JOHNSON URGES QUICK IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S POLICING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing presented an interim report to President Obama March 2 that included many recommendations consistent with those made by the Conference of Mayors Working Group of Mayors and Police Chiefs. In accepting the report the President said, “It offers pragmatic, common-sense ideas based on input from criminal justice experts, community leaders, law enforcement, and civil liberties advocates” and promised a careful review.

Commenting on the report, Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson said, “The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing has produced an excellent report and set of recommendations on a difficult topic in a short period of time. We urge the Administration, mayors and their police departments, state and local law enforcement

See POLICING on page 4

In Memoriam:
Deedee Corradini

32nd Mayor of Salt Lake City, 56th USCM President

By Ed Somers

Deedee Corradini, the 32nd Mayor of Salt Lake City, lost her short battle with cancer on March 1.

Corradini, 70, served two terms as mayor of Salt Lake City from 1992 to 2000. She was her city’s first and only woman mayor, and her leadership helped bring the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City. Corradini also served as President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors from 1998-1999.

As USCM President, Corradini placed a high priority on the development of the nation’s young people, and used her role, office and stature to create the U.S. Mayors OlympiKids Program, not only in order to encourage continued support of physical fitness programs in all public schools, but to promote a lifetime of

See CORRADINI on page 3
Walmart Steps Up
The Walmart Company announced that it will raise its entry-level wage to nine dollars an hour and then move it to $10 an hour. At a dinner briefing with key groups here in Washington we also learned that Walmart is creating a path for advancement for its employees. When a company like Wal-Mart moves on a major issue they should be commended. So here it is from the United States Conference of Mayors, we commend you. President Obama has asked mayors and cities to raise the minimum wage to $10 per hour.

The T.J. Maxx Company announced that it will follow Walmart with identical raises for their entry-level jobs. Other companies are silent and some companies are not transparent about their entry-level jobs.

President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing
President Obama received his requested report from his Task Force on 21st Century Policing on March 2. This task force was announced by the President late last year, and he asked for the report to be put on his desk by March 2. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey and former Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson chair the task force.

Conference President Kevin Johnson thanked the President and pledged to work toward implementation. President Johnson appointed our own Conference of Mayors Working Group and appointed Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson to chair our group comprised of key mayors and police chiefs. There is an overlap in the members of President Obama’s task force and our own task force. We will continue in our efforts to do all we can to support reform in our police departments and at the same time to support our police officers who risk their lives every day to keep our streets and neighborhoods safe.

Homeland Security Funding
We have written and held press conferences urging Congress to provide funding for the Department of Homeland Security, and finally it did. We helped create the department when then Conference of Mayors President New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial called for it immediately after 9/11. Overall, the department has done the job of catching and stopping the terrorists from killing more of us. On the one hand we are getting more reports of possible terrorist attacks and yet Congress took way too long to fund the department. It was crazy politics and it was dangerous politics and mayors expressed their deepest concern over playing politics on this issue.

Deedee Corradini 1944-2015
56th President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors
We were shocked and saddened to learn that former Salt Lake City Mayor and 56th President of the Conference of Mayors died after a six-month fight against lung cancer. A non-smoker, she was fit and healthy.

Her groundbreaking issues within the Conference of Mayors were School Violence and Childhood Obesity. Through her efforts, she, along with citizen leaders, brought the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City.

San Francisco – 83rd Annual Conference of Mayors
June 19 to 22, 2015
San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and Conference President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson are planning an Annual Meeting in San Francisco this June you do not want to miss. It’s now time to focus on your schedule and make sure you will be there in San Francisco with us. Contact Carol Edwards at cedwards@usmayors.org or 202-293-7330 if you have any questions.
healthy behaviors in our youth.

Corradini also championed the cause of youth safety, and led development of the USCM National Action Plan on School Violence and Kids from 2:00pm to 8:00pm – a document still relevant today.

On September 24, 1998, Corradini presided over a summit in Salt Lake City held in response to a spree of school shootings, at which an unparalleled group of concerned leaders came together for the first time to draft the National Action Plan. Participants included almost 60 members of USCM Leadership, several mayors from communities which had recently experienced devastating school shootings, over 15 police chiefs, elected representatives from the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, and the National Parent/Teachers Association, students, top health, parks, recreation and arts officials, representatives from the entertainment industry and news media, and other national experts on youth violence.

Then Attorney General Janet Reno came to Salt Lake City to hear from the mayors and other national leaders, and to participate in the drafting of the National Action Plan.

Key recommendations that emerged from this effort included:

- 100,000 new school counselors, modeled on the successful COPS program - a suggestion, which was strongly supported by Attorney General Reno;
- The formation of joint task forces of mayors with both entertainment industry and news media executives to address the proliferation of violence presented to our children;
- A boycott against products whose commercials fund violent TV programs;
- A comprehensive effort to reduce youth-related gun violence, including "one gun a month" limitations, personalization of guns, and increased gun-owner responsibility;
- School uniforms as an effective means of promoting discipline and safer schools;
- School systems to keep school facilities open before school, after school and on weekends to offer meaningful and safe programs for youth;
- Increased after-school, summer job and school-to-career opportunities for youth;
- Alternative schools for dropouts and others not able to learn in a typical school setting;
- An all-out effort to reduce school truancy and provide a safe environment in schools;
- Greater involvement of arts, music, parks and recreation officials in delivering youth services; and
- Arts, music, physical fitness and sports programs as part of the school curriculum for all students.

Johnson/Cochran Comment

USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran released the following statement on the passing of Mayor Corradini:

"It is with great sadness that we learned the news of the passing of Deedee Corradini, who served as the 32nd Mayor of Salt Lake City from 1992 to 2000.

"We were most fortunate that during her tenure as mayor, Corradini served as Conference President from 1998-1999. As USCM President, she championed the cause of youth fitness, and led our efforts to develop a National Action Plan on School Violence and Kids from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. Within the Conference family, we knew her as an awesome woman with a strong, no-nonsense approach to leadership and a wicked sense of humor. She was visionary who was completely ahead of her time with regard to children's fitness.

"She was also her city's first and only female mayor, and her leadership helped bring the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City.

"Our hearts go out her family, friends and the people of Salt Lake City. Mayor Corradini will be dearly missed."

Becker Statement

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker issued the following statement on Mayor Corradini:

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of former Salt Lake City Mayor Deedee Corradini, a woman whose tireless advocacy and countless successes can be seen not only throughout our city, but around the world.

"Deedee was a visionary, and when it came to Salt Lake City, she was able to see our community in the context of a big, bold future and do the work to ensure her vision would come to fruition. The light rail system that many take for granted today"

See CORRADINI on page 18
agencies to move quickly to implement its recommendations.”

The Task Force report (http://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/Interim_TF_Report.pdf) contains a total of 63 recommendations and numerous specific action items aimed at achieving them. The recommendations are organized under six pillars: Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Training and Education, and Officer Wellness and Safety. The report also contains several recommendations relating to implementation and two overarching recommendations that call for:

- Presidential support and funding for the creation of a National Crime and Justice Task Force to review and evaluate all components of the criminal justice system and develop recommendations for comprehensive criminal justice reform; and
- Presidential promotion of programs with a comprehensive and inclusive look at community-based initiatives that address poverty, education, health, and safety.

“Implementing the recommendations contained in the President’s Task Force report will move us much closer...to an environment where crime goes down on the one hand, and community trust goes up on the other,” Johnson continued. “We appreciate the leadership that President Obama and the U.S. Department of Justice have shown. We also appreciate the substantial effort made by the co-chairs – Charles Ramsey and Laurie Robinson – and the members of the President’s Task Force, and by COPS Office Director Ron Davis, who served as Executive Director, and his staff. The Conference of Mayors stands ready to work with the President and his Administration to assist in this effort.”

Following the events that began on August 9 in Ferguson (MO) with the shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer, Johnson appointed a working group of mayors and chiefs chaired by Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and charged it with developing a set of recommendations to improve community policing practices. That working group presented its report and recommendations to the President’s Task Force leaders on January 22 during the Conference of Mayors annual Winter Meeting in Washington (DC).

Freeman-Wilson at President’s Task Force Listening Session

Freeman-Wilson testified February 23 at a listening session of the President’s Task Force in Washington (DC) as part of a panel on labor-management relations, a topic that she said “addresses a critical component of what we must be doing to build trust between the police and the communities they serve. While the leadership and direction must come from the mayor and police chief, it is primarily the actions of police officers on the streets, interacting with community residents on a daily basis and responding when an incident occurs, which will determine how successful we are in building and maintaining that trust.”

“I believe our role as mayors is to provide our police departments with the resources they need to get the job done,” Freeman-Wilson commented. “Those resources can be money or equipment, or something less tangible, such as creating an atmosphere that makes it easier for our officers to get the job done.”

Freeman-Wilson registered the Conference of Mayors agreement with principles for improving trust and collaboration between police executives, police labor leaders, and elected officials that were developed through several roundtable discussions of police executives, labor leaders, and mayors held by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the COPS Office. Those principles are:

1) Focusing on finding common ground;
2) Engaging in open communication and seeking input from one another;
3) Handling disagreements with respect and professionalism;
4) Understanding and respecting one other’s roles and responsibilities; and
5) Recognizing the link between promoting officer safety and wellness and building strong police-community relationships.

On the panel with Freeman-Wilson at the listening session were PERF Executive Director Chuck Wexler, Prince George’s County (MD) Police Chief Mark Magaw, Fraternal Order of Police Executive Director Jim Pasco, and Sacramento Police Officers Association President Dustin Smith.
Q&A: Benefits Talk
Answers to Your Employee Benefit Questions

By Colonial Life Public Sector Market Services Vice President Carey Adamson

This month, Carey Adamson, Vice President of Public Sector Market Services for Colonial Life, will answer a question about employee benefits and how you can position your program for success.

U.S. Mayor: What is hospital confinement indemnity insurance and how can our city use it?

Adamson: You can’t stop medical costs from increasing, and many government agencies will be forced to raise deductibles in order to keep costs in check. But you can help your employees better manage their increased out-of-pocket expenses.

It’s all about delivering creative solutions and integrating them into your benefits programs so you and your employees both win. Whether you can no longer shoulder the premiums for employee health care coverage or have already shifted costs and are looking for a softer landing to protect employees from financial exposure, a voluntary hospital confinement indemnity plan can be the ideal solution.

Hospital confinement indemnity insurance provides a lump-sum benefit to help offset the costs that aren’t covered by most major medical plans. They can help cover costly co-pays, deductibles and other expenses that come your employees’ way. With the added financial protection, your employees may be eligible to receive help covering outpatient surgery, diagnostic tests, doctor appointments and emergency room visits.

The plans are available on a group or individual basis. And there are lots of ways to customize the coverage to meet the needs of your clients and their employees. Here are some key features and comparison points to keep in mind:

• Exempt from health care reform. Most hospital confinement indemnity plans are exempt from the market requirements in health care reform legislation.
• Flexible underwriting. These plans are often offered on a guaranteed-issue basis and waive pre-existing conditions when participation requirements are met.
• Higher benefit levels. Look for benefit levels that stay in line with health care costs nationwide and with increasing deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses.
• Employer- or employee-paid. You can pay all or part of the premiums or allow employees to pay them.
• No lifetime maximum. There’s no lifetime limit on payments made to employees.
• Benefits aren’t tied to major medical claims. Employees can use the plan’s benefits any way they choose, including nonmedical expenses such as day care, groceries and utility bills.
• Benefits are paid regardless of other coverage employees may have. Voluntary plans pay in addition to existing coverage employees already own.

About Colonial Life
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 Carey Adamson at CLAdamson@ColonialLife.com or visit the website www.ColonialLife.com.


Calendar of Events
(Updated 03/05/15)

March 22-23

April 6-11
National Community Development Week

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

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
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.
April Is Dollarwise Month

By James Kirby

The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ DollarWise Campaign is pleased to announce that April is DollarWise Month. Each April, DollarWise encourages mayors and cities to hold events that financially empower their residents. These events can be focused on encouraging youth to save for their future, free financial advice for adults, and more.

This year, the DollarWise Month theme is “Be DollarWise With Your Tax Refund.” DollarWise is asking mayors to encourage residents who qualify to seek free tax help in their communities before April 15. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are just one resource that residents can use to seek free tax assistance, and exist in many communities across the U.S. Mayors are also encouraged to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as an opportunity for residents in lower tax brackets to receive more money in their tax returns.

To register for DollarWise Month, have a staff person fill out the online form (here).

Once eligible residents take advantage of the EITC program and receive their tax returns, it is important for them to be responsible with the money that they receive.

Better Money Habits.com is a free, online resource that anyone can use to help them become more financially responsible. Powered by The Khan Academy and Bank of America, Better Money Habits.com helps people learn more about checking accounts, savings accounts, budgeting, credit, and more. DollarWise would like your city to encourage residents to take advantage of this wonderful resource as they receive their tax refunds.

DollarWise is urging all Americans to avoid financial dangers, particularly payday lenders, who so often take advantage of underserved communities through questionable practices.

One recommended resource that effectively addresses the issue of payday lending, is a documentary called “Spent: Looking for Change.” This film follows Americans hard-hit by the financial crisis, and sheds light on their devastating experiences with payday lenders. “Spent: Looking for Change” was produced by award winning Executive Producer Davis Guggenheim, who also created “An Inconvenient Truth,” and “Waiting for Superman.” DollarWise recommends that your city host a viewing of “Spent: Looking for Change,” or air it on your public access channel to reach a mass audience.

Your city can also participate in DollarWise Month by hosting a small event at one of your local volunteer tax sites. If you are unable to host an event before April 15, DollarWise encourages your city to throw a post-tax season event, recognizing and thanking the volunteers who assisted residents in their communities with their taxes during tax season.

DollarWise will help your city identify free VITA tax sites, and to also assist in coordinating an event in your community.

For questions about the DollarWise Campaign and how to participate in DollarWise Month, contact DollarWise Manager James Kirby by e-mail: jkirby@usmayors.org, or by phone: (202) 861-6759.

The DollarWise Campaign is underwritten by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, its founding sponsor.
Mayors Express Support for Export-Import Bank Reauthorization

The authorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States expires June 30. (See letter on Pages 9-10)

The Ex-Im Bank provides a variety of financial products to assist U.S. businesses in their export activities and the Bank is a net contributor to the federal Treasury. According to U.S. Conference of Mayors studies, exports have contributed nearly one-third of U.S. economic growth since the Great Recession. Ninety percent of the Bank’s transactions assist small and medium sized businesses.

Mayors who still wish to lend their name to the letter, may do so by visiting the website usmayors.org/eximletter. For questions, contact Conference of Mayors staff Dave Gatton dgatton@usmayors.org.

Bipartisan Amtrak Renewal Bill Passes House

By Kevin McCarty

In a demonstration of bipartisan legislative action early in the 114th Congress, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leaders – Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (OR) – brought their Committee together and then the full House of Representatives behind an Amtrak renewal plan, a measure that provides for targeted reforms and level spending.

The four-year renewal bill (HR 749), called the “Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act” (PRRIA), passed the full House overwhelmingly March 4, on a 316-101 vote.

“PRRIA brings significant and needed reforms to Amtrak. This bill will result in cutting waste, strengthening our infrastructure, and providing better, more cost-effective passenger rail service for our Nation’s transportation system,” Shuster said.

“In every region of the country, passenger rail investments boost local economies and create thousands of family-wage construction, engineering, and manufacturing jobs. This bill isn’t perfect, but it was a bipartisan effort that ultimately provides critical investments and system wide improvements to increase capacity and make our railways safer. I’m glad that we were able to pass this legislation in a bipartisan way,” said DeFazio.

Despite an attempt by Rep. Tom McClintock (CA) to strip Amtrak of all federal funding, an amendment that failed on a 147 to 272 vote, Shuster and DeFazio with others secured both Republican and Democratic majorities for the renewal plan that provides about $1.4 billion annually for Amtrak over the next four years, coupled with a number of reforms to strengthen its performance.

Among these is a proposal to separate the Northeast Corridor (NEC) – services between Boston, New York and Washington (DC) – from Amtrak’s other long-distance routes, whereby revenues from this route can only be invested in improved services and infrastructure in the NEC.

Other provisions in the legislation direct Amtrak to eliminate losses in its food and beverage services, mandates Amtrak to make the business case for all major procurements, and requires Amtrak to provide greater transparency in its financial reporting.

In addition, the bill provides new opportunities for private sector involvement in station development, expands access to existing federal railroad loan funds, incentivizes additional partnerships between Amtrak and the states, gives states more say over rail services provided within their states, and directs Amtrak to evaluate its long-distance routes to improve services and reduce costs.

During floor action, the House adopted an amendment requiring a study of the effectiveness of train horns at grade crossings, and another one directing states to develop grade crossing safety plans, adding these provisions to the legislation.

Senate transportation leaders have not yet announced a schedule for action on companion legislation. Notably, Amtrak renewal is one of several transportation renewal bills before this Congress, with preliminary action underway on both the FAA and the surface transportation (MAP-21) renewal bills.
March 4, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, and Leader Pelosi:

As mayors of cities that count exports as a crucial contributor to our U.S. economy, we urge you to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) of the United States before its charter expires on June 30, 2015. Without support from the Export-Import Bank, businesses in cities nationwide will face little or no financing alternatives, putting U.S. jobs in jeopardy.

In 2013, Ex-Im Bank provided more than $27.3 billion in financing, enabling $34.7 billion in exports and supporting more than 205,000 jobs nationwide. These jobs come from businesses of all sizes – not just large businesses as opponents have argued.

Small businesses need more certainty and protection to compete in new markets and help create jobs, which explains why Ex-Im Bank has financed more small businesses in the last five years than in the previous 11 years combined. In FY 2013, nearly 90 percent of Ex-Im Bank’s transactions supported American small businesses.

To put things further in perspective, Ex-Im Bank support for small businesses led to more than 46,000 jobs in the state of Florida and more than 134,000 jobs in the state of California alone.

Support from the Ex-Im Bank enables local American businesses to get the financing needed to stay competitive internationally. In an ever-global economy, American businesses need the assurances provided by Ex-Im Bank financing to reach lucrative markets overseas. Furthermore, this financing is needed to compete with global competitors such as China and Germany with export credit agencies many times the size of the U.S. Ex-Im Bank.

Contrary to what critics have argued, these businesses cannot rely on support from the private sector should the Bank’s charter expire. Due to the unique nature of financing provided by the Ex-Im Bank, and the economies often involved in these deals, the private sector is unable or unwilling to assist these businesses.

The Ex-Im Bank assists American jobs at no cost to the taxpayer. In fact, the Ex-Im Bank actually contributed more than $1 billion to the U.S. Treasury Department in 2013 through the fees charged for its services.
During the 82nd Annual Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors in Dallas this past June where nearly 300 mayors convened, we unanimously adopted a resolution in support for Ex-Im Bank’s Reauthorization.

The nation’s mayors strongly urge you to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank before its expiration on June 30, 2015. Allowing the Ex-Im Bank’s charter to expire only jeopardizes American jobs and businesses in our cities, and puts U.S. exporters at a sharper disadvantage to global competitors.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson
Mayor of Sacramento
President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor of Baltimore
Vice-President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Mick Cornett
Mayor of Oklahoma City
Second Vice-President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles
Chair, Trade Task Force
The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Alvin Brown
Mayor of Jacksonville
Chair, Exports and Ports Task Force
The U.S. Conference of Mayors

**ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES:**

Akron (OH) Mayor Don Plusquellic
Albuquerque (NM) Mayor Richard Berry
Alexandria (VA) Mayor William Euille
Allentown (PA) Mayor Ed Pawlowski
Annapolis (MD) Mayor Michael Pantelides
Arlington (WA) Mayor Barbara Tolbert
Arlington (TX) Mayor Robert Cluck
Atlanta (GA) Mayor Kasim Reed
Aurora (CO) Mayor Steve Hogan
Austin (TX) Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Beaumont (TX) Mayor Becky Ames
Beaverton (OR) Mayor Denny Doyle
Bellevue (WA) Mayor Claudia Balducci
Boston (MA) Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Braintree (MA) Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan
Bridgeport (CT) Bill Finch
Calabasas (CA) Mayor David Shapiro
Cerritos (CA) Mayor Pro Tem Carol Chen
Chapel Hill (NC) Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt
Chester (PA) Mayor John Linder
Chicago (IL) Mayor Rahm Emanuel
Cincinnati (OH) John Cranley
Covina (CA) Mayor Peggy Delach
Clearfield City (UT) Mayor Mark Shepherd
Columbia (SC) Mayor Steve Benjamin
Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman
Corona (CA) Mayor Eugene Montanez
Corpus Christi (TX) Mayor Nelda Martinez
Cutler Bay (FL) Peggy Bell

See SIGNATORIES on page 11
Dayton (OH) Mayor Nan Whaley
Deer Park (TX) Mayor Jerry Mouton
Des Moines (WA) Mayor Dave Kaplan
Des Moines (IA) Mayor T. Franklin Cownie
DeSoto (TX) Mayor Carl Sherman
Doral (FL) Luigi Boria
Duarte (CA) Mayor Tzeitel Paras-Caracci
Durham (NC) Mayor William Bell
East Orange (NJ) Mayor Lester Taylor
Easton (PA) Mayor Sal Panto
El Paso (TX) Mayor Oscar Leeser
El Segundo (CA) Mayor Suzanne Fuentes
Everett (WA) Mayor Raymond Stephanson
Flint (MI) Mayor Dayne Walling
Frisco (TX) Mayor Mahra Maso
Gary (IN) Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson
Green Bay (WI) Mayor James Schmitt
Gresham (OR) Mayor Shane Bemis
Hallandale Beach (FL) Mayor Joy Cooper
Hartford (CT) Mayor Pedro Segarra
Hawaiian Gardens (CA) Mayor Barry Bruce
Hawthorne (CA) Mayor Chris Brown
Hazelwood (MO) Mayor Matthew Robinson
Hidden Hills (CA) Mayor Marvin Landon
Hoffman Estates (IL) Mayor William McLeod
Houston (TX) Mayor Annise Parker
Huntington Beach (CA) Mayor Jill Hardy
Huntington Park (CA) Mayor Rosa Perez
Huntsville (AL) Mayor Tommy Battle
Imperial Beach (CA) Mayor Jim Janney
Issaquah (WA) Mayor Fred Butler
Kansas City (MO) Mayor Sylvester James Kent (WA) Mayor Suzette Cooke
La Crosse (WI) Mayor Timothy Kabat
La Porte (TX) Mayor Louis Rigby
La Puente (CA) Mayor Violeta Lewis
Lake Stevens (WA) Mayor Vern Little
Laredo (TX) Mayor Pete Saenz
Lima (OH) Mayor David Berger
Lincoln (NE) Mayor Chris Beutler
Little Rock (AR) Mayor Mark Stodola
Long Beach (CA) Robert Garcia
Lomita (CA) Mayor Henry Sanchez, Jr.
Lorain (OH) Mayor Chase Ritenauer
Louisville (KY) Mayor Greg Fischer
Lynnwood (WA) Mayor Nicola Smith
Madison (WI) Paul Soglin
Malibu (CA) Mayor John Sibert
Manhattan Beach (CA) Mayor Wayne Powell
Marysville (WA) Mayor Jon Nehring
Memphis (TN) Mayor A.C. Wharton
Mesa (AZ) Mayor John Giles
Miami (FL) Mayor Tomas Regalado
Mill Creek (WA) Mayor Pam Pruitt
Milwaukee (WI) Mayor Tom Barrett
Missouri City (TX) Mayor Allen Owen
Montgomery (AL) Mayor Todd Strange
Morgan’s Point (TX) Mayor Michel Bechtel
Mukilteo (WA) Mayor Jennifer Gregerson
Nassau Bay (TX) Mayor Mark Denman
New Haven (CT) Mayor Toni Harp
New Orleans (LA) Mayor Mitch Landrieu
Newark (NJ) Mayor Ras Baraka
Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren
Niagara Falls (NY) Mayor Paul Dyster
Normal (IL) Mayor Chris Koos
North Charleston (SC) Mayor Keith Summey
North Wilkesboro (NC) Mayor Robert Johnson
Olney (TX) Mayor Phil Jeske
Orlando (FL) Mayor Buddy Dyer
Paramount (CA) Diane Martinez
Pasadena (CA) Mayor Bill Bogaard
Pembroke Pines (FL) Mayor Frank Ortis
Peoria (IL) Mayor Jim Ardis
Philadelphia (PA) Mayor Michael Nutter
Phoenix (AZ) Mayor Greg Stanton
Pinellas Park (FL) Mayor Sandra Bradbury
Piscataway (NJ) Mayor Brian Wahler
Pittsburgh (PA) Mayor William Peduto
Portland (OR) Mayor Charlie Hales
Pullman (WA) Mayor Glenn Johnson
Redmond (WA) Mayor John Marchione
Renton (WA) Mayor Denis Law
Revere (MA) Mayor Daniel Rizzo
Roanoke (VA) Mayor David Bowers
Rochester (MN) Mayor Ardell Brede
San Antonio (TX) Mayor Ivy R. Taylor
San Diego (CA) Mayor Kevin Faulconer
San Francisco (CA) Mayor Edwin M. Lee
San Fernando (CA) Sylvia Ballin
San Marino (CA) Mayor Eugene Sun
Santa Ana (CA) Mayor Miguel Pulido
Santa Monica (CA) Mayor Kevin McKeown
Savannah (GA) Mayor Edna Jackson
Schenectady (NY) Mayor Gary McCarthy
Seabrook (TX) Mayor Glenn Royal
Seal Beach (CA) Mayor Ellery Deaton
Seattle (WA) Mayor Edward Murray
Shoreacres (TX) Mayor Rick Moses
Snohomish (WA) Mayor Karen Guzak
Socorro (TX) Mayor Jesus Ruiz
South Tucson (AZ) Mayor Paul Diaz
St. Charles (MO) Mayor Sally Faith
St. Louis (MO) Mayor Francis G. Slay
St. Peters (MO) Mayor Len Pagano
Summerville (SC) Mayor William Collins
Sumter (SC) Mayor Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.
Taco (WA) Mayor Marilyn Strickland
Tallahassee (FL) Mayor Andrew Gillum
Tamarac (FL) Mayor Harry Dressler
Tempe (AZ) Mayor Mark Mitchell
Topeka (KS) Mayor Larry Wolgast
Torrance (CA) Mayor Patrick Furey
Trotwood (OH) Mayor Joyce Cameron
Tucson (AZ) Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
Tukwila (WA) Mayor Jim Haggerton
Unified Government Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County (KS) Mayor Mark Holland
Union City (CA) Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci
University City (MO) Mayor Shelley Welsh
Vancouver (WA) Mayor Timothy Leavitt
Waunkeesa (WI) Mayor Shawn Reilly
West Covina (CA) Mayor Fredrick Sykes
West Sacramento (CA) Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
Wichita (KS) Mayor Carl Brewer
Wilmington (DE) Dennis P. Williams
By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Five months into FY 2015, Congress passed a “clean” homeland security funding bill March 3. Passage had been blocked and two continuing resolutions necessitated by efforts of Congressional Republicans to block implementation of the President’s immigration reform executive actions through the addition of several amendments to the House version of the bill. In the end those efforts failed. The House bill was defeated in the Senate several times and on February 27 the Senate passed a clean bill on a 68-31 bipartisan vote. The House passed the same bill March 3, on a bipartisan vote of 257-167. The President signed the bill into law the next day.

After the House vote Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson thanked “those in Congress – Democrats and Republicans – who voted for this bill and, in particular, those in Congress who showed the leadership necessary to get the job done.” He said that the bill fully funds homeland security and “has provided our people a strong bipartisan vote of confidence in the importance of their work.” In a later statement he thanked the many individuals and organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, “who stood with us publicly in the effort to get an appropriations bill passed.”

In all, the bill provides $39.7 billion in discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security in FY 2015, $400 million more than was available last year. The increases in the overall bill go primarily to immigration enforcement and border security. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be funded at $5.96 billion, $690 million more than was available last year. This includes $3.4 billion for ICE detention programs, reflecting significant increases above the budget request to sustain 34,000 detention beds and to increase family detention by 3,732 beds. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is funded at $10.7 billion, $119 million more than was available last year. This is expected to fund 21,370 Border Patrol agents and 23,775 CBP officers – the highest levels ever, according to the committee. In contrast, the bill cuts the Transportation Security Administration by $94 million to $4.8 billion and the Coast Guard by $159 million to $10 billion.

See FUNDING on page 13
Confirmed as Drug Policy Director, Botticelli Promises Emphasis on Prevention

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The Senate confirmed Michael P. Botticelli as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) on a 92-0 vote February 9. Botticelli is the first ONDCP Director who is in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder, recently celebrating 26 years in recovery.

“I am honored by the confidence placed in me by the President and Congress to direct this nation’s drug policy,” Botticelli commented. “Primary drug prevention has been, and will remain a signature issue for the Obama administration and essential component of national drug control policy moving forward.”

Botticelli has more than two decades of experience supporting Americans who have been affected by substance use disorders. Prior to joining ONDCP, Botticelli served as Director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where he successfully expanded innovative and nationally recognized prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. He also forged strong partnerships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; state and local health and human service agencies; and stakeholder groups to guide and implement evidence-based programs. These programs include the establishment of a treatment system for adolescents, early intervention and treatment programs in primary healthcare settings, jail diversion programs, re-entry services for those leaving state and county correctional facilities, and overdose prevention programs.

As Acting ONDCP Director, Botticelli was at the Conference of Mayors 2014 annual meeting in Dallas where he participated in a discussion by the Task Force of Mayors and Police Chiefs on the current heroin epidemic in cities and met individually with a number of mayors.

WASHINGTON OUTLOOK

Confirmed as Drug Policy Director, Botticelli Promises Emphasis on Prevention

The bill provides a total of $2.5 billion for first responder grants, generally maintaining them at last year’s funding levels. The table below shows funding levels for key state and local programs in thousands of dollars (See chart on Page 12).

FUNDING from page 12

National Preparedness Grant Program Rejected for Third Time

In a victory for local governments and first responders, the bill prohibits the Department of Homeland Security from implementing its proposed National Preparedness Grant Program unless it is “explicitly authorized by Congress.” This is exactly what a coalition of 16 national organizations representing local elected officials, emergency managers, homeland security administrators, port operators, transit operators, police chiefs, sheriffs, and the fire service that the Conference has been leading has been urging.

Ever since the National Preparedness Grant Program was proposed three years ago in the Administration’s FY 2013 budget, the organizations have worked together to demonstrate the importance of maintaining the current suite of homeland security grant programs and raise serious concerns with the Administration’s National Preparedness Grant Program proposal. That proposal would consolidate the existing suite of homeland security grant programs into state-administered block and competitive grant programs in which funding decisions are based on state and multi-state threat assessments. The President’s FY 2016 budget proposes the NPGP for the fourth time.
By Kevin McCarty

Responding to petitions from Chattanooga (TN) and Wilson (NC), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced its decision to preempt the state laws that have prevented the city petitioners as well as others in their states from offering broadband service in their local areas. The Order was released at its February 26 meeting where the agency also released its landmark decision on net neutrality. Each action was approved on a 3-2 vote of the Commissioners.

In its Memorandum Opinion and Order, which has not been officially published, the Commission determined that provisions of the North Carolina and Tennessee laws are “barriers to broadband deployment, investment and competition, and conflict with the FCC’s mandate to promote these goals,” according to the agency release on the action.

Chattanooga and Wilson offer Giga-bit-per-second broadband, voice, and video services to their residents, but state laws effectively prevented the cities from making such broadband offerings available to “neighboring unserved and underserved communities” despite number requests from these communities.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has talked for months about the need to set aside state laws that preclude local governments from delivering municipal broadband services, urging broad federal action including preempting state laws to raise broadband speeds throughout the U.S.

“Those elected local officials want to be able to take action to meet their communities’ needs for high-speed broadband. But the laws at issue today raise barriers to the deployment of and investment in new broadband networks and infrastructure. That is why I support granting these petitions,” said Wheeler.

In its release, the agency’s reliance on Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was cited as the basis for the action, which it asserts directs the agency to take action to “remove barriers to broadband investment and competition.” Three of the five Commissioners concluded in issuing the Order that the two state laws “erect barriers to expansion of service into surrounding communities, including unserved and underserved areas” and that action “will speed broadband investment, increase competition, and serve the public interest.”

Cities in other states with similar statutes barring or limiting municipal broadband services may now look to the FCC for relief, although it is certain that the new Order will be litigated by affected states once it is officially released.

FCC Again Seeks to Protect Open Internet

In its other action, the FCC drew upon its broad regulatory powers, setting forth new rules that seek to guarantee an Open Internet, a goal that is almost universally embraced by government, the private sector and the public. Broad consensus on the means for achieving an Open Internet has not yet been achieved, with challenges to the FCC’s Order expected in the courts and on Capitol Hill.

Central to the FCC’s action is the decision to reclassify broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act. As a Title II regulated service, the Commission’s Order sets forth the regulatory strictures applicable to providers of broadband Internet services.

The Commission’s regulatory regime places particular priority on three bright-line rules: 1) No Blocking: broadband providers may not block access to legal content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; 2) No Throttling: broadband providers may not impair or degrade lawful Internet traffic on the basis of content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; and 3) No Paid Prioritization: broadband providers may not favor some lawful Internet traffic over other lawful traffic in exchange for consideration of any kind—in other words, no “fast lanes.” This rule also bans ISPs from prioritizing content and services of their affiliates.

The order sets out a broad framework for the many actions the agency will take, and what is expected of regulated providers, to help achieve a more Open Internet.

In acting on the new Order, the FCC notes that its action relies on Title II authorities, a departure from the agency’s two prior Orders on Open Internet that were struck down by the courts. Unlike these earlier efforts, the new rules—in their entirety—apply to fixed and mobile wireless broadband services. Furthermore, the FCC argues that it used only a small number of Title II authorities and regulatory strictures to advance its stated objectives.
The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Mayors for the Freedom to Marry were joined by 226 mayors, 40 cities, the International Municipal Lawyers Association and the National League of Cities in filing an amicus brief in the marriage equality cases to be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court this spring. The brief, which was authored by the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office, was filed March 6.

The brief states that “municipalities, as the level of government most closely connected to the community they serve, bear a great burden when a target sector of their populace is denied the right to marry. … When the freedom to marry is denied, municipalities are the first level of government to suffer the impact.” It argues that:

- excluding a certain class of citizens from marriage undermines the dignity and respect that government owes all its citizens;
- official recognition of marriage as a fundamental right of all citizens, including gay men and lesbians, is crucial to municipalities’ ability to treat citizens with equal dignity and respect; and
- marriage equality cannot have full meaning unless it is recognized uniformly across state lines.

“It is time for marriage equality to be the law of the land,” said U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. “It’s the right thing to do and that’s why The U.S. Conference of Mayors has joined this brief. Our organization adopted policy opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 1984. In 2009 we adopted policy in support of the freedom to marry, and last June reaffirmed that policy and urged the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that freedom to marry is the right of all Americans.”

Launched at the Conference of Mayors 2012 Winter Meeting in Washington, Mayors for the Freedom to Marry is a non-partisan group of 500 mayors from 45 states and the District of Columbia who support the freedom to marry for same-sex couples and full and equal respect for lawful marriages across the United States. San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Houston Mayor Annise Parker, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton currently chair it. Since its launch, Mayors for the Freedom to Marry has worked closely with the Conference of Mayors to build and grow support.

“We launched Mayors for the Freedom to Marry three years ago because mayors are closest to their constituents and communities and singularly able to make the case that marriage makes for stronger families and a more vibrant economy,” said Freedom to Marry National Campaign Director Marc Solomon. “We’re very proud of the 700 mayors who have been a part of Mayors for the Freedom to Marry over the three years of this campaign. This brief demonstrates the diversity of leaders across the country who know that America is ready for the freedom to marry and want the Supreme Court to bring our country to national resolution.”

226 Mayors on Freedom to Marry Amicus Brief

Boulder (CO) Mayor Matthew Appelbaum
Ridgewood (NJ) Mayor Paul Aronsohn
Pepper Pike (OH) Mayor Richard Bain
Milwaukee (WI) Mayor Tom Barrett
Salt Lake City (UT) Mayor Ralph Becker
Durham (NC) Mayor William Bell
Garrett Park (MD) Mayor Peter Benjamin
Lima (OH) Mayor David Berger
Boise (ID) Mayor David Bieter
Westwood (NJ) Mayor John Birkner
Lake George (NY) Mayor Robert Blais
Pasadena (CA) Mayor Bill Bogaard
Washington (DC) Mayor Muriel Bowser
New Rochelle (NY) Mayor Noam Bramson
Merchantville (NJ) Mayor Edward Brennan
Portland (ME) Mayor Michael Brennan
Farmington Hills (MI) Mayor Barry Brickner
Malvern (PA) Mayor David Burton
Richmond (CA) Mayor Tom Butt
South Bend (IN) Mayor Pete Buttigieg

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West Sacramento (CA) Mayor Christopher Cabaldon
Beverly (MA) Mayor Michael Cahill
Pleasant Hill (CA) Mayor Kenneth Carlson
Menlo Park (CA) Mayor Catherine Carlton
Key West (FL) Mayor Craig Cates
Rainer (OR) Mayor Jerry Cole
Saint Paul (MN) Mayor Chris Coleman
Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman
Fairfax (CA) Mayor Barbara Coler
San Carlos (CA) Mayor Ron Collins
West Chester (PA) Mayor Carolyn Comitta
Freehold Township (NJ) Mayor Thomas Cook
Kent (WA) Mayor Suzette Cooke
Hollendale Beach (FL) Mayor Joy Cooper
Mount Pocono (PA) Mayor Frederick Courtright
Biscayne Park (FL) Mayor David Coviello
Des Moines (IA) Mayor Frank Cownie
Cincinnati (OH) Mayor John Cranley
King City (CA) Mayor Robert Cullen
Somerville (MA) Mayor Joseph Curtatone
San Leandro (CA) Mayor Pauline Cutter
West Hollywood (CA) Mayor John D’Amico
Holt (MI) Mayor C.J. Davis
New York (NY) Mayor Bill de Blasio
Bloomington (IN) Mayor Tom Juston
Rockville (MD) Mayor Elizabeth Hall-Golden
Lawrence (KS) Mayor Dr. Kevin Liles
Hillsboro (OR) Mayor5
Key West (FL) Mayor Craig Cates
Beverly (MA) Mayor Michael Cahill
Pleasant Hill (CA) Mayor Kenneth Carlson
Menlo Park (CA) Mayor Catherine Carlton
Key West (FL) Mayor Craig Cates
Rainer (OR) Mayor Jerry Cole
Saint Paul (MN) Mayor Chris Coleman
Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman
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West Hollywood (CA) Mayor John D’Amico
Holt (MI) Mayor C.J. Davis
New York (NY) Mayor Bill de Blasio
Bloomington (IN) Mayor Tom Juston
Rockville (MD) Mayor Elizabeth Hall-Golden
Lawrence (KS) Mayor Dr. Kevin Liles
Hillsboro (OR) Mayor

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Santa Monica (CA) Mayor Kevin McKeown
Youngstown (OH) Mayor John A. McNally
Red Bank (NJ) Mayor Pasquale Menna
Pleasant Ridge (MI) Mayor Kurt Metzger
Voorhees (NJ) Mayor Michael Mignogna
Syracuse (NY) Mayor Stephanie Miner
Tempe (AZ) Mayor Mark Mitchell
Brighton (NY) Mayor William Moehle
Holyoke (MA) Mayor Alex Morse
Creedmoor (NC) Mayor Darryl Moss
Ithaca (NY) Mayor Svante Myrick
Northampton (MA) Mayor, David Narkewicz
North Hills (NY) Mayor Marvin Natiss
Duluth (MN) Mayor Don Ness
Philadelphia (PA) Mayor Michael Nutter
Pembroke Pines (FL) Mayor Frank Ortis
Harrisburg (PA) Mayor Eric Papenfuse
West Orange (NJ) Mayor Robert D. Parisi
Houston (TX) Mayor Annise Parker
Benicia (CA) Mayor Elizabeth Patterson
Allentown (PA) Mayor Ed Pawlowski
Pittsburgh (PA) Mayor William Peduto
East Point (GA) Mayor Janquell Peters
St. Helens (OR) Mayor Randy Peterson
Valley Mills (TX) Mayor Jerry V. Pierce
Eugene (OR) Mayor Kitty Piercy
Akron (OH) Mayor Donald Plusquellic
Ardley (NY) Mayor Peter Porcino
Palm Springs (CA) Mayor Stephen P. Pougnet
Dallas (TX) Mayor Mike Rawlings
Baltimore (MD) Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Atlanta (GA) Mayor Kasim Reed
Bloomington (IL) Mayor Tari Renner
Wilton Manors (FL) Mayor Gary Resnick
East Hampton (NY) Mayor Paul Rickenbach, Jr.
Morrisville (PA) Mayor David Rivella
White Plains (NY) Mayor Thomas Roach
Knoxville (TN) Mayor Madeline Rogero
Blacksburg (VA) Mayor Ron Rordam
Norman (OK) Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
Tucson (AZ) Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
Socorro (TX) Mayor Jesus Ruiz
Sunrise (FL) Mayor Mike Ryan
Broward County (FL) Mayor Tim Ryan
Culver City (CA) Mayor Meghan Sahli-Wells
Chula Vista (CA) Mayor Mary Salas
Suisun City (CA) Mayor Pete Sanchez
Elmwood Park (IL) Mayor Angelo “Skip” Saviano
Reno (NV) Mayor Hillary Schieve
Carlisle (PA) Mayor Timothy Scott
Hartford (CT) Mayor Pedro Segarra
Albany (NY) Mayor Kathy Sheehan
Abbeville (SC) Mayor Sarah Sherwood

Malibu (CA) Mayor John Sibert
Fairfax (VA) Mayor Scott Silverthorne
Greensburg (PA) Mayor Ronald Silvis
Aspen (CO) Mayor Steve Skadron
Somerset (MD) Mayor Jeffrey Slavin
St. Louis (MO) Mayor Francis Slay
Sebastopol (CA) Mayor Patrick Slayter
West Hartford (CT) Mayor R. Scott Slifka
Golden (CO) Mayor Marjorie Sloan
Union Beach (NJ) Mayor Paul J. Smith, Jr.
Madison (WI) Mayor Paul R. Soglin
Ambler (PA) Mayor Jeanne Sorg
Yonkers (NY) Mayor Mike Spano
Reading (PA) Mayor Vaughn Spencer
Woodland (CA) Mayor Tom Stallard
Phoenix (AZ) Mayor Greg Stanton
Hillsborough (NC) Mayor Tom Stevens
South Miami (FL) Mayor Philip Stoddard
Tacoma (WA) Mayor Marilyn Strickland
Doylestown (PA) Mayor Ron Strouse
Hastings-on-Hudson (NY) Mayor Peter Swiderski
Ann Arbor (MI) Mayor Christopher Taylor
Clarkston (GA) Mayor Ted Terry
Park City (UT) Mayor Jack Thomas
Hinesville (GA) Mayor James Thomas, Jr.
Cortland (NY) Mayor Brian Tobin
South Orange (NJ) Mayor Alex Torpey
East Lansing (MI) Mayor Nathan Triplett
Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Mayor Zachary Vruwink
Flint (MI) Mayor Dayne Walling
Boston (MA) Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren
Burlington (VT) Mayor Mira Weinberger
South Euclid (OH) Mayor Georgine Welo
University City (MO) Mayor Shelley Welsch
New Paltz (NY) Mayor Jason West
Laguna Beach (CA) Mayor Bob Whalen
Dayton (OH) Mayor Nan Whaley
Cleveland Heights (OH) Mayor Dennis Wilcox
Takoma Park (MD) Mayor Bruce Williams
Carbon Cliff (IL) Mayor Kenneth Williams
Arcata (CA) Mayor Michael Winkler
Lake Park (MN) Mayor Aaron Wittebeel
Sleepy Hollow (NY) Mayor Ken Wray
Hoboken (NJ) Mayor Dawn Zimmer
Secretary Foxx Unveils Plan to Boost Local Hiring Efforts

By Kevin McCarty

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently called for new pilot programs at the Federal Highway Administration and at the Federal Transit Administration to demonstrate how local hiring preferences can be incorporated into federally-assisted highway and transit projects as part of a broader initiative to support local hiring in the transportation sector.

Foxx, who was joined by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Birmingham Mayor William Bell and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for the March 3 announcement, said, “Local workers often have the greatest stake in local road and transit projects, but federal rules make it hard for communities to ensure that their workers reap some of the benefits and that’s just not right.”

During the telephone release with reporters, mayors praised Foxx for his leadership, discussing examples of how these changes could help advance greater economic opportunities for city residents. Reed, who chairs the Conference's Transportation and Communications Committee, talked about the substantial public and private funding commitments to the Atlanta Beltline to explain how the proposed changes could allow city residents to benefit more from such major transportation investments.

“When we invest in L.A. infrastructure, we want to maximize our investment in L.A. jobs, and this provides us with a new way forward to boost our local economy as we cut traffic and fight smog,” said Garcetti. “I thank Secretary Foxx for his commitment to strengthening my city and communities across the nation.”

For some time, mayors as well as the Conference of Mayors, most recently in a 2003 policy statement, have been calling for federal policy changes on local hiring, especially for federally-assisted transportation projects.

With the Secretary’s announcement, FHWA and FTA will undertake yearlong pilot programs to test and evaluate the merits of local hiring practices and how the existing competitive bidding process can be improved. As part of this effort, U.S. DOT will soon publish a related proposal in the Federal Register, providing a 30-day comment period on changes to the “common grant” rule geographic preference provision applied to U.S. DOT programs.

Foxx said the pilots are the beginning of a process to make changes across his Department (e.g., FAA funds to airports or FRA funds to rail projects) to support, where possible, local hiring efforts. Reed underscored the impact of the Secretary’s commitment, citing the $7 billion in planned capital expenditures at the Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport and how such changes could further benefit city residents.

CORRADINI

from page 3

is here only because of Deedee’s commitment to tackling hard decisions and fighting for what she knew would be right for our community. The Gateway development, our Olympic legacy and many more projects and endeavors that have helped shape the character of Salt Lake City stand in testament to the hard work, foresight and dedication of Mayor Corradini.

“And Deedee’s service to the public did not end after leaving office, as she took on the enormous task of putting woman ski jumpers on the slopes – and podiums – of the winter Olympic games. I, personally, and our community, owe a debt of gratitude and remembrance to this great leader, who contributed so much to so many. She will be missed.”

Donations

In lieu of flowers, the Corradini family has asked that people consider making donations to one of the following organizations in honor of her memory:

• American Community School in Beirut, Lebanon
• Women’s Ski Jumping USA
• Huntsman Cancer Foundation
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.