade. The findings, published this week in JAMA, the journal of the American Medical Association, come as a welcome surprise to researchers, public health officials, and other stakeholders in the childhood obesity prevention field – according to the latest research, children who are overweight or obese between age three and five are five times as likely to be overweight or obese as adults.

Federal health officials caution that these very young children make up only a tiny fraction of the American population and that the figures for the broader population have largely remained flat over the same time period. Still, the lower obesity rates among very young children are generally seen as boding extremely well for the future, offering the first clear evidence that America's youngest children have turned a corner in the obesity epidemic. About eight percent of two to five-year-olds were obese in 2012, down from 14 percent in 2004.

Experts point to several possible explanations for the fall – for example, children now consume fewer calories from sugary beverages than they did in 1999, and more women are breast-feeding, which can lead to a healthier range of weight gain for young children. Another explanation is that some combination of local, state and federal programs and policies aimed at reducing obesity has begun to make an impact. "It's gratifying to see the efforts by mayors to reverse the childhood obesity trend make a profound impact," said Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. "USCM is proud to support these efforts – through our Childhood Obesity Prevention Awards Program, and by providing a forum for mayors to exchange information to improve the health of our nation's children."

The Childhood Obesity Prevention Awards is a partnership between USCM

and the American Beverage Association (ABA), to support and/or enhance mayors' ongoing childhood obesity prevention efforts in their cities. This past January, at the Conference of Mayors 82nd Winter Meeting, Conference of Mayors and ABA announced a total of \$445,000 in grants to six cities with outstanding programs that encourage healthy weight through balanced diet choices and regular physical activity. The USCM/ABA initiative also includes a national public awareness campaign, and connects mayors with innovative, cost-effective strategies to successfully reduce childhood obesity in their cities. More information on the Childhood Obesity Prevention program is available online at www.usmayors.org/childhoodobesity.

types of foods and beverages that can be advertised in schools to mark the fourth anniversary of her Let's Move! initiative to combat child obesity. The new rules from the White House and the Department of Agriculture would prohibit advertisements for unhealthy foods on school campuses during the school day. Companies would still be allowed to advertise low-calorie or healthy products to students, and schools would be able to determine for themselves what types of marketing would be permissible in their facilities.

"The idea here is simple—our classrooms should be healthy places where kids aren't bombarded with ads for junk food," First Lady Obama said in a statement. "Because when parents are work-

The USCM/ABA initiative also includes a national public awareness campaign, and connects mayors with innovative, cost-effective strategies to successfully reduce childhood obesity in their cities.

In addition to the awards program, the Conference of Mayors is a grantee of Leadership for Healthy Communities, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, dedicated to working with local governments to increase the efficacy of policy change at the local level. The Conference of Mayors two-year grant focuses on working with mayors and their food policy advisers to create greater access to healthy foods in cities through policy change and enhanced technical assistance. This study supports the work mayors are doing across the nation is having an impact of the obesity epidemic.

The study findings were announced the same day as First Lady Michelle Obama proposed new rules to limit the

ing hard to teach their kids healthy habits at home, their work shouldn't be undone by unhealthy messages at school."

A significant amount of advertising in schools comes from drink companies, who are by and large supporting the new regulations. "Mrs. Obama's efforts to continue to strengthen school wellness make sense for the well-being of our schoolchildren," said American Beverage Association President Susan Neely, in a statement. "We look forward to working with the USDA on their proposed rule to align food and beverage signage in schools with the new regulations as the next logical next step."

DuPont Brings Science in the School Day to Mesa



Through the USCM/DuPont Platinum Partnership, DuPont sponsored a Science in the School Day event in Mesa (AZ). DuPont visited Keller Elementary School and Roosevelt Elementary School in Mesa to open up a new world of possibilities for these elementary school children and encourage more of them to explore careers in science, math and engineering.

Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith and the DuPont field engineer worked side-by-side with over 70 fourth graders and over 80 fifth graders to explore basic engineering principles. The event was jump started with a fun, hands-on project where the students built "puff-mobiles." Students applied engineering techniques to build, test and ultimately race their "puff mobile" science experiment.

Smith joined the students as they built "puff mobiles" using everyday materials like drinking straws, lifesavers, paper, scotch-tape and paperclips. Smith closed the program by having the students race their inventions to determine the "fastest puff mobile in the school" and presented the winner with a prize.

DuPont, through their Platinum Partnership with the Conference of Mayors, has been bringing science and math to elementary school children across the country for over 13 years. This signature program, Science in the School Day, has shown over 40,000 students in more than 250 cities across America what it's like to be an "Engineer for a Day."

If you would like to bring Science in the School Day to your city, contact scienceintheschoolday@verizon.net. The

Science in the School Day staff manages all the logistics; they will coordinate with the mayor's office to help identify which school(s) would like to participate, develop communications materials and execute the event. There is no cost to the city or the school as DuPont handles all the details: providing supplies, working with school administrators and teachers, and securing a DuPont engineer to fly into the city to perform the experiment with the students. The priority of Science in the School Day has and always will be to help mayors inspire tomorrow's engineers for the good of our cities and the world around us.

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Witt O'Brien's

Witt O'Brien's is a global leader in preparedness, crisis management and disaster response and recovery with the depth of experience and capability to provide services across the crisis and disaster life cycle. Witt O'Brien's is uniquely positioned to bring together policy architects and technical experts in public safety, with leaders from all levels of government and private sector partners to forge solutions to emergency management challenges.

Special Interests: Crisis Management, Homeland Security, Infrastructure, Risk Management, Utilities Issue

For more Business Council profiles visit the Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org/buscouncil

Conference of Mayors President Smith Addresses Leaders of National Homebuilders



USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith delivers remarks to members of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Homebuilders February 1 during the 2014 International Builders Show in Las Vegas.

LET'S CELEBRATE YOUR 2014 CITY LIVABILITY AWARD IN DALLAS!



Nominate YOUR innovative programs and best practices TODAY! All programs initiated by the city government are eligible, including those developed and implemented in conjunction with private sector and/or community group participation.

APPLY NOW • DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 14!

For more information go to the website: <http://usmayors.org/citylivabilityawards/documents/2014Brochure.pdf> or contact Jocelyn Bogen by e-mail at: jbogen@usmayors.org





SURTAX from page 1

\$450,000. The surtax would apply to interest earned on both new issues and outstanding bonds.

In response, Conference of Mayors Executive Director and CEO Tom Cochran in a press release pointed out that municipal bonds are used to finance three-quarters of the nation's core infrastructure projects. He called the proposed changes "an all out attack on local governments and our ability to raise funds for local investments in highways, bridges, schools, hospitals, fire and police stations, housing, airports, electric power generation, water treatment and overall economic development."

For the past three years, mayors across the nation have expressed strong opposition to similar proposals introduced by the Administration and the Senate that would reduce or eliminate the deduction on tax-exempt bonds. The reason is these proposed changes will shift more of the cost of funding the nation's infrastruc-

ture to state and local governments. As a result, opposition to Chairman Camp's proposal is expected to be the same.

On other bond related issues, Camp's proposal would eliminate the ability of state and local issuers to issue advance refunding bonds, which enable issuers to receive a lower interest rate than the rate on older outstanding bonds. Under current law issuers are given one opportunity to issue such bonds.

The proposal would also prohibit the future issuance of tax-exempt private-activity bonds, including bonds issued by private, non-profit organizations, which are used, for example, to build affordable housing, hospitals and other facilities that serve the public.

Chairman Camp developed his proposal with the goal of making the tax code simple and fairer, by replacing the current seven tax brackets (10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent, 28 percent, 33 percent, 35 percent and 39.6 percent) with two: 10 percent for singles earning \$37,400 or less annually and \$74,800 or less for couples; and 25 percent for all other income levels above these amounts. As mentioned above Camp's proposal also creates a new 10 percent surtax on certain high income earners.

The proposal also calls for the elimination of the deduction for state and local income, property and sales taxes. This change undoubtedly will disrupt the stability of state and local tax structures

and harm their ability to provide essential services. Commenting on the change Cochran said it would "introduce more volatility, particularly in the housing market, and could very well reduce property tax revenues if such a change further curbed housing sales and prices." Also commenting on the proposal Senator Charles Schumer (NY) said, "Any proposal that eliminates the deduction of state and local taxes, as the Republican plan would do, is dead on arrival."

While the proposal makes no changes in the deduction of mortgage interest, it would lower the cap on the amount of mortgage interest that can be deducted from \$1,000,000 under current law to \$500,000 for mortgages taken out in 2018 or later. This is not intended to impact deductions on existing mortgages or the refinancing of such mortgages.

The proposal would also reform the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by making it a credit against actual payroll taxes paid.

Further, it provides for the repatriation of certain non-United States earnings of certain U. S. based, multinational corporations. The deferred tax paid by these corporations over an eight-year period would be dedicated to funding the Highway Trust Fund, providing an estimated \$126.5 billion of federal highway and transit funding.

Statement from Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Cochran on Chairman Camp's Tax Reform Proposal

Municipal Bond Provision Would Squeeze Cities

The U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran on February 26 issued the following state-

ment on U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Camp's Tax Reform Proposal:

"Chairman Camp's plan to impose a ten percent surtax on interest income

from otherwise tax-exempt municipal bonds is an all out attack on local governments and our ability to raise funds for local investments in highways, bridges, schools, hospitals, fire and police stations, housing, airports, electric power generation, water treatment and overall economic development.

"This move is clearly economically ill-informed and we believe Chairman Camp is being misadvised on the potential impact of his proposal. And worse,

See TAX REFORM on page 17

MAYORS BUSINESS

COUNCIL Member Profile

The ScottsMiracle-Gro Company

ScottsMiracle-Gro is dedicated to a beautiful world with industry-leading lawn, garden and outdoor living products and services. Through its innovation focus, strong retailer relationships and drive to improve the consumer experience, the Company has been instrumental in growing the \$8 billion global consumer lawn and garden market and enhancing its leadership position. ScottsMiracle-Gro operates primarily in North America, along with businesses in Europe and Asia Pacific, and employs approximately 8,000 associates. The Company was founded in 1868 in Marysville (OH).

Special Interests: Community Development, Consumer Affairs, Economic Development, Education, Environment

For more Business Council profiles visit
the Conference of Mayors website at
usmayors.org/buscouncil

Goodmans Receive Urban Design Award



USCM and AAF announced this week at the Ruvo Center in Las Vegas that Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman and Former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar B. Goodman will share the fourth annual Joseph P. Riley Jr. Award for Leadership in Urban Design. They will be honored nationally at the 25th annual Accent on Architecture Gala, presented by AAF, on April 24 in Washington (DC). Left to right, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran; Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman; Former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman; Larry Ruvo, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health; and AAF President and CEO Ron Bogle.

TAX REFORM

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the surtax applies to interest earned on both new issues and outstanding bonds.

"The simple fact is that municipal bonds finance three-quarters of the nation's core infrastructure. And a new federal tax on these bonds would make all local building much more expensive and much more difficult – most importantly to the detriment of local taxpayers of all incomes.

"Our extensive research shows in the last decade, state and local governments financed over \$1.65 trillion of infrastruc-

ture investment using tax-exempt bonds – nearly all in just six categories: public schools; hospitals; water and sewer facilities; roads, highways and streets; public power projects and mass transit.

"The nation's mayors and our DON'T MESS WITH OUR BONDS COALITION of more than 60 groups will not stand idly by when the very underpinning of our ability to improve our local communities is being threatened – especially at a time when jobs are scarce and the physical state of public works is deteriorating.

"We will not rest until Chairman Camp and his colleagues understand the critical nature of municipal bonds to this nation as its most important financial tool for

infrastructure of any kind, and we are committed to working with all members of the House Ways and Means Committee to reverse this wrong-headed course of action.

"We are also disappointed that the Chairman's proposal would eliminate the deduction for personal state and local income, property and sales taxes. These deductions have contributed to the stability of tax revenues that are reliable and flexible. Their elimination would introduce more volatility, particularly in the housing market, and could very well reduce property tax revenues if such a change further curbed housing sales and prices."

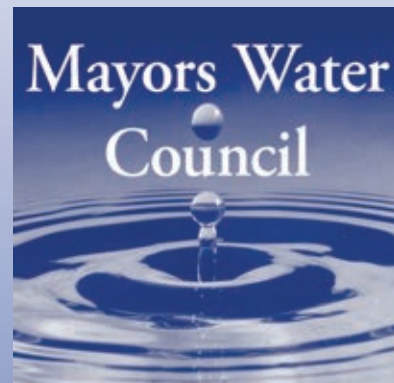
MAYORS WATER COUNCIL

The U.S. Conference of Mayors invites all mayors to attend the

Mayors Water Council Meeting **in Washington (DC)**

March 27, 2014
10 AM – 4 PM

St. Gregory Hotel
2033 M Street, NW
Washington (DC) 20036



Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard
Co-Chairs, Mayors Water Council

Cordially invite you* to join the Mayors Water Council Meeting discussions on:

- **Integrated Planning Process for Federal Water Mandates**
- **Public Water Affordability Dialogue**
- **Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Financing and P3s**
- **Water Supply Planning**
- **Green Infrastructure**
- **Water System Efficiency Best Practices**

**Registration materials will be posted
online at: <http://usmayors.org/MWCDC>**



*** If you cannot attend, consider sending your
water or public works staff to participate.**

Indianapolis Mayor Ballard Participates in NYU Sports Meeting

Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard, Chair of the Conference of Mayors Professional Sports Alliance, was one of the panelists for a session "48 Hours Before Super Bowl XLVII: The Lasting Impact of Sports Greatest Events." Sponsored by New York University's Sports and Society Program, the session explored the lasting impact of sports' mega events on urban environments. Ballard discussed the economic and social impact that hosting a Super Bowl and other sports events has had on his city.



Front row, left to right, Gregory Carey, Goldman Sachs & Co; Richard Florida, New York University; Kevin Hallinan, formerly with Major League Baseball; Constantine Kontokosta, New York University. Back row, left to right, Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard; Lisa Baird, US Olympic Committee; Arthur Miller, New York University; Mary Pilon, New York Times; David Rousseau, 2015 Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee; Dennis Lorenzo, New York University.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Legal Notice

If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992 to August 18, 2011

You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

A proposed Settlement has been reached with Bank of America, N.A. ("Bank of America"), in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by Bank of America and other companies. The case, *In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Who Is Included in the Settlement?

This Settlement includes all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies, quasi-government, non-profit and private entities that purchased:

- (1) Municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction, from any Alleged Provider Defendant or Co-Conspirator or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant or Co-Conspirator,
- (2) Any time from January 1, 1992 through August 18, 2011 in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories.

The Defendants and Co-Conspirators are listed in the detailed notice available on the Settlement website.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

Bank of America agreed to a settlement amount of \$20 million (plus any funds remaining in the State AG Escrow Fund that, as of the date this Notice is issued, Bank of America has access to pursuant

to the terms of the State AG Settlement – this potential additional amount could be between \$0 and \$1 million) to be paid as follows: \$10 million has already been paid into an escrow account and the balance will be paid later. This Settlement is only a partial settlement of the lawsuit because it only affects the claims against Bank of America. The lawsuit is continuing against other Defendants. Morgan Stanley, Wachovia/ Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan have already settled. Bank of America will provide reasonable cooperation, including discovery cooperation, to Class Plaintiffs' Counsel in the litigation that will continue against the other Defendants.

What Do I Do Now?

• **Remain in the Settlement.** To remain in the Settlement Class and participate in the Settlement, you do not have to do anything now. If the Court approves the Settlement, you give up the right to sue Bank of America for the claims and issues in this case. The Settlement Agreement, specifically Paragraph 1(cc), which is available at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com, describes in more detail the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Class. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you still have the right to exclude yourself from any other settlements with other defendants reached in this lawsuit. Claim forms are not available now. Register on the Settlement website to receive a claim form when it becomes available.

• **Exclude yourself from the Settlement.** If you do not want to remain in the Settlement Class, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, postmarked no later than May 6, 2014 to the Settlement Administrator. The detailed notice available on the Settlement website describes the information you are required to include in your request for exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlement, but you retain your right to sue Bank of America on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.

NOTE: You may receive similar notices regarding proposed settlements with other Defendants (i.e., GE Funding Capital Market Services, Inc., Trinity Funding Co., LLC and Trinity Plus Funding Co., LLC). However, if you wish to exclude yourself from the Bank of America settlement, you must send a separate and specific notice with regard to the Bank of America settlement.

• **Object or Comment on the Settlement.** If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on the Bank of America Settlement or any part of it, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to Class Counsel and Bank of America no later than May 6, 2014.

When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

The Court has scheduled a hearing on June 6, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the United States District

Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the Bank of America Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections.

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey LLP to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Class Counsel and Bank of America no later than May 6, 2014. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website.

Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com

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In Memorium:

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba Dies at 66

Reprinted with permission from Associated Press

By Emily Wagster Pettus and Jeff Amy

Jackson (MS) Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, a human rights activist and nationally prominent attorney who as city leader persuaded voters to accept a sales tax to fix crumbling infrastructure in Mississippi's capital, died Tuesday. He was 66. Officials said Lumumba, a Democrat, died at a Jackson hospital. A cause of death wasn't immediately clear.

As an attorney, Lumumba represented Tupac Shakur in cases including one in which the rapper was cleared of aggravated assault in the shootings of two off-duty police officers who were visiting Atlanta from another city when they were wounded. Shakur died in 1996.

In 2011, Lumumba persuaded then-Gov. Haley Barbour to release sisters Jamie Scott and Gladys Scott from a Mississippi prison after they served 16 years for an armed robbery they said they didn't commit. Barbour suspended their life sentences but didn't pardon them.

Lumumba served one term on the Jackson City Council and was sworn in as mayor last July. He persuaded voters to pass a referendum in January to add a 1-cent local sales tax to help pay for improvements to crumbling roads and an aging water and sewer system.

U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Democrat whose district includes most of Jackson, said he has known Lumumba since 1974. "One of the reasons I was so public about my support for the mayor was that I believed once people got to know



Former Jackson (MS) Mayor Chokwe Lumumba

the real Chokwe Lumumba they would find him to be an extremely bright, caring and humble individual," Thompson said Tuesday. "His election as mayor and very short term in office demonstrated exactly that."

Lumumba is the second Jackson mayor to die in recent years. In June 2009, Mayor Frank Melton died while unsuccessfully seeking re-election in the Democratic primary. City Council President Charles Tillman has become acting mayor, and the council will set a nonpartisan special election for voters to choose a new mayor.

Lumumba was born in Detroit as Edwin Taliaferro, and changed his name in 1969, when he was in his early 20s. He said he took his

new first name from an African tribe that resisted slavery centuries ago and his last name from African independence leader Patrice Lumumba. He moved to Jackson in 1971 as a human rights activist. He went to law school in Michigan in the mid-1970s and returned to Jackson in 1988.

Lumumba was involved with the Republic of New Afrika in the 1970s and '80s. He said in 2013 that the group had advocated "an independent predominantly black government" in the southeastern United States. Lumumba was vice president of the group during part of his stint. The group also advocated reparations for slavery, and was watched by an FBI counterintelligence operation.

"The provisional government of Republic of New Afrika was always a group that believed in human rights for human beings," Lumumba told The Associated Press in 2013. "I think it has been miscast in many ways. It has never been any kind of racist group or 'hate white' group in any way.... It was a group which was fighting for human rights for black people in this country and at the same time supporting the human rights around the globe."





Save the Date: June 20-23

82nd Annual Conference of Mayors in Dallas

HIGHLIGHTS:

Friday Night:

- AT&T (Cowboys) Stadium – Performances by The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, Asleep at The Wheel, and Leann Rimes

Saturday Night:

- Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and Klyde Warren Park – Barbeque Feast and Performance by Grammy Award Winning Lyle Lovett and His Full Band

Sunday Night:

- Arts District and Once-in-a-Lifetime Concert by Award-Winning Bonnie Raitt

Monday Night:

- Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens – Backyard Bash

**Registration Available
Early March**

Contact Carol Edwards (202-293-7330)

Sponsorship Information: Geri Powell (202-861-6774)



Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, Host

