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## Winter Leadership Meeting: Mayors Demand Action to Assist Flint, Push Invest and Protect Agenda for 2016 Election

By Conference Staff

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USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake (at podium) and leadership mayors call for immediate action to help the people and city of Flint, and for presidential candidates to address priorities related to investing in and protecting America's cities during a press conference on February 19 in Miami Beach.

## USCM Rallies to Support Flint's Efforts to Fix Water Crisis

By Judy Sheahan

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Flint Mayor Karen Weaver testifying on February 10 before the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee receives a standing ovation.



Flint Mayor Karen Weaver holds a press conference at Flint City Hall on February 2 with members of the Conference of Mayors delegation including former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.



Karen Weaver was elected Mayor of Flint, Michigan, this past November. Prior to her election, she was not a member of the City Council, as some have reported. She never occupied any governmental post before she was elected on November 3, 2015.

Residents of Flint first noticed the brown color of the water and encountered the foul odor of the water in 2014. It was about that time that Karen Weaver decided to put aside her own career as a child psychologist to run for mayor of her hometown. The incumbent mayor defended the contaminated water and said he, his wife, and children drank it every day in a tweet in the Spring of 2015.

Some business leaders thought Weaver was exaggerating the water problems. Other leaders said Dr. Weaver saw how bad it was and she was driven from the outset for Flint to have non-contaminated water.

Weaver has deep roots in Flint as a life-long resident. Weaver's parents were part of the African American elite when Flint was a strong and robust city at the heart of the thriving automotive industry. Her mother was the first black full time teacher hired to work in a classroom of the Flint public school system. Her father, a pediatrician, was the first Black member of the city's school board. She says her parents, "Put a foundation down, but it wasn't just for me. It was for the entire community."

After our Winter Meeting here in Washington, where Mayor Weaver came to ask The U.S. Conference of Mayors for help and support, Conference President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake asked me to co-lead a mission to Flint to ascertain what the Mayor of Flint needed from us, the nation's mayors, the State of Michigan, and the federal government. We asked former

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin to serve as a co-leader on this mission. She, as a mayor had water issues in her first term. And she was Chief of Staff to two great mayors of Atlanta, Andrew Jackson and Maynard Young. Our Mission to Flint, February 1 to 4 was most informative and helpful for our report to our mayors.

Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and our team also spent some time with Mayor Weaver after our mission to Flint. We supported and staffed her when she testified before a jam-packed hearing here in Washington. Then, at our Winter Leadership Meeting on February 18-20, I moderated a panel comprised of Mayor Weaver, Mayor Franklin, USCM Assistant Executive Director Judy Sheahan, and Mayors Water Council Senior Advisor Dr. Richard Anderson. All 44 mayors listened attentively to Mayor Weaver, recognizing that they too could be faced with contaminated water.

The woman that Shirley Franklin and I saw in January has grown a lot in the public eye as she has had to stand up to those in Flint and even here in Washington who have questioned as to whether the new Mayor of Flint has the "flint" to lead her city through the national disaster she inherited.

Former Mayor Shirley Franklin says she remains, "impressed by Mayor Weaver's resilience and fierce determination to do right by the people of Flint, who face a serious water and health crisis no American community deserves." She goes on to say Mayor Weaver, "has demonstrated she is up to the task. She declared the state of emergency within weeks of taking office, when Governor Snyder and other high ranking state and federal officials ignored the complaints and test results. There is no telling how much more dangerous the situation would be had Weaver not been elected mayor."

Further, Mayor Franklin said about Mayor Weaver and the future, "The Mayor understands the need to develop a comprehensive Action Plan to repair aspects of the water system and to rebuild public confidence immediately."



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One of the most interesting things I have noticed about Mayor Weaver is how resolute she has been. Her city and her people have been poisoned by the people who were paid to protect the citizens of The

**See COCHRAN on page 14**

# USCM Rallies to Support Flint's Efforts to Fix Water Crisis

The Conference of Mayors has united behind Mayor Karen Weaver and the citizens of Flint as they deal with lead-tainted water and its public health impacts. Conference of Mayors President Baltimore Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the Executive Committee sent a delegation on February 2 to Flint to conduct a fact-finding mission regarding the water crisis. The Conference also staffed out Mayor Weaver as she testified before the House Democratic Steering Committee on February 10 and Weaver was invited to present at the Conference's Winter Leadership Meeting to discuss her city's situation (see related article).

Mayor Weaver, who never previously held political office, was elected in November on a platform of addressing and solving Flint's drinking water issues. One of her first acts was to declare a State of Emergency on December 14, 2015. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder followed suit on January 5 and activated the National Guard on January 12, 2016. President Obama also declared a State of Emergency on January 16, 2016.

## Mission to Flint

The Conference delegation, lead by former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Conference of Mayors Executive Director Tom Cochran, went to Flint on February 2 to be briefed by Mayor Weaver and her team regarding the water crisis and determine how the Conference of Mayors could be helpful. Other members of the delegation included: USCM Trustee and Environment Committee Vice Chair Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett, Rudy Chow, Baltimore Public Works Director; Rob Hunter, General Manager of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and former Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management for the City of Atlanta; Conference of Mayors Water Council staff Judy Sheahan and Dr. Rich Anderson, as well as Conference staff Gordon Gant and Paul Leroux. Joining the delegation at a press event later that day were Michigan Mayors Virg Bernero of Lansing and Deirdre Waterman of Pontiac.

Mayor Weaver identified a number of

immediate local needs including:

- \$1.5 billion, which would include \$800 million for infrastructure replacement;
- Looking for a seasoned Water Manager;
- Testing of the Water to Identify Problem Pipes;
- Expansion of WIC to the age of 10 for the children of Flint;
- Reestablishment of Trust with the Community;
- Expansion of Headstart to all impacted children;
- Compliance with new EPA Administrative Order;
- Effective Communication with the Community;
- Access to Proper Nutrition and Medical Services for Flint residents; and
- Needs additional professional experienced executive leadership and staff to coordinate "the fix".

Information gathered by the delegation was presented at the Winter Leadership Meeting. Below is a summary of that report.

**History of Flint's Water Treatment:** The City of Flint, for the past 50 years, received their drinking water from Lake Huron, which was treated by Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD). Both the City of Flint as well as Detroit were taken over by Emergency Managers appointed by Michigan's governor, Rick Snyder, due to the financial difficulties of those cities. As a result, Detroit Sewer and Water was established as an independent authority and raised Flint's water and sewer rates by 35 percent so that Flint's citizens were paying an average of \$140/month for water and sewer services.

The City of Flint explored the option of working with other communities to form their own independent authority and treat their own Lake Huron water. It was estimated to take approximately 18 months to establish this authority and build the necessary pipelines. It was decided that Flint would, in the meantime, treat water from the Flint River and utilize an existing water plant that was used rarely in the past 50 years.

According to Flint city staff, there was a discussion that the Flint River had a much higher pH level as compared to the water from Lake Huron and it was recommended that additional orthophosphate solution should be added to the water, at an approximate additional cost of \$100-\$150 per day, to prevent corrosion of the existing pipes. (Phosphate is used to create a scale on the pipe that serves as a barrier to prevent lead from leaching into the treated water. This scale also allows residual chlorine to continue to disinfect the water as it moves through the pipes.) However, this recommendation was not taken.

A series of tests were conducted over the next 6 months after the switch and episodic spikes of lead were found in certain homes. After 6 months, more lead spikes were found throughout the city. It is not yet clear as to when local, state, and federal testers became fully aware of the problem and when the public was informed. Several investigations have been opened including an investigation by the FBI.

## Health Impacts:

Exposure of lead can cause a series of health impacts, particularly in children under the age of 6 and expectant mothers. In Flint, between 6,000 and 12,000 children have been exposed to drinking water with high levels of lead and they may experience a range of serious health problems. In addition, lead exposure can impact learning ability as well as cause behavioral problems.

In addition, an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease occurred in the county, during this same timeframe, which killed 10 people and affected another 77. It is believed that this occurred as a result of having no residual chlorine in the pipes to continue the disinfection process.

## Demographics:

The City of Flint, population of around 100,000, has a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$24, 679 (State of Michigan's MHI is \$49,087). The poverty rate in Flint is 41.6%

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## FLINT CRISIS

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(Michigan is 16.2%). The unemployment rate as of December 2015 is 8.5 percent, down from 12.5 percent in July, which may be an underestimate. Flint also is considered a food desert with few, if any, grocery stores within the city limits. Public transportation access is also limited.

### Financial/Legal Impact:

At least ten class action lawsuits have been filed against government officials on the issue. At least two of those cases are directed at the city regarding past payment of water bills. According to the City's Chief Financial Officer, the city's enterprise fund for the city water and sewer plants and pipes is \$68 million. They also have about \$21 million in a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan that is not refinable. Currently, there is an estimated 77 percent delinquency rate for payment of water bills though usage of water has not gone down.

### Current Status:

In October 2015, the water supply was switched back to Detroit Water and Sewer. Citizens are also being provided with home water filters. Flint started adding additional orthophosphate to the water in December 2015 to facilitate the buildup of the phosphate scale. It is unknown how long this process will take to lower lead levels. Recent tests of 2,000 households showed lead levels still high in 33 homes.

### Local/State/Federal Response

#### The Pipes:

State officials have suggested to Flint city staff that the addition of orthophosphate solution will recoat the pipes so that the lead will no longer leach into the water. The Mayor and her team said that Flint's citizens have no faith in that solution. As Mayor Weaver pointed out, the people do not believe in the federal or state officials who previously lied to them regarding the safety of the water, unless it is independently verified. They want the hookup pipes that contain lead to be replaced.

The cost estimates are between \$2000-

\$10,000 per household. Lansing's estimated cost, using a trenchless method, is \$2,000-\$3,000; Washington, DC costs are \$5,000 per household, and Flint received estimates of \$10,000 per household. According to Census, there are approximately 40,000 households in Flint but local advisors to the Mayors have suggested that there are about 15,000-18,000 hook ups that are posing a problem. It was recommended, by the delegation, that the 33 households that tested positive in the latest test be replaced first along with the schools and other homes that have young children and expectant mothers.

### Water Supply:

Currently, truckloads of bottled water are being delivered and the National Guard has been deployed to give bottled water to households. Mayor Weaver has requested that people call her office before delivering water so they can better coordinate those deliveries. She has also suggested that the \$2 million being spent on the National Guard would be better used to employ Flint citizens to do the same job.

### Local Steps:

The Mayor mentioned that, at this time, they do not need water as much as other resources to assist them in other efforts. At the website, <https://www.cityofflint.com/how-can-i-help/>, Mayor Weaver has outlined how people can assist them with other efforts, including the formation of a "Community Foundation of Greater Flint" which is designed to help Flint residents with the cost of repairing/replacing damaged infrastructure as a result of the 2014-2016 Flint Water Crisis, as well as the Flint Children's Health and Development Fund which is geared to assisting children impacted by lead exposure.

Mayor Weaver announced, at the February 2 press conference, the formation of the Flint Advisory Community Team (FACT), which will bring local voices/needs to the forefront. Mayor Weaver also formed the Flint Action and Sustainability Team (FAST) to add expertise in the area of logistics, infrastructure, communications, and other areas. She appointed Retired Brigadier General Michael C. McDaniel who will help the Mayor identify other key technical experts and advocate,

who, together with the Community Team to develop a new plan for the City. In addition, Mayor Weaver has expressed an interest to involve as many Flint residents, businesses and experts in solving the problems. Pro bono and paid consultants can augment this effort. Mayor Weaver also asked Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin to serve in an advisory capacity.

Please find Mayor Weaver's press statements on these initiatives at <https://www.cityofflint.com/>

### State Response:

The Governor and the State Legislature have supposedly directed \$37 million toward the disaster, including funds for bottled water, filters, testing, health care and other services. On February 10, Snyder announced a plan that would direct \$195 million more toward the Flint emergency. He said \$25 million of the Flint funding would replace 5,000 known old lead lines running from city streets to houses.

### Federal Response:

With President Obama declaring Flint to be a State of Emergency, it freed up to \$5 million in federal aid to have FEMA provide water, filters, filter cartridges and other items for residents. He did not, however, declare it a disaster area, which is limited to natural, not man-made disasters. Federal aid for an emergency is capped at \$5 million, though the president can commit more if he goes through Congress.

### State:

US Department of Agriculture (USDA): On February 10, USDA announced that they would temporarily allow WIC (Women, Infant and Children) Funds to be used for lead testing for Flint-area WIC recipients. In addition, 28 schools are eligible to adopt a program known as the Community Eligibility Provision that ensures universal access to school meals for all children in the school. USDA will work in collaboration with Michigan to help as many eligible schools as possible adopt this provision. In addition, USDA

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recently expanded eligibility for the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for Children program to include areas experiencing extreme circumstances, such as Flint.

## Weaver Testifies Before House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee

Congress has held two hearings on the issue of Flint with more to be expected. Mayor Weaver testified on February 10 before House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA) and 35 members of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. Weaver was joined by Flint leaders and other experts including Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Director, Pediatric Residency Program, Hurley Medical Center, Dr. Yanna Lambrinidou, President, Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives, Bilal Kareem Tawwab, Superintendent, Flint (MI) School District, and Dr. Eric Scorsone, Associate Professor & Founding Director of the Michigan State University Extension Center for State and Local Government Policy. The Democratic Steering Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus committed themselves to visit Flint and assist the city with its efforts.

"Today, the children and families of Flint, Michigan are caught in an unconscionable crisis. In an American city, thousands and thousands of children have been drinking and bathing in poisonous water for more than a year. It was not an unavoidable natural disaster – it was a man-made catastrophe," said Leader Pelosi. "Now, thousands of children are at risk of lifelong damage from lead exposure – unless we help get them the care, attention and resources they need. We must, and we will."

Mayor Weaver opened her remarks saying, "As a licensed, clinical psychologist, I know firsthand the effects of lead poisoning on children. It is toxic to many organs and tissues, resulting in permanent learning and behavior disorders, lowered IQ, developmental delays, cognitive deficits. As Mayor of Flint, I have witnessed businesses closing, people getting sick, people moving out. Our tax base has eroded; fear, frustration and

anger are beginning to consume the residents who were already dealing with high unemployment, lack of jobs, and a loss of trust and confidence in government officials who have had charge over them."

"We are living day-to-day getting bottled water from fire stations and other designated sites thanks to the generous donations of people from across the country," said Weaver, "...we are grateful for the outpouring of our fellow citizens for the water donations, however, this is a Band-Aid fix, and the people want a more permanent solution in regard to fixing our pipes and service lines to individual homes. I have submitted a plan to do this. I believe this is a solution and that it can expedite an end to this manmade disaster."

### Legislative Proposals:

Congress has introduced a number of legislative proposals in response to the Flint crisis including the following: S.2012 - Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 - An amendment is being proposed to the Energy Bill authorizing \$600 million to address Flint concerns. \$200 million would establish a Center For Excellence, which would address long-term health needs and \$400 million for infrastructure needs, which require matching funds from the state. As of March 1, the Energy Bill has been stalled due to the Flint amendment.

H.R. 4470 - Safe Drinking Water Act Improved Compliance Awareness Act – Authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), if there are lead level violations and the state or local authorities do not inform their citizens within 24 hours, to do so. On February 10 it passed the House by a vote of 416-2. It has been sent to the Senate for consideration.

Senators James Inhofe (OK) and Debbie Stabenow (MI) are proposing a bipartisan amendment to H.R. 4470 that would authorize \$100 million in additional Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, \$50 million to address the various health impacts of lead, and provide \$70 million for the Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA).

H.R. 4479 - Families of Flint Act - Authorizes approximated \$765 million to do the following: establishment of a lead grant prevention program, loan forgiveness for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program for Flint, a Center for Excellence on Lead Exposure, and creation of grant programs at the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development. It has been referred to all the relevant committees. No companion Senate bill exists.

### Emergency Spending:

Democrats are looking at the Administration's \$1.8 billion request to combat the Zika virus as a potential vehicle for aid to Flint as well. No official proposal has been made but Republican lawmakers have already indicated that may be an uphill battle.

To find the testimony of Mayor Weaver and the other experts at the second hearing, please go to <http://www.democraticleader.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Witness-testimonies-Flint-Water-Hearing.pdf>



## USCM Mayors Water Council

Co-Chairs

Hallandale Beach Mayor Joy Cooper  
and Napa Mayor Jill Techel  
invite all Mayors to attend the

## Mayors Water Council Meeting in Hollywood, FL

**Thursday April 14 -  
Friday April 15, 2016**

see details on page 17

# Mayors Demand Action to Assist Flint, Push Invest and Protect Agenda for 2016 Election

The nation's mayors expressed their solidarity with Flint, Michigan Mayor Karen Weaver and the residents of Flint late last month, pledging to "help Mayor Weaver and the residents of Flint get what they need to make them whole again and ensure that the water coming out of their tap is safe."

More than forty mayors gathered in Miami Beach on Friday, February 19th and Saturday, February 20th for The United States Conference of Mayors Winter Leadership Meeting, where, led by Conference President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, they discussed issues critical to the future of America's cities.

At a [press conference](#) during the meeting, the mayors supported Mayor Weaver's call for state and federal assistance for the residents of Flint.

"We stand in solidarity with our fellow mayor – Flint Mayor Karen Weaver -- in her time of crisis," said Rawlings-Blake. "We know when things happen in any American city, we must support one another because the next crisis could be ours."

She added, "The right to clean water is a basic human right ... a basic service that cities should be able to provide every resident. There is no such thing as 'Republican water' or 'Democratic water' ... this it is not a partisan issue."

Weaver described the support from the Conference of Mayors as immeasurable. "The U.S. Conference of Mayors has brought strength to the voices of the residents in Flint. We know that the mayors across the country are with us and that does so much. ... Everyone should have clean, affordable water. ... This is why the infrastructure issue is so important; water and water infrastructure is so often taken for granted in this country because it is not something you see directly."

In their remarks to the press and in closed sessions, the assembled mayors discussed



From Left, Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, USCM Assistant Executive Director Judy Sheahan, and USCM Mayors Water Council Senior Advisor Dr. Richard Anderson discuss the Flint water crisis and federal and state actions needed to provide assistance.

advancing [The 2016 Mayors' Compact for a Better America: A Call to Action](#) -- which urges the Presidential candidates and Congress to prioritize city-focused issues based on the idea of INVEST and PROTECT. Developing healthy, safe, affordable and modern water and wastewater systems is one of the key items on the Mayors' agenda.

With more than 80 percent of people in the United States living in the nation's cities and metropolitan areas, the mayors believe the Presidential debates should be driven by issues that matter most to people living in cities – real issues like affordable housing, transportation, job creation, education, health care, child-care and the state of our water systems and pipes. "We want those who wish to lead our nation to understand the importance of cities and their metropolitan areas. And we believe the Presidential Campaign is an ideal time to change the discussion from political rhetoric to identifying the things we can do to help the citizens we serve," said Rawlings-Blake.

Oklahoma City Mayor Cornett, Vice President of the Conference, underscored the same concerns. "Collectively, we are frustrated by the conversations taking place on the political campaign. We don't see the real issues affecting America being addressed by the candidates. ... We hope when we gather after the election with a new President in

place, the partisanship that has dominated the American landscape for the past decade or so is gone."

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Conference Second Vice President echoed the sentiment. "The presidential candidates in many ways are talking past issues that we confront on a day-to-day basis. Mayors spend a lot of time talking about real issues because we don't have the time to get stuck on ideology. The mayors of America are calling on all the presidential candidates to focus on the issues that really matter to the American citizens. ... The occurrences in Flint are the canary in the cold mine. [We] can either pay now or pay later. Unfortunately, the later costs a lot more."

Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine explained the importance of the occasion held in his city and its timing. "As everybody knows, mayors get things done. ... We are in a presidential election year and, of course, we want our voices heard."

The internal leadership discussions focused on a number of key issues for America's cities.

## Flint Water Crisis

Mayor Rawlings-Blake opened the internal sessions with an in-depth discussion on the

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## WINTER LEADERSHIP

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Flint Water crisis. After calling on Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett to report on his efforts as the Executive Committee Liaison to Flint, Rawlings-Blake turned the session over to a panel that included USCM CEO & Executive Director Tom Cochran and Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, who reported on a USCM fact-finding mission that they led to the city of Flint in early February (see story on page...).

During the panel discussion, Mayor Weaver provided an update to her colleagues, and Conference of Mayors staff Judy Sheahan, Crystal Swann, and Dr. Rich Anderson provided details on the situation in Flint.

In the session on Flint and in the days that followed, the assembled mayors were adamant that the situation in Flint is an emergency of extraordinary proportions and one that requires national attention. In her remarks to reporters following the session, Weaver cautioned, "What happened in Flint should not happen in any other community. In fact, if you don't learn from us, you have failed."

### Aging Task Force

Aging Task Force Chair Pembroke Pines' Mayor Frank Ortis updated the mayors on the new demographics and needs for today's senior citizen.

With the understanding that the population aged 65 and over is projected to be 83.7 million by 2050, Mayor Ortis outlined that he hopes to focus the task force's work in two or three different areas. One area for focus will be emerging and innovative healthcare technology.

The mayors heard from Kimberly O'Loughlin, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Philips Healthcare Home Monitoring who discussed how technology is placing a more critical role in a senior's ability to 'age in place' and live a robust life. Mayors discussed the importance recognizing that the days of wellness centers are over and with that the increasing size of the aging popula-

tion, mayors must insure that the entire city, in some respect, operates as a wellness space for seniors, through changes in such things as city design, transportation access, safety and health access.

The Aging Task Force will meet next in Indianapolis at the 84th Annual Meeting in June



Mayor Philip Levine welcomes over 40 mayors to Miami Beach.

### Ending Veteran Homelessness

New Orleans Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and Mesa Mayor John Giles, Co-Chairs of the new USCM Task Force on Ending Veteran Homelessness, briefed the mayors on their plans for the task force at the annual meeting in Indianapolis.

The task force will hear from mayors who have reached the goal of ending veteran homelessness in their cities, and from mayors who are working toward reaching the goal. Mayor Landrieu's city has reached the goal, and Mayor Giles' city is not far from reaching the goal of ending veteran homelessness. In a general discussion, mayors were excited about the new task force, and believe that cities in working toward and reaching the goal of ending veteran homelessness will also learn how to go beyond veterans and address the broader homeless challenge and end chronic homelessness in their cities.

USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake announced the creation of the new task force during the 84th Winter Meet-

ing of the Conference of Mayors in January.

### Criminal Justice Reform

Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chair of the Conference's Criminal and Social Justice Committee, updated the mayors on bipartisan criminal justice reform legislation awaiting floor action in both the House and Senate. She cautioned that while the Con-

ference has some concerns with the lack of reform provisions relating to juveniles in the House bill, it is hoped that once it passes those concerns can be alleviated when the bill is conferenced with the Senate bill. She asked the mayors to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge them to support these bills: S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act; H.R. 3713, the Sentencing Reform Act; and H.R. 759, the Recidivism Risk Reduction Act.

### Executive Actions on Guns

Recognizing that federal legislation to stem gun violence is unlikely, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh briefed the mayors on efforts underway in his city to reduce gun violence through local executive actions. Walsh reported that he and Police Commissioner William Evans have sent a letter to all gun owners in Boston outlining their rights and responsibilities and making sure they are aware of the local gun buyback program; they are engaging gun retailers in the Commonwealth to discuss their rights and responsibilities. He

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also reported that the Department is tracing all crime guns to identify their origin.

### Trade Activities

Trans Pacific Partnership Task Force Chair Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn briefed the mayors on the current activities of the task force in support of TPP. He thanked Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed for hosting a press conference in the closing days of the TPP's negotiation last fall in Atlanta; and praised Education and Jobs Committee Chair West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon for his testimony in January before the International Trade Commission.

Mayor Buckhorn indicated it was unclear when Congress would consider TPP, as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has hinted that TPP would not be dealt with until after the election.

U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran briefed the mayors on a small, private meeting with President Obama which also was attended by Mayor Reed. Cochran said the Administration was relying on the Conference to help lead the effort toward TPP passage.

### Arts and Economic Revitalization

A special discussion took place on how arts and culture can be engines of economic revitalization in cities, especially in neighborhoods. Don and Mera Rubell, founders of the Rubell Family Collection and Gallery described how their 40,000 square foot art gallery, has helped to revitalize a neighborhood in Miami. Formerly a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration confiscation facility, the art gallery has transformed the neighborhood while still maintain many of the neighborhood's homes and small businesses.

Trinity Simon, Director of the Mayors Institute on City Design shared with the mayors examples of ways design can transform neighborhoods and cities. Bethlehem's converted steel mills, Little Rock's creative corridor and Washington, DC bikeways were cited as ways cities can use design to achieve eco-

nomics development, transportation and livability goals.

New Orleans Mayor Mitchell, Landrieu, chair of the Conference of Mayors Standing Committee on Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports, spoke on ways the arts can compete with other any economic generator. The arts can be a main generator of jobs and economic activity in cities. "Every city has something to take advantage in promoting the arts," said Mayor Landrieu.

### New Metro Economies Data

Council on Metro Economies and the New American City Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer reviewed the latest U.S. Metro Economy re-

in public and assisted housing and in the immigrant community."

### Clean Energy Priorities

In his remarks to Conference leaders, New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell reminded his colleagues that energy will remain a dominant issue throughout the Presidential election and into the next Congress. Speaking as the new chairman of the Conference's Energy Standing Committee, Mitchell reported on the status of Senate action on pending comprehensive energy legislation. He talked about the work of his Senator, Ed Markey, to update the authorization of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program at the U.S. Department of



From Left, Rubell Family Collection co-founders Mera and Don Rubell, along with Mayors' Institute on City Design Director Trinity Simons discuss "Arts and Culture as Engines of Economic Revitalization."

port forecasting economic and job growth in the nation's 381 metro economies. Most city/metros will see job growth in 2016, but Fischer said that 40 percent had still not regained the lost jobs of the Great Recession. He indicated investment incentives needed to be developed to spur investment and job creation in pockets of poverty and underserved neighborhoods. The Council is also working with Brookings to explore development of "innovation districts" as a part of metro economic development strategies.

Fischer also announced that April would be DollarWise Month and mayors were encouraged to promote financial education by visiting a free tax preparation VITA site before April 15th. For the coming year DollarWise will focus on promoting financial education

Energy. Citing recent USCM surveys, he noted how this direct federal investment in cities helped deploy new energy technologies and advanced local energy and climate goals. Mayor Mitchell urged mayors to press candidates to support additional investment, such as EECBG funding to cities, and reforms at the Department of Energy, as called for in the 2016 Mayors Compact.

### Water Mandates

Environmental Committee Vice-Chair Lima Mayor David Berger emphasized the need and importance of codifying integrated planning into the Clean Water Act. Mayor Berger and other Mayors have raised concerns that once the current Administration

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# Special Session: U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy Addresses USCM Leadership Meeting

By Crystal D. Swann

Mayors, joined by the United States Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, engaged in a lively discussion on how to move the nation's cities toward a culture of health. In outlining his observations, Dr. Murthy highlighted major areas that if improved could radically change the landscape of prevention and good health in this country.

"Equating health with happiness could improve the perspective people have on what being healthy looks like in the U.S.," Dr. Murthy opened. He posited that in the current culture, being healthy, whether it's eating healthy or exercises, is equated with drudgery, pain and unhappiness. Shifting the pursuit of health from a painful experience to a more pleasurable pursuit would alter the way people view what being healthy means. "If we really want to make America a healthier place we have to equate health with happiness. For too many people being healthy is a source of pain, whether it's the onerous gym routine or having to give up all the foods you like," remarked Dr. Murthy. Continuing he stated that, "We have to find a way to shift the pursuit of health from being a source of pain to being a source of pleasure and even power."

Another area highlighted by Dr. Murthy was the environment both the food and the physi-



Vice President and Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Conference President and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Conference CEO & Executive Director Tom Cochran and Conference Second Vice President and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

cal. "The environment can make personal choices easier or harder," commented Dr. Murthy. Focusing on the walkability and the food accessibility in a community can re-frame how people view being healthy and their pursuit of good health. Infrastructure shifts of a community such as increasing sidewalks or more street lighting for safety could greatly enhance peoples' ability to be healthy. "Small changes can make a big difference for your health, take walking for example. It turns out that if you could get people to walk on average 22 minutes a day, you could reduce their risk of diabetes by 30 percent; reduce the risk of health disease by 20 percent and could increase their life expectancy as well. So small changes can be

make a very big difference in your health when it comes to prevention."

The final areas, Dr. Murthy addressed were mental illness and building a culture of prevention. Noting that 'mental illness is one of those challenges that nearly everyone is touched but so many people feel they can't talk about, it is still shrouded in stigma and negative attitudes that prevent people from coming forward and getting the help they need.' He also noted that as a result and part of the stigma it takes an average of 10 years from when symptoms appear to actual diagnosis. Because of stigma, less than half the people who have mental illness get treatment.



U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and Flint Mayor Karen Weaver discuss addressing the public health impacts of the Flint water crisis during a private meeting.

In discussing building a culture of prevention, Dr. Murthy noted that the majority of our expenditures as a country focus on treatment of disease but there is greater value and economic benefit in focusing on preventing disease. This will require building a culture "that's anchored in good nutrition and physical activity and in emotional well being. Emotional well being is not just the absence of mental illness but also the presence of well being and resilience. In closing, Dr. Murthy talked about the pockets of hope that exist in our cities that are building resilient communities and the mayors have to be the voices of hope that shine a light on those pockets of local innovation that are working to prevent disease, bolster healthy communities, and build emotionally resilient cities.

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2016 Winter Leadership Meeting**

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From left, Sponsors of the USCM Leadership Meeting American Hotel & Lodging Association State & Local Government Affairs Vice President Troy Flanagan, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP Partner Michael French, Comcast Government Affairs Executive Director Ron Orlando, American Water Resources Vice President John Becker, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, USCM Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, USCM 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and SUEZ Senior Industry Relations & External Affairs Senior Director Eugene Anderson (Not Pictured: Stephanie Nellons-Paige, Senior Director, Metro Engagement and Relations, USA Funds)

## WINTER LEADERSHIP

from page 8

leaves office, there is no guarantee that the progress that the Conference of Mayors has garnered from the Environmental Protection Agency on such items as Integrated Planning, Affordability, and the use of Green Infrastructure will stay in place.

Mayor Berger encouraged all the Mayors to educate their members of Congress on the issue of water and sewer unfunded mandates and the need for a permanent legislative fix.

### Additional Sessions

In addition to their closed discussions on priorities, the mayors participated in a working lunch titled "Strategies and Systems for Mayors to Connect 21st Century Workforce Development and Youth Opportunity," (see story on page 12) and in an extended conversation with Surgeon General Vivek Murthy (see story on page 9).

### Attending Mayors

The following mayors attended the Conference of Mayors Winter Leadership Meeting:

*President*  
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore  
*Vice President*  
Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City  
*2nd Vice President*  
Mitchell J. Landrieu, New Orleans  
Elizabeth B. Kautz, Burnsville, Past President  
Steve Adler, Austin  
Bryan K. Barnett, Rochester Hills  
William A. Bell, Sr., Birmingham  
Shane T. Bemis, Gresham  
Stephen K. Benjamin, Columbia  
David Berger, Lima  
Richard J. Berry, Albuquerque  
Mike Bodker, Johns Creek  
Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC  
James Brainard, Carmel  
Ardell F. Brede, Rochester  
Bob Buckhorn, Tampa  
Pete Buttigieg, South Bend  
Christopher L. Cabaldon, West Sacramento  
Denny Doyle, Beaverton

Jorge Elorza, Providence  
Greg Fischer, Louisville  
Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary  
Joseph P. Ganim, Bridgeport  
John Giles, Mesa  
Michael B. Hancock, Denver  
Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr., Kansas City  
Harry LaRosiliere, Plano  
Philip Levine, Miami Beach  
Maher Maso, Frisco  
Kim McMillan, Clarksville  
Jonathan Mitchell, New Bedford  
Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines  
Mike Rawlings, Dallas  
Kasim Reed, Atlanta  
Madeline Rogero, Knoxville  
Paul Soglin, Madison  
Mark Stodola, Little Rock  
Tom Tait, Anaheim  
Beth Van Duyne, Irving  
Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway  
Martin J. Walsh, Boston  
Karen Weaver, Flint  
Nan Whaley, Dayton  
Dennis P. Williams, Wilmington

# Mayors Highlight Best Practices to Connect 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Development and Youth Opportunity

By Megan Cardiff

On Friday, February 19, the Executive Leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors met in Miami Beach to discuss the pressing issues facing our nation, and one major focus of the session was connecting mayors to 21st century workforce development and youth opportunity. Moderated by West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, Chair of USCM's Jobs, Education and the Workforce Standing Committee, the discussion focused on what mayors can do and what they are doing to connect youth to career opportunities. "Mayors have to utilize the tools they have at their disposal to enhance these opportunities," Cabaldon told his colleagues.



Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza.

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero outlined the roots of President Obama's America's College Promise Initiative in Tennessee's Drive to 55 initiative, part of Tennessee Reconnect. "Drive to 55 aims to get 55 percent of Tennessee citizens a degree by 2025," said Rogero. The goal is to help more adults complete a post-secondary degree or credential. As part of this initiative, all adults in the state can attend and earn a diploma or certificate at any of the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology completely free of tuition and fees.

Mayors also heard from National Academy Foundation (NAF) board members Ronald

Williams and Erich de la Fuente about the organization's academies that focus on various career themes and help provide opportunities for employment, development, growth and advancement. "These academies provide youth with an opportunity to have a paid internship in high school and open the window into the corporate world," said de la Fuente. NAF partners with schools and businesses in local communities and cites local engagement as one of its major keys to success.

Income disparity and unequal access to learning opportunities in the summer and how they relate to the achievement gap was another topic of discussion. Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings discussed Dallas' City of Learning, a public-private partnership that makes a city-wide commitment to ensure all students have access to summer learning opportunities.

"One in four kids in Dallas County are English-language learners and three in four kids in Dallas County qualify for free and reduced



District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser.

lunch. How do we level the playing field? In Dallas we focused on summer because it is the most strategic place to address this opportunity gap at scale," said Mayor Rawlings. The city partnered with the local non-profit Big Thought to use the digital badge as



Jobs, Education and the Workforce Standing Committee Chair West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon.

tool to recognize learning and connect youth with out-of-school learning opportunities.

"We have power as mayors to connect the business community to youth through workforce development," said USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake while discussing summer opportunities for youth. Rawlings-Blake discussed YouthWorks and Hire One Youth - the two main programs that offer summer youth employment opportunities in Baltimore. YouthWorks provides youth with five-week work experiences in private sector, non-profit and city and state government employment. Mayor Rawlings-Blake's Hire One Youth campaign asks area businesses to commit to hiring at least one 16- to 21- year old for a summer or year-round job. District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser highlighted the successes of the long established summer youth program in her city and how she is continuing to improve and enhance summer opportunities for youth. D.C.'s year-round Career Connections program connects youth ages 20-24 with meaningful, paid work experience and opportunities for education, training, and professional development. "We are focusing on how we can transition the work experience gained through the Career Connections program into permanent job or

see **WORKFORCE** on page 23





## Give your city a boost in 2016

Wells Fargo Bank and the Wells Fargo Foundation along with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, aim to award \$1 million this year to support local non-profits with the CommunityWINS (Working/Investing in Neighborhood Stabilization) grant program.

### Who's eligible?

As a member of USCM, you're qualified to nominate **up to three** initiatives or programs through an eligible non-profit 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 many awards will be granted?

Six awards are available in 2016 – two awards per population category. Awards are based on population size:

- Large: Population greater than 250,000
- Medium: Population of 75,000 to 250,000
- Small: Population less than 75,000

### How can you apply for a CommunityWINS grant?

Grant requirements, application details, and the online application forms are available now at [usmayors.org/communitywins](http://usmayors.org/communitywins). Please visit and apply by **March 18, 2016**.

Go to [usmayors.org/communitywins](http://usmayors.org/communitywins) beginning on January 20, 2016 to submit your application. For questions, please email: [CommunityWINS@wellsfargo.com](mailto:CommunityWINS@wellsfargo.com)

Together we'll go far



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REV 12/15

# The Frank:

## Pembroke Pines Art Gallery to be Named in Honor of Mayor Ortis

A new 11,000 square foot, two-story art gallery at Pembroke Pines new Civic & Cultural Center will be named after Mayor Frank C. Ortis to honor his decades-long commitment to the cultural arts. Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Vice Mayor Iris A. Siple, City Commissioners Angelo Castillo, Jay Schwartz, Carl Shechter, and City Manager Charles F. Dodge broke ground on the future site of the Pembroke Pines Civic Center, a 60 million dollar complex located in the city's mid-town district on Monday, May 4, 2015, and it was recently announced that the colloquial name for the art gallery will be "The Frank." Multi-disciplinary art-centric programming will offer opportunities for cultural observation, participation and community connection at the gallery.

"We are overjoyed that we can start building the future of Pembroke Pines," said Mayor Ortis, who has served as mayor since 2004. "This is a great city to live and work in. The Civic Center will not only provide city services to our residents, but will also introduce exciting cultural and entertainment opportunities to the community-at-large. This is an iconic building that is going to make Pembroke Pines so proud. It's going to be the place to visit."

As the second-largest city in Broward County, Pembroke Pines has invested in the planning and development of the complex for more than a decade to infuse the city with an urban energy. The multi-purpose complex will include commercial, cultural, and residential components that will serve as the centerpiece

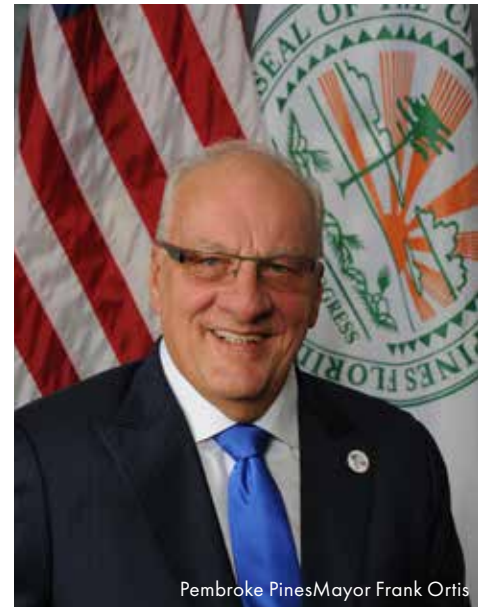


Pembroke Pines' New Civic & Cultural Center.

for City Center. The expansive center will feature entertainment venues, apartments, office and retail space, restaurants, and a hotel on the 80 acre site near the intersection of Pines Boulevard and Palm Avenue.

Civic Center design plans include a new city hall, a 3,500-seat state-of-the art performance and conference space, a stand-alone Commission Chambers, and the Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery and Exhibit Hall at City Center. The 11,000 square-foot, two story art gallery was named after Mayor Ortis in honor of his commitment to the cultural arts.

Pembroke Pines was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" grant for \$50,000, and a \$462,000 Broward County Tourist Development Tax Grant to develop and implement the inaugural event and building of the public plaza at Civic Center. The outdoor space which connects the facility with



Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis

the surrounding communities will be used for multi-disciplinary performances and community engagement events.

## COCHRAN

from page 2

United States of America in the State of Michigan in the City of Flint. Mayor Weaver has nothing to do with those decisions of the federal and state governments.

Some of the people who have known Mayor Weaver since childhood say, "She never raises her voice but she's very firm."

Shirley Franklin, Members of Congress, and

the Leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors all see this in her as she leads her city through this crisis.

It is the history, the heritage, the well established political culture of The U.S. Conference of Mayors to stand with a Mayor who comes to us asking for help. This time it was about a poisoned city, not a hurricane, an earthquake, or a flood. Mayor Weaver came to our Winter Meeting asking for us to stand with her and behind her. Just as we have stood with mayors in the past, we are

doing this for Mayor Karen Weaver of Flint.

Advice continues to abound. Our team heads back to Flint this week, recognizing that Karen Weaver has the leadership and administrative talent, and what she needs is less advice and more financial support from the state and federal government. Our organization will continue to give her personal support as well as give the City of Flint the bipartisan support it needs to remove the poison and provide one of the basic necessities of life - clean water.

# Senate Panel Clears MOBILE NOW Act, Affirms Local Government Powers in Siting Wireless Facilities

By Kevin McCarty

Members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee voted March 3 to approve new legislation, MOBILE NOW Act, allocating additional spectrum to private entities to bolster mobile broadband speeds and services, with many Senators giving particular emphasis to the broadband challenges before rural and remote areas of the nation.

The purpose of the legislation is to help facilitate the efforts of private wireless providers by reallocating unused or underutilized spectrum to such companies, especially now as they work to deploy next generation 5G networks more broadly throughout the U.S.

The legislation, "Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless Act" or MOBILE NOW Act (S. 2555), must now be scheduled for action by the full Senate, where the bipartisan package is expected to garner substantial support.

During action on S. 2555, Committee Chairman John Thune (SD) said, "We have a bill that I think we can move." Praising the bipartisan efforts on the package, Ranking Member Bill Nelson (FL) that "the bill is the product of months of negotiations."

As approved by the panel, S. 2555 does not threaten local zoning and police powers over the siting of wireless facilities in cities and other local areas. Earlier versions of the legislation proposed a number of changes that would have overturned most of Section 332(c)(7), current law provisions that been in place for many years and have guided the successful deployment of four generations of wireless services in cities and other local areas throughout the nation.

Prior to the markup session, dozens of mayors in states with Senators on the committee joined together on the Conference of Mayors-led letter to Thune and Nelson, expressing opposition to provisions seeking to overturn longstanding local authorities in favor of a new "federal zoning standard."

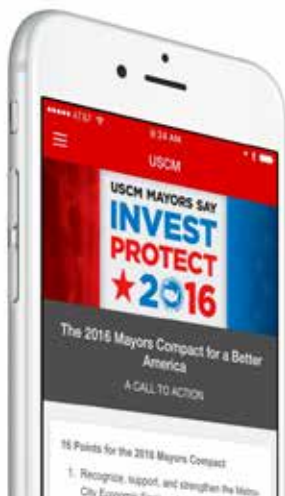
In this [February 24th correspondence](#), the mayors' wrote, "On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, specifically the many mayors represented by Senators serving with you on the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee and those who are signatories to this letter, we want to express our appreciation to you for removing provisions from the pending "Mobile Now Act" that would have denied cities and other local governments the ability to exercise their longstanding local rights to review and man-

age the deployment of wireless facilities in their communities."

"Specifically, by removing the offensive language, you have affirmed prior Congressional action to preserve local governments' authority to balance a community's wireless needs with its quality of life needs. We thank you. We hope that we may rely upon your continued leadership during the markup on this legislation to set aside any amendments that damage Section 332(c)(7) of the Act, which has served this nation and our cities so well in advancing several generations of wireless communications services," they wrote.

The mayors also affirmed their strong commitment to the accelerated improvement of wireless services and asserted that the primary purpose of the legislation, namely freeing up additional spectrum for non-governmental use, could "surely advance without overturning longstanding authorities of cities and other local governments."

Several pending amendments were modified and accepted during committee action, with one setting forth federally-directed "dig once" requirements that are expected to receive additional review and scrutiny, especially the localized impacts, as the bill advances to the full Senate.



## The meeting may be over, but it's easy to stay connected all year long.

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# Permanent Internet Tax Ban Signed Into Law

By Larry Jones

President Barack Obama signed into law the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (H.R. 644) on February 24. Tucked in the so called customs legislation is the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, a provision that permanently bans state and local government taxes on Internet access fees. The measure cleared the last hurdle in Congress on February 11 when the Senate adopted it by a vote of 75 – 20. The House approved PITFA last June but in a strategic move, waited until the end of the year to add it to a bill that not only enjoyed bicameral and White Support but one that most likely would be signed into law. On December 11, the House approved the customs bill with the PITFA language by a vote of 256 to 148.

The Conference and other state and local groups fought to block the passage of PITFA because it undermines state and local taxing authority and results in the loss of hundreds of million in revenues. After the House approved the customs bill with PITFA, state and local groups urged Senators to insist that PITFA be dropped, arguing that it was added in an eleventh-hour move to push it through before it could be properly vetted to provide members a clear understanding of its impact on state and local governments.

Responding on behalf of state and local governments, Senators Richard Durbin (IL), Mike Enzi (WY), and Lamar Alexander (TN), pulled together a strong bipartisan group of

41 Senators and threaten to raise a point of order to block action on the customs bill in the Senate unless the PITFA language was dropped. This seemed to work in the short-term, as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) put off a vote on the bill until after the December recess.

In blocking the measure in the Senate, Senator Durbin and others made clear their intention was to get the House to allow a vote on the Marketplace Fairness Act, a bill that will enable state and local governments to collect an estimated \$26 billion in sales taxes annually on Internet and other remote sales. Although the Marketplace Fairness Act passed the Senate by a strong bipartisan vote in 2013, Senators have been frustrated by the House leadership's refusal to schedule the bill for consideration.

Although initial Senate opposition to the PITFA language in the customs bill seemed strong, that all changed after the Senate returned from recess earlier this year. And on February 9, Senator Durbin announced he had dropped his objections to including PITFA in the customs bill in exchange for a commitment from Senator McConnell that he would schedule the Marketplace Fairness Act for Senate floor consideration later this year. Nevertheless, there has been no agreement from the House leadership that it will take any action on MFA. And although, Rep Jason Chaffetz (UT) has introduced a

strong bipartisan bill (H.R. 2775: the Remote Transaction Parity Act) similar to MFA, still there is no assurance from House leadership that there will be a vote on the measure.

Under the new PITFA law state and local governments are permanently banned from imposing taxes on Internet access fees. A grandfather provision in a 1998 law allowed seven states and local governments in those states that already had taxes on Internet access fees to continue collecting those taxes. These states include Hawaii, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. Under PITFA, these states will have until June 30, 2020 to phase out all taxes on Internet access fees. Collectively they stand to lose an estimated \$500 million annually once the tax is fully phased out.

Further, state and local governments stand to lose far more in telecommunications taxes as telecommunications and cable providers switch from cable to broadband to deliver Internet access services. Currently state and local governments are collecting revenue from these providers in the form of rights-of-way fees and cable franchise fees. Under PITFA, "taxes" is broadly defined to include state and local rights-of-way fees, cable franchise fees, and other fees. So once a service provider switches from cable to broadband to provide Internet access, state and local governments will no longer be able to receive rights-of-way or cable franchise fees.

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# Supreme Court Stays Implementation of Clean Power Plan

By Judy Sheahan

In a move that surprised both sides, on February 9 the Supreme Court issued a stay on implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP), the cornerstone for President Obama's climate change initiative. As a result, EPA cannot move forward in implementing the CPP until all legal challenges are resolved. The Supreme Court made this decision after only 3 days after getting the request, which was unusually quick.

The CPP, which was released in August of

2015, directed states to create State Implementation Plans (SIPs) that would outline their plans to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing electric utilities. States were to originally submit plans by September 16 with an additional two years provided to finalize their proposal.

In the CPP, each State was given greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction targets that were based on 2005 GHG levels. The Conference of Mayors weighed in the design of

the CPP and encouraged EPA to give as much flexibility as possible in the SIPs to include city priorities of encouraging energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable fuels to name a few. Although EPA couldn't mandate that utilities have to work with local governments on conservation and energy efficiency efforts, they said they would allow the States and utilities to meet their targets using these methods.

see **CLEAN POWER** on page 22



# USCM Prepares for Republican National Convention

By Ed Somers

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson hosted a day of meetings on February 22 for officials from The U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to help prepare for activities during the Republican National Convention on July 18-21.



From left, USCM CEO Tom Cochran, Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, and National League of Cities Executive Director Clarence Anthony honor Carl and Louis Stokes at Cavaliers half time.

USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and the delegation met with the top leadership team from the RNC Committee on Arrangements and the City of Cleveland Host Committee to review logistics for the convention. The meetings were arranged by Mayor Jackson's Director of Government and International Affairs Valarie McCall, who is also the current Chair of APTA.

While in Cleveland, Cochran and NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony joined Mayor Jackson to help honor former Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes (1927-1996) and his brother former Member of Congress Louis Stokes (1925-2015) during halftime of the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game as part of the the organization's Black History celebration. Mayor Stokes was an active leader within the Conference of Mayors.



From left, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran at City Hall.



## The United States Conference of Mayors Water Council

Co-Chairs Mayor Joy Cooper, City of Hallandale Beach, FL  
and Mayor Jill Techel, City of Napa, CA

invite all Mayors to attend the

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Registration materials are posted at: <http://usmayors.org/MWCFL>

# Conference Commends House Judiciary Committee for Action on Recidivism Reduction Bill

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Efforts to enact bipartisan legislation to reform the federal criminal justice system got a boost February 11 when the House Judiciary Committee reported out the Recidivism Risk Reduction Act (H.R. 759). The next day Conference CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran sent a letter to Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (VA) and Ranking Member John Conyers (MI) expressing the mayors' support for the Committee's efforts relating to passage of criminal justice reform legislation. "Yesterday's markup of the Recidivism Risk Reduction Act is an important step in that process," Cochran said.

"Reforming the criminal justice system is a top priority for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and we are committed to seeing legislation that will accomplish this enacted into law as early as possible this year," Cochran told the Committee leaders. "We look forward to working with you and others in the Congress to pass legislation that will make important and needed reforms in our justice system."

Cochran did express the mayors' concern that the bill did not include several provisions in the Senate bill that would address the treatment of youth in the federal system. Included among these provisions are ones that would significantly limit solitary confinement of juveniles in federal custody, eliminate life without parole for juveniles, and permit people tried as juveniles in federal court who committed nonviolent offenses in certain circumstance to have their records sealed or expunged.

Cochran said, however, that H.R. 759 "is a good starting point for further work by the House and negotiations with the Senate," and said that the mayors "hope that this bill along with the Sentencing Reform Act, which you reported out of Committee in November, will move quickly to the House floor for consideration."

With Committee passage of H.R. 759, both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees have reported out bills that deal with both the sentencing and recidivism-reduction portions

of criminal justice reform. Floor action by both the House and Senate is the next step.

On October 22 the Senate Judiciary Committee reported out legislation to reform federal sentencing of certain drug offenders, target violent criminals, and grant federal judges greater discretion in sentencing for lower-level drug crimes. S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015, also is intended to reduce recidivism by helping federal prisoners successfully re-enter society and would establish two new federal mandatory minimum penalties for particularly heinous crimes.

On November 18 the House Judiciary Committee reported out H.R. 3713, the Sentencing Reform Act of 2015. Sponsored by Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers, that bill mirrors the federal sentencing provisions in the Senate bill. If the House and Senate move forward with all of these bills, then a conference to resolve differences between H.R. 3713 and 759 combined and S. 2123 would be possible.

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## Expanding Efforts to Treat Opioid Overdoses

By Kathryn Krestichmer-Weyland

Addiction to opioids such as heroin, morphine, and prescription pain relievers continues to challenge the social and economic wellbeing of counties big and small. Heroin use specifically has increased dramatically in the past five years, and subsequently, overdose-related deaths have more than doubled from 2011 to 2014. In an effort to provide assistance with this national epidemic, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy hosted a community forum on the opioid overdose in Knox County, Tennessee. At this forum, state and local leaders announced that the National Association of Counties, the National Governors Association, the National League of Cities, and The United States Conference of Mayors with the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, Premier, Inc., and Adapt Pharma are offering NARCAN® Nasal Spray at a

40 percent discount.

NARCAN®, a potentially lifesaving opioid withdrawal medication, is the only FDA-approved, ready-to-use nasal spray version of naloxone hydrochloride. It can stop or reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, and access to this medication will allow public agencies to combat the number of drug-related overdose deaths across the country. Adapt Pharma is offering a 40-percent discount, \$37.50 per dose (\$75 for a 2 pack carton) in an effort to make the medication more affordable and accessible, through the U.S. Communities Purchasing Alliance and Premier, Inc. NARCAN® is a simple product; its ease of use can save lives, even in the most high stress situations.

"The Administration has made it a top prior-

ity to expand access to the overdose reversal drug naloxone and medication-assisted treatment because we have lost too many of our family members and friends to the opioid epidemic," said White House National Drug Policy Control Director Michael Botticelli. "This public-private partnership to secure discounts for state and local agencies can help ensure that these life-saving medications are available wherever they are needed."

The National Governors Association threw support behind the agreement and highlighted the collaboration as an effective one. "Governors are at the forefront of the fight against opioid abuse," said National Governors Association Chair Utah Governor Gary Herbert. "At the last NGA Summer Meeting,

see **OPIOID OVERDOSE** on page 21

# House Panel Acts on FAA Renewal Plan with Non-Profit Corporation to Run Nation's Air Traffic Control System

By Kevin McCarty

Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee recently approved a six-year renewal of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and its programs, voting 32-26 to report the "Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act of 2016" (HR 4441) out of committee.

With only majority members voting with Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) on final passage, HR 4441 – or the "AIRR" Act – seeks to establish a private, not-for-profit corporation to manage the nation's air traffic control (ATC) system in the future, a proposal that divided the committee and upended the bipartisan consensus that has come to define its legislative work. Every Democrat and two Republican Members voted against final passage of the bill, actions mostly influenced by the plan to overhaul the ATC system.

"The AIRR Act provides the transformational reform necessary to bring our antiquated air traffic system into the modern era, and allow America to lead the world again in aviation," Shuster said. "The Committee considered approximately 75 amendments during today's meeting, and more than half of them were approved. Today's open process led to many improvements to the legislation, and I look forward to moving ahead."

In his comments just before taking action on the legislation in the committee February 11, Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (OR) said, "We have invested tens of billions of dollars in facilities and equipment to support the national airspace and these investments have been paid for by taxpayers as passengers on aircraft through the ticket taxes. Under the Republican proposal, these assets would be handed over to the private corporation for free, and consumers wouldn't even be guaranteed a seat on the board. Not only would the private corporation get the assets for free, they would set the fees assessed on passengers to pay for the system. The Board would control routes, it could close air traffic facilities in rural or small communities, and it could be bailed out by the taxpayers if can't pay to operate the system. This proposal will not

solve the problems plaguing the FAA and I urge my colleagues to reject the proposal."

The AIRR legislation must now be considered by the tax-writing panel (House Committee on Ways and Means) where various federal excise taxes and fees must be reviewed, modified and/or extended before the measure can be brought before the full House of Representatives for final action. The continuing controversy over the committee-adopted ATC provisions now pose the most significant hurdle at this time to completing final House action on the AIRR legislation this year.

Leaders of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee which oversees FAA's programs and activities are pledging committee action this month on a long-term renewal bill, although overhauling the ATC system as HR 4441 provides is not likely to be part of that panel's renewal plan.

House and Senate committee leaders are working against a March 31 deadline when the current FAA authorization is due to expire; discussions are already underway about the length of the next extension to give House and Senate committee leaders more time to work on a long-term FAA renewal bill.

## Key Provisions in AIRR Bill

With the exception of the ATC proposal and a few others, the House committee-passed bill (HR 4441) largely affirms existing FAA programs and activities and makes mostly modest adjustments to current law. Importantly, for cities with local airport capital needs, the legislation renews and raises annual authorizations for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), from the current level of \$3.35 billion in FY'16 to \$3.998 billion in FY'22. While the original bill brought before the committee provided for increased AIP funding, Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA) secured approval of an additional two-percent annual increase in AIP funding, an amendment that garnered strong bipartisan support and passed on a 47-12 vote.

Although the AIRR legislation doesn't raise the current \$4.50 cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs), it includes changes that streamline the current rules governing the use of PFCs so all airport operators, regardless of size, may find this funding tool more available in addressing their airport capital needs.

The ATC changes are especially notable and far-reaching, with the approved bill proposing the establishment of a private, not-for-profit ATC Corporation to assume most responsibilities of the current Air Traffic Organization, with authority to make improvements to the National Airspace System, including new flight procedures and deploying NextGEN technology.

The eleven members to serve on the corporation's board of directors and charged with overseeing its many responsibilities would be selected from the following categories: the corporation's CEO; two directors appointed by the Secretary of Transportation; four directors from mainline air carriers (twelve major airlines); two directors from the general aviation community; one director representing air traffic controllers; and one director representing airline pilots. Notably, no representative of the nation's airports will serve on the corporation's board of directors, although provision was made for at least one such appointment to a 15-member advisory committee to the board. An amendment to add an airport representative seat on the ATC Corporation Board was offered but withdrawn during committee action on HR 4441.

An area of concern for mayors and their cities is the role of the newly-chartered federal corporation in influencing and designing routes and flight paths, especially approaches and departures, and the interplay between the Corporation and the U.S. DOT/FAA in addressing and responding to cities on airport-related issues and community impacts. Proponents of this overhaul have emphasized that the Transportation Secretary and FAA officials would retain their historic authori-

see FAA RENEWAL on page 23

# Open Your Streets - for Health, Happiness, and Civic Pride

By Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

I love Los Angeles, and I'm always looking for ways to showcase the vitality, beauty, unique character, and community spirit that define our city.

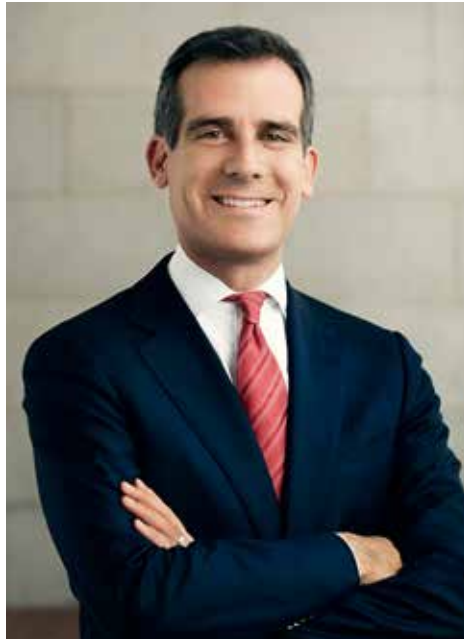
In a place like L.A., the simple act of pushing pause on traffic, and opening public streets to people on a regular basis, can do all of that — and more. We call our signature open streets program CicLAvia.

In place of traffic jams and honking horns, the streets fill with bicyclists and roller skaters. People come out to jog, take leisurely strolls, and dance like nobody's watching. Angelenos of all ages and abilities get out on a beautiful day to enjoy physical activity. Friends and neighbors find new places to laugh and talk with one another. Residents patronize local businesses they may otherwise overlook when driving down the street.

## Why do this?

To start, we want to make Los Angeles a healthier and more inclusive place to live. Open streets promote physical activity by showing people new ways to get out and move. We think that, over time, opening up our streets on a regular basis can play a huge part in creating a culture of health — with people becoming more aware of how healthy lifestyle choices can improve physical and psychological wellbeing.

When we started CicLAvia in 2010, L.A. seemed to transform in an instant, as thousands of Angelenos came together to enjoy car-free streets and connect with one another



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

in a new and exciting way. It brought me back to memories of my childhood — playing curbside games and enjoying the streets as a public space — because, during CicLAvia, the streets become our playground.

More than five years and 14 CicLAvias later, the program's popularity continues to grow.



More than one million people have explored more than 100 miles of open streets in Los Angeles County. CicLAvia is now the largest program of its kind in the United States, with our streets transitioning to open space four times longer than New York's Central Park.

In addition to promoting health, CicLAvia is terrific for civic pride. Our streets are the heart of our communities and a reflection of our culture. These joyful events bring together people from all walks of life and every corner of the city to explore our diverse communities. People leave with an enhanced appreciation for their surroundings and fellow Angelenos.

Programs like CicLAvia are also good for business, as people learn more about what's available in their neighborhoods. Businesses along CicLAvia routes have seen an average of 10% increase in sales during the day of event — amounting to an average of over \$400 in increased revenue. But those businesses who engaged with CicLAvia participants saw an even greater increase of more than 50% in sales activity. This demonstrates how programs like CicLAvia create on-the-ground, street level activity, and improve not just individual happiness and health, but our city's economic health and sustainability.

L.A. is just one of many cities investing in open streets — this is part of a larger movement around the world. The first open streets program launched in Bogotá, Colombia, where the term *ciclovía* was coined, during the 1960s. This program now attracts over 1 million people, who walk, bike, skate, and run along 75 miles of Bogotá's roads every Sunday.

Now, open streets are catching on in the U.S., with national organizations like the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, working with advocates like 8 80 Cities to open streets in more cities across the country. In Los Angeles, CicLAvia has proven so popular that we are working to open streets more frequently and with longer routes. Our ultimate goal is to hold CicLAvia every month.

Give it a try, and watch your streets come alive.





# Local Groups Protest Proposed Homeland Security Cuts

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

In February 22 letters, a coalition of 17 national organizations representing local elected officials, homeland security professionals, port operators, transit operators, police chiefs, sheriffs, and major fire service organizations urged the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to reject the President's proposed FY 2017 cuts in homeland security grant programs. The coalition is led by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The President's FY 2017 budget proposed to cut four key homeland security grant programs 44 percent below FY 2016 levels. The Urban Area Security Initiative Program would be cut 45 percent, from \$600 million this year to \$330 million next year. The State Homeland Security Grant Program would be cut 57 percent, from \$467 million this year to \$200 million next year. Public Transportation Security Assistance would be cut 15 percent to \$85,000 next year, Port Security grants seven percent to \$93 million next year.

The groups asked the appropriators "to fund these critical programs at least at FY 2016 funding levels," and suggested that "at a time of heightened concern about terrorism and violent extremism at home, increased fund-

ing for them would certainly be justified, (because) they play a vital role in ensuring that state and local governments are prepared to respond to future terrorist attacks and have the necessary resources to protect their communities and their residents."

The groups also pointed out "a certain irony to the proposed cuts (since) they come in the wake of terrorist attacks not just in cities abroad, but on our shores, in Chattanooga, San Bernardino and Philadelphia, for example." They also noted that the Department of Homeland Security's Budget in Brief highlights the programs' accomplishments, and offers no explanation for the cuts:

"Through a suite of homeland security grant programs, (DHS) provided critical support to the nation's preparedness for acts of terrorism and other threats and hazards. In 2015, FEMA awarded more than 600 grants to support state, local, tribal and territorial governments, transit agencies, port operators, non-profit organizations, and other partners in building and sustaining the 31 critical core capabilities described in the National Preparedness Goal. As a result of those grants, states and localities across

the country reported capability increases in 12 of the 31 core capabilities compared to 2014. The federal investment in those capabilities pays off each day in communities across the country during incidents large and small. For example, much of the training and equipment used in response to the May 2015 AMTRAK derailment in Philadelphia, including lighting, tourniquets, and technical rescue capabilities, were paid for with grants provided by FEMA."

Signing the letter were the American Association of Port Authorities, American Public Transportation Association, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, Big City Emergency Managers, Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs' Association, National Association of Counties, National Fusion Center Association, National Homeland Security Coalition, National League of Cities, National Sheriffs' Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, United States Conference of Mayors, and U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA).

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## OPIOID OVERDOSE

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governors convened to discuss the opioid epidemic. There we discussed that to turn the tide, there must be a coordinated response across all levels of government, which this purchasing effort helps to achieve."

Clarence Anthony, CEO and executive director of the National League of Cities, emphasized the importance of cooperation among Adapt Pharma and U.S. Communities. He stated that "American cities are facing an epidemic of opioid addiction. Providing affordable access to drugs like NARCAN® Nasal Spray is critical to saving lives in the event of an opioid overdose. This public-private partnership is a vital step in stemming the opioid addiction epidemic in our communities."

NARCAN® is also a simple product; its ease

of use can save lives, even in the most high stress situations, and even when administered by understandably panicked bystanders.

The National Association of Counties views the offering as a perfect fit for its Safe and Secure Counties Initiative, and will continue to work with state associations of counties to develop policy recommendations and promote promising practices to address the opioid epidemic plaguing communities. "Medication-assisted opioid treatment can mean the difference between life and death," said NACo President Sallie Clark, commissioner, El Paso County, Colo. "We see the devastating effects of prescription drug abuse and heroin use because counties are at the intersection of the local health, justice and public safety systems. We welcome this public-private partnership to support our response to this national crisis."

U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Execu-

tive Director, Tom Cochran, understands how critical it is for local leaders to take advantage of this enormous opportunity. "Mayors across this nation are grappling with solutions to address the exponential rise in opioid overdoses occurring in our cities. We believe the expanded availability of this treatment is another tool for mayors and cities to use in their efforts to stem this epidemic," he stated. The U.S. Conference of Mayors created a special mayors' task force on substance abuse, prevention and recovery services, which will be headed by Boston Mayor Martin Walsh with the support of the organization's president, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

Drug abuse can be absolutely devastating for individuals, families, and communities. The announcement of the discounted offering of NARCAN® is an indication that local leaders

see OPIOID OVERDOSE on page 22

# Local Leaders Should Brace - and Prepare - for Business Bankruptcies

By Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland

While the national economy remains relatively strong, there are some significant weaknesses in certain sectors. For example, in states that rely on the energy sector there is a great deal of concern given the collapse in the price of oil.

Texas, of course, is a prime example. A recent report in the Dallas Morning News cited numerous experts as anticipating a wave of business bankruptcies both in the energy sector and among the businesses that support that sector.

"As Energy exploration and production companies go under, equipment providers and engineering companies follow, and then go the dry cleaners and bars and restaurants and anything else that supports the workers who will no longer be there," said Beth Weller, who leads the Bankruptcy practice at the law firm of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP

But, this is not just a business problem, and that's why Weller is watching it closely. Linebarger Goggan is in the business of collecting delinquent receivables for government clients across the United States and, she warns, those clients need to be concerned. "The risk for our government clients is the po-

tential for lost tax revenue as those businesses seek bankruptcy protection," Weller said. Recently Weller's bankruptcy team was able to recover more than \$2.6 million in property taxes from the bankrupt Radio Shack retail chain for taxing entities across the state of Texas. "The company was on the precipice of skating away from its 2015 property tax obligations but because those communities were prepared to work quickly, we were able to recover 100% of what they were owed," she said.

It is often the case that a motion to sell off all of the assets of a company in bankruptcy is among the first to be filed. A community that is owed taxes by that business could lose out if it doesn't attempt to intervene at the very beginning.

Clearly, the financial impact can be significant. Recently, for example, Linebarger Goggan was able to recover around \$2.3 million for Hood County, Texas from a bankrupt company called Quicksilver Resources. With a population of slightly more than 50,000 people, Hood County is a relatively rural area with a limited tax base. Had that money not come, it could have been severely damaging to local public services.

While there is nothing a community can do to forestall a bankruptcy proceeding Weller says it is important that local leaders pay close attention to businesses that are at risk. It's also important that local tax officials have their paperwork in order.

"By that I mean that you've got to know what assets a business at risk has in your community. If it's a retail operation, you need to know whether the stores in your community are company-owned or franchises. In an oil and gas bankruptcy, since those operations are often a cluster of related entities, you need to know specifically what assets in your community are affected by the filing and what are not," said Weller

In Texas, North Dakota, and any other state that depends on the oil sector for revenue, we're in for some continued rough sledding. Weller advises that it would be wise for local government leaders to apply a little foresight and be prepared to move quickly when a bankruptcy is filed that impacts their community, in order to mitigate some of the financial risk.

For more information on this article and Linebarger Goggan, please contact Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland at [kweyland@usmayors.org](mailto:kweyland@usmayors.org)

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## CLEAN POWER

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Thirty-two states and numerous utilities sued EPA on various grounds including whether EPA had jurisdiction to regulate GHG emissions. This, however, is an argument that the Supreme Court has already ruled. In *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the Supreme Court ruled that GHG emissions were a pollutant and so EPA has jurisdiction to regulate them. This decision was recently reaffirmed. So therefore it is expected that this case will focus more on the how the CPP was designed and not on the fact of whether EPA has jurisdiction or if GHG emissions are considered a regulated pollutant.

Given that fact and despite the stay, it is expected that States will continue to work on their plans, albeit more slowly, so that they are prepared for when the courts make their decision. The Conference of Mayors is encouraging Mayors and their staff to reach out to their State and utilities so that any SIP submitted takes into account the climate change and energy efficiency work that cities are implementing. It is the Conference's hope that cities can utilize the SIP to continue their work on meeting climate change goals and possibly find resources to assist them with their efforts.

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## OPIOID OVERDOSE

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and organizations are willing to unite with private companies to combat addiction and overdose deaths.

U.S. Communities combines the purchasing power of more than 62,000 public agencies. The program offers no user fees, best overall supplier government pricing, quality brands, integrity, experience, and oversight by public purchasing professionals. For more information, please visit [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org) or Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland at [kweyland@usmayors.org](mailto:kweyland@usmayors.org)

# April is Dollarwise Month - Registration Now Open

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 across the country to hold events that financially empower their residents. These events can focus on: free financial advice for adults, encouraging youth to save for their future, and more.

This year, DollarWise is asking mayors to encourage residents who qualify, to seek free tax help in their communities, from now until April 15th. 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 nation.

Leading up to April 15th, DollarWise invites your city to host a small event at one of your local volunteer tax sites to recognize and thank the volunteers assisting residents with their taxes.

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

Mayors are 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, please 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 have access to resources that help them manage their money and save for the future.

With this in mind, DollarWise encourages recipients of the EITC to use the money from their tax refund to open a **myRA** account – A free savings plan, backed by the U.S. Treasury, that can help working families save for retirement. [For more information on myRA click here.](#)

DollarWise is also asking mayors to promote [Better Money Habits.com](#) - A free, online resource with useful tips for responsible money management. 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.

Each Monday, from March-April, DollarWise will issue a "Tip of the Week" to help Americans manage their money. DollarWise is asking cities and organizations to retweet and repost the tip using the hashtag #DollarWiseMonth. Visit DollarWise on Facebook at: [facebook.com/bedollarwise](https://www.facebook.com/bedollarwise), and on Twitter at: [twitter.com/bedollarwise](https://twitter.com/bedollarwise) to participate. DollarWise would also like to help promote any events that you are launching for tax season. We encourage you to notify us about your events so that we can highlight them via social media and our monthly newsletter.

For questions about the DollarWise Campaign and how to participate in DollarWise Month, please contact James Kirby by email: [jkirby@usmayors.org](mailto:jkirby@usmayors.org), or by phone: (202) 861-6759.

The DollarWise Campaign is the financial education initiative of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For more information on DollarWise programs, visit [www.bedollarwise.org](http://www.bedollarwise.org). [Like us on Facebook](#), and [Follow us on Twitter](#).

The DollarWise Campaign is underwritten by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, it's founding sponsor.

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## FAA RENEWAL

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ties and roles in working with communities on flight paths in and out of local airports, although the enabling language of the new corporation as set forth in HR 4441 is broad and substantial, and would be influential on such matters.

Among other issues in the bill, operators of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones operating within five miles of an airport must give prior notification to an airport operator and receive prior approval from the ATC tower. The Secretary of Transportation is also directed to establish a pilot program on unmanned aircraft detection systems around airports. Subject to certain conditions, FAA is directed to consider the "feasibility of dispersal headings and other lateral track varia-

tions to address community noise concerns," and to take other steps to address community concerns such as noise abatement in various actions and procedures. The committee-passed bill also provides new policies pertaining to the future of contract towers, and it increases the authorized funding levels for the essential air service program, from \$175 million in FY'16 to \$315 million in FY'22.

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## WORKFORCE

from page 12

resume building experience," stated Bowser.

In his remarks, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer highlighted Code Louisville, which collaborates with the city, local employers and the workforce development board to train and supply software developers. Also part of the

mayor's summer jobs effort is the Summer Up Entrepreneurship Program, which supports youth startups and leverages existing entrepreneur support organizations to help identify mentors.

Rounding out the session, Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza focused his presentation on the significant effects of summer learning loss on children. His Summer of Learning Campaign addresses the disproportionate effects of summer learning loss on low-income students and students of color in public schools. Mayor Elorza established a Summer Learning Task Force comprised of local experts to examine the issue and identify ways to expand and improve opportunities for youth.



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