



U.S. MAYOR

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USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith



At left, Jacksonville Education Commissioner Annmarie Kent-Willette with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co-Founder & Co-Chair Bill Gates.

Photo by Judy Sheehan

Photo by Judy Sheehan

MAYORS CELEBRATE CDBG 40th ANNIVERSARY



Left to right, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler, Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic, Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis, Newton Mayor Setti Warren, Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, and Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown. See Story on Page 7

USCM, NLC Seek Metro-Focused Transportation Bill



USCM/NLC officers and staff define shared priorities and strategy for reauthorization of the surface transportation law. See Story on Page 8



**March 21, 2014
Washington (DC)**

Sixty mayors and their education leaders were here in DC last week for a very special meeting with Mr. Bill Gates. This meeting was co-sponsored by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and The U.S. Conference of Mayors. We thank our incoming President, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, for being key in making this historic meeting a first step with a great organization, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Our organization, The United States Conference of Mayors, has the unique ability to bring the mayors of the nation into one room on very short notice. We are, indeed, agile and mobile.

This issue of education and public schools is not a new issue for the Conference. It was Mayor Rich Daley who was our leader, our Moses, as he took the public schools of Chicago under his direction after the Illinois legislature handed him the challenge. It was Mayor Daley's clarion call, which served as a catalyst to be more involved in the public schools.

In recent years, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson has been pushing for education reform as he headed up our Education Excellence Task Force.

Today, mayors are most aware of the fact that Mayor Johnson has stated – great cities must have great public schools.

So many organizations have been funded by so many foundations to improve our public school systems. For over 30 years, the nation's governors have raised the issue. Teachers' organizations and unions have been loud and sometimes bombastic.

Today, many great organizations are being blown away when they bring mayors together to talk about what they are doing on their own to improve our

schools, to make children more competitive – for the child's future and for our nation's future.

Last week I sat at the tables at our most successful convening with The Gates Foundation, and I listened to the mayors and their school leaders. In a nation where duties are similar among mayors, there is a great difference in how mayors are involved in leading their public schools to excellence.

Some mayors, a very few, have control over their school boards through the appointment of chair and board members. This is a rarity.

Some mayors don't have teachers unions.

Some mayors have teachers unions that are totally independent and consider mayoral involvement a hostile act. The same with some school superintendents.

When you sit at a table and listen over an informal dinner to the Mayors of Buffalo, New York; Rochester, New York; Louisville, Kentucky and Albuquerque, New Mexico talk about their public schools and the challenges they face, it is as if these mayors are talking about public schools in different nations. And they are all governing the cities where our public schools are charged with the education of our children, the future of the United States of America.

Mayor Kevin Johnson has dedicated his life to education excellence. During the years when he was a star professional athlete, he spent much of his time in mentoring youths and promoting excellence in our public schools. Now that he is about to assume the Presidency of our organization, he will lead, and mayors and education leaders will follow because so many parents are standing up and wanting more than foundation studies, garbage in and garbage out meetings and rhetoric. Mayors are ready to be stronger on demanding excellence in our public schools. You could feel it in the room last week. It's about our kids. It's about our future. Last week we came together with a great organization, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in a

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Roundabouts Advance Climate, Energy, Safety, Transportation Goals

By Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard

Carmel has built more roundabouts than other city in the United States. While Carmel citizens are well aware of the benefits, I often get questions from other mayors and officials about why we have built so many.

Our proven success in developing a safe, cost-effective and environmentally responsible system of roundabouts throughout the city has been recognized nationally for safety, traffic flow and environmental stewardship. Carmel was selected as the site of the 2011 International Conference on Roundabouts, which brought engineers and city planners from all over the world including countries such as Australia, England and Japan.

Roundabouts are effective in handling traffic flow safely, smoothly and with low impact to the surrounding environment.

Roundabouts have worked extremely well throughout Carmel. There are many reasons, a few of which I'd like to highlight:

- **Safety:** Roundabouts, by design, virtually eliminate deadly head-on collisions and t-bone crashes. All motorists, not just those who see a red light, are forced to slow down and yield as they enter the roundabout, making it even less likely that an accident will occur. Recent studies show that when a roundabout replaces intersections controlled by a stop-light or 4-way-stop, there is about a 35 percent reduction in all accidents and roughly an 80 percent reduction in crashes that cause injury. Another safety benefit is the fact that roundabouts are not affected by power outages as are signalized intersections. Due to slower speeds, which allow for more reaction time, roundabouts are safer for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as very young drivers and elderly drivers.

Potential conflict points are reduced from 32 at a stoplight to eight at a roundabout.

- **Cost:** Roundabouts save an average of 24,000 gallons of gas per year, per roundabout (based on a 10-site study by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety). At \$3.50 a gallon, that's potentially \$84,000 saved. Multiply that by ten, by 20, by 80 roundabouts over time and the savings realized is significant. Roundabouts not only save money when it comes to purchasing gasoline, they are also cheaper to build and maintain. A traffic signal generally costs about \$150,000 (\$300,000 in hurricane prone areas) and this cost can be avoided. Thousands of dollars per year are saved by not having to provide electricity to the signal, as well as the cost of maintenance.
- **Traffic flow:** Roundabouts improve the daily flow of traffic by eliminating congestion and the long backups that often plague busy stop-sign or stop-light intersections. Typically, the maximum capacity of a four-way stop is about 1,500 vehicles per hour. A single lane roundabout, on the other hand, has a capacity of 2,500 to 2,800 per hour, an increase of 65 to 90 percent in capacity. This translates into shorter commutes. Less time in the car leads to better quality of life.
- **Environment:** When a city installs roundabouts, it eliminates much of the stop-and-go traffic associated with intersections controlled by stoplights and stop signs. This reduces vehicle emissions and fuel use because most of the gas consumption and emissions occur when vehicles accelerate rapidly from a complete stop.
- **Traffic Calming:** Roundabouts have a traffic calming effect due to the



Carmel Mayor Jim Brainard

nature of their design. Cars slow as they approach, drivers focus on cars to the left rather than all directions and center islands with monuments, landscaping and public art enhance instead of detract from the overall ambiance of the area. Drivers have more reaction time when a driver makes a mistake. Carmel is not alone in its belief in the effectiveness of roundabouts. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has studied roundabouts and found that they are a safer alternative to traffic signals and stop signs. Carmel helped the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) develop engineering standards now used across the country to encourage communities to consider using roundabouts as an alternative for

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Conference of Mayors Leaders Call for Modernization of the FCC's E-Rate Program for Schools, Libraries

By Kevin McCarty

Conference of Mayors leaders affirmed the strong support of the nation's mayors for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "E-Rate" program, while urging the agency to modernize its rules to bring higher speed broadband connections to schools and libraries.

In a letter to the FCC Chairman and the agency's four other Commissioners, top Conference of Mayors leaders wrote, "This critical update is absolutely needed to bring high-speed broadband to every school and library and Wi-Fi to every classroom. It's the single most important step we can take to connect our children to digital learning opportunities that will give them the technological skills they need for the future."

The Conference of Mayors has joined the public effort, led by President Barack Obama, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, other FCC Commissioners, and others, to advance program reforms that improve the efficiency of existing funding commitments and help city and other local efforts to provide more affordable, high-speed connections to the nation's schools and libraries.

Signing the March 17 letters were Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, Conference of Mayors Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, Conference of Mayors Second Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Conference of Mayors Transportation and Communi-

cations Committee Chair Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Conference of Mayors Jobs, Education and the Workforce Committee Chair Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis, and Conference of Mayors Technology and Innovation Task Force Chair San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee.

"Around the world, countries are recognizing that these high speed Internet connections aren't just an educational supplement, they are a competitive necessity. For example, South Korea, Ireland, Finland, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia, among others, either have or are well on their way toward connecting their schools at fiber speeds. These countries understand that in today's global economy, high speed broadband in schools is just as important as a chalkboard and textbooks," Conference of Mayors leaders wrote.

Concluding their correspondence to the FCC leaders, the mayors wrote, "We simply can't prepare our kids to compete for 21st century jobs by leaving them stranded with 20th century technologies. Therefore, we ask you to support swift action to modernize the E-rate program to help bring transformative learning opportunities via fast fiber connections to every K-12 school and library in America."

Upgrading the quality of connections to schools and libraries has underpinned a growing national call for action to reform the program. In a recent speech where he pledged to push such reforms this year, FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler said, "Our schools, libraries and our



E-Rate program all need to evolve from Alexander Graham Bell's technology to Internet protocol technology."

The agency is currently accepting comments on how the program can be updated to achieve better outcomes at less cost, among other issues; these public comments are due April 7th.

The Conference of Mayors, for its part, has supported the E-Rate program since its inception as part of the "Telecommunications Act of 1996" and initial implementation in 1998. Funding for the program has been capped at \$2.25 billion annually since it was first established. In 2010, the FCC finally adjusted the cap for inflation, which has already raised the spending cap to \$2.38 billion in 2013.

In addition to Wheeler, the Conference of Mayors letter was sent to Commissioners Mignon Clyburn, Michael O'Rielly, Ajit Pai, and Jessica Rosenworcel.

To view the Conference of Mayors March 17 letter to the FCC, go to the website usmayors.org/E-rateletter.

ROUNABOUTS

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any intersection improvement. The U.S. DOT's highway program rules, subject to state approval, allow for 100 percent federal funding of roundabouts.

The United States, with about 3000 roundabouts, is playing catch-up with many European countries, which several decades ago realized how much better and safer roundabouts are when contrasted to traffic lights. Britain has over ten thousand roundabouts, and France more than 14,000.

Way too many Americans die in needless accidents at signalized intersections. Way too much fuel is needlessly burned and too much carbon emitted. We can do better.

Mayors Convene in Washington for Education Excellence, Discussion of Common Core

By Kathy Wiggins

"In 1954, in the landmark Brown vs. The Board of Education Supreme Court decision, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, 'Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments.... Such an opportunity, where the state has undertaken to provide it, is a right which must be made available to all on equal terms.'" Bill Gates told the mayors gathered in Washington (DC) on March 14 for the Mayors in Education Convening, co-sponsored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. "I think that should guide everything we do. It should guide the general notion that mayors, business leaders, parents etc. have to come together to support the quality education of our children," he said.

"As a mayor, whether you lead a small town or a big city, you understand the importance of well-functioning schools and

a well-run education system," said Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith in his remarks opening the meeting. "No single issue impacts how we grow and succeed as a city more than the quality of education we provide our children. Education is not a Republican issue, and it's not a Democrat issue. Education is a bi-partisan issue, and mayors from both sides of the aisle need to partake in education excellence because we can't have a great city without great schools," he said.

Conference of Mayors Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson was instrumental in convening the Gates Foundation/USCM education meeting. As inaugural Chair of the Mayors' Education Excellence Task Force, Johnson was a driving force behind the Conference of Mayors work to increase mayoral engagement and leadership in education, and a key element of the partnership between mayors and the Gates Foundation.

"This important joint meeting is a con-

tinuation of the discussion that started with former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, who insisted that mayors become increasingly engaged in a leadership role in education in their cities," Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran said in his remarks. "Make no mistake: your involvement in education and school-related issues makes a difference, no matter what level of engagement you seek to have," Cochran told the mayors.

Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, delivered the keynote address for the day-long session focused on mayoral leadership and engagement in education. His remarks centered on support for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), describing the education standards adopted by 46 states across the country as "among the most important education ideas in years."

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Left to right, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, USCM Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, Gates Foundation Co-Founder & Co-Chair Bill Gates, USCM Second Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean.

DuPont Sponsors 19 STEM Teachers from USCM Cities to Attend National Science Teachers Association Conference in Boston April 2014

DuPont, through their Platinum Partnership with the Conference of Mayors, has provided the opportunity for 19 teachers from cities across the nation to attend the National Science Teachers Associations Conference (NSTA) in Boston April 3-6. This conference is the premier conference for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educators in the country. It offers the latest in science content, teaching strategy, and research that is practical and teachable. The conference provides teachers the opportunity to attend workshops and sessions that cover new programs and innovations in science, math and engineering that they can take back to their classrooms and students.

DuPont, through our Educate the Educators program with the Conference of Mayors, has sponsored 19 teachers from five cities to attend the NSTA conference.

The following mayors and their cities were selected to send teachers:

- Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra
- Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
- Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodala
- Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson
- Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter

The DuPont sponsorship pays for travel, lodging and registration for the 19 teachers. Additionally as part of this offering, DuPont is sponsoring a dinner at the Boston Science Museum. This dinner will be attended by over 300 teachers who have been awarded DuPont teaching grants from cities all around the nation – including those sponsored through the Conference of Mayors partnership. The dinner program celebrates their attendance and this year will include keynote speakers



Dr. Ioannis (Yannis) Miaouli, President and Director of Museum of Science, Boston and Dr. Karen Ostlund, NSTA, Retiring President.

DuPont and the Conference of Mayors are pleased to offer these programs to our cities and will continue to work to expand their science education outreach through the Science in the School Day program and the upcoming Driving SCIENCE events in which more teachers will be provided sponsorship opportunities to attend.

For more information on how your city may host a Science in the School day event, or any of the other initiatives, send e-mail to scienceintheschoolday@verizon.net.

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"The standards are just that: standards," he said, "similar to those that have guided teachers in all states for years, except these standards are inspired by a simple and powerful idea: Every American student should leave high school with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and in the job market."

Nearly 60 mayors and 70 education leaders from across the country attended the meeting with sessions focused on achieving education excellence and

access to quality learning opportunities for all students including:

- Driving Economic Development through Education;
- Effective Strategies for Communication on the Common Core, Engaging Communities to Advance Equity in Education;
- City Schools in Fiscal Crisis; and
- Advancing Education and Workforce Development Through Public-Private Partnerships.

The final session for the day was an innovation showcase highlighting pioneering education initiatives in Louisville

and Memphis. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer presented on 55,000 Degrees – a public-private partnership with the objective of adding 40,000 bachelor's degrees and 15,000 associate's degrees to the city by 2020. In addition, Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton presented on his work with the National Civil Rights Museum to update an exhibit to portray education as a civil rights issue. The showcase, coupled with the series of mayoral "best practice" breakout sessions, were intended to inspire and energize attendees to launch and drive innovative approaches to education in their own cities.

Mayors Celebrate 40th Anniversary of CDBG

By Eugene T. Lowe

Newton Mayor Setti Warren, U.S. Conference of Mayors Chair on Community Development and Housing, lead several mayors in a March 13 press conference celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Mayors participating in the press event included Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler, Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis, Jacksonville (FL) Mayor Alvin Brown, and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran opened the press conference, saying, "We need CDBG especially in this rebounding economy and with the unemployment numbers we are still seeing. We need CDBG to keep the recovery moving and to protect our most vulnerable citizens."

During the press conference, held at the Conference of Mayors headquarters, mayors explained the importance of CDBG and cited specific examples of how the program is used in their communities. Mayors also expressed strong opposition to the \$200 million cut in the Administration's FY2015 Budget.

Signed into law by President Gerald Ford on August 22, 1974, the CDBG program has become the most important federal-city partnership over the last four decades. It is the most targeted and flexible stream of federal dollars allocated directly to cities, and is a proven job creator as the funds are also used to leverage private dollars for small business and economic development.

In his opening remarks, Warren announced that over the next several months, cities will hold special events commemorating the 40th Anniversary of CDBG. Some of these events will be held during National Community Development Week, April 21 – 26. During the weeklong CDBG celebration, citizens, government officials, local businesses, the media, and non-profit agencies will participate in events that highlight the accomplishments of the CDBG program.

Warren said of the future of CDBG: "We assemble here today knowing that the program faces an ongoing challenge. Since 2010, CDBG has been cut by approximately 25 percent and just last week, the Administration chose not to fund the program at last year's funding level of \$3.030 billion and instead cut the program to \$2.8 billion, a reduction of \$200 million. The Conference of Mayors, however, will ask Congress to fund CDBG at \$3.3 billion in FY2015."

recognize its importance to this nation's economy."

Plusquellic stated, "The importance of CDBG is that it is the last remaining program from the Nixon era when the Republicans and Democrats actually worked together in Washington to identify the needs of the communities that make up America and created partnerships to help people who need it. We primarily use this money to help people stay in their homes, help make our housing stock safer and keep neighborhoods intact as the housing stock starts to slip. It is vitally important. I actually had the first CDBG neighborhood redevelopment program in Akron, and I don't know how any Con-

"We assemble here today knowing that the program faces an ongoing challenge....The Conference of Mayors, however, will ask Congress to fund CDBG at \$3.3 billion in FY2015."

- Newton Mayor Setti Warren

Soglin said, "I was the mayor of Madison when the Community Development Block Grant legislation was adopted in Congress. Throughout every region in this country, there are ten of thousands of people who have been positively impacted as a result of this program. It is one of the greatest mechanisms to leverage public dollars to create, healthy, private investment to improve people's lives and create communities that thrive. We need to restore it to its historic levels and

gressional Member, Democrat or Republican, could vote to cut this program. Former Ohio Senator Voinovich has called CDBG, 'the most successful federal program that has ever been developed.' President Obama is wrong to cut this program to try to appease the right wing... he is dead wrong and we will fight on the Hill for this program."

CDBG

Community Development Block Grant

U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities United on Transportation Renewal Emphasizing Local Decision-makers

Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith joined with more than 2,000 city leaders this month at the National League of Cities (NLC) 2014 Congressional City Conference, pledging to work together cooperatively with NLC and its members on shared priorities, especially a metro-focused surface transportation renewal.

During the legislative conference held March 8-12 in Washington (DC), Smith with NLC President Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman convened top leaders of both organizations to discuss the renewal of the federal surface transportation law, which expires September 30. In addition to supporting efforts to sustain and expand federal resource commitments, both organizations are seeking a larger role for local elected officials in deciding how available federal transportation funds are invested.

Joining Smith and Coleman for a joint leaders discussion of priorities and strategies were: Conference of Mayors Second Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Conference of Mayors Transportation and Communications Committee Vice Chair Madison Mayor Paul Soglin, Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, NLC 1st Vice President Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, NLC 2nd Vice President Joplin Mayor Melodee Colbert Kean, NLC Immediate Past President Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, NLC Past President Bluffton Mayor Ted Ellis and NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony.



USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith

Smith Address

In his greetings to the opening plenary session of the NLC meeting, Smith said, "Washington continues to have difficulty in addressing the long-term problems that face our nation." Specifically, Smith stated that, "It is no longer acceptable to deny that our national debt must be addressed - and that everything must be on the table for discussion. It is no longer acceptable to deny that we must find innovative ways to invest in our infrastructure, increase energy independence, and educate and train the workers of tomorrow. And it is no longer acceptable for Washington to fail to reach an agreement on immigration."

"If Washington is going to find a path forward, I believe we will have to show them the way," Smith urged the delegates, adding that, "We must demand that if nothing else, Washington 'Does No Harm' in the way of additional unfunded mandates or by limiting our ability to invest in ourselves, such as through the use of municipal bonds."



"Washington continues to have difficulty in addressing the long-term problems that face our nation."

- USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith



April 2014 Is Dollarwise Month

The Conference of Mayors DollarWise Campaign is pleased to announce that this year's DollarWise Month will be held during the month of April. Cities across the United States will engage in various activities that promote this year's theme "DollarWise: Planning for the Future." We encourage mayors to speak with youth and young adults in their cities about the importance of using money wisely to prepare for a financially stable future.

We invite your city to highlight financial education efforts during the month of April in one or more of the following ways:

- Announce your city's participation in the DollarWise Campaign;



- Visit a school and engage the students in financial literacy education;
- Issue a press release in support of financial education and literacy for youth;
- Bring together coalitions and organizations focused on the importance of saving;
- Hold forums/seminars on financial education focusing on youth and young adults;
- Spread the word about DollarWise Month on city cable and radio stations;
- Hold classes/luncheons for city employees;

- Distribute educational material at City Hall, local businesses, banks, libraries, community centers, and faith-based organizations.

For suggested activity themes as well as information online on how to register, visit <http://www.bedollarwise.org>. If you or your staff have any further questions, contact Program Manager James Kirby by e-mail at jkirby@usmayors.org or by phone at 202-861-6759.

\$275,000 IN GRANT AWARDS **DuPont/USCM Lead Safe for Kids Sake Grants**



Only 7 weeks left to apply 

DEADLINE: MAY 3

Application: <http://usmayors.org/cusp/LeadSafe2014>

Questions: scienceintheschoolday@verizon.net

Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti Appointed to Chair U.S. Conference of Mayors Task Force on Trade in the Americas

By Evangelina Garcia

United States Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith announced the appointment of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to Chair the new "Trade in the Americas Task Force" within the Conference of Mayors. The appointment was made prior to Garcetti's recent visit to Mexico and his first international trip.

In an appointment letter to Garcetti, Smith said, "To be most effective, this task force needs a leader with your qualities from a city like Los Angeles. Combined with the global profile and diversity of Los Angeles, your early commitment to international economic engagement – starting in Mexico – and efforts to collaborate with regional leaders on trade and foreign investment, you will make an excellent leader and spokesperson on this issue for all mayors."

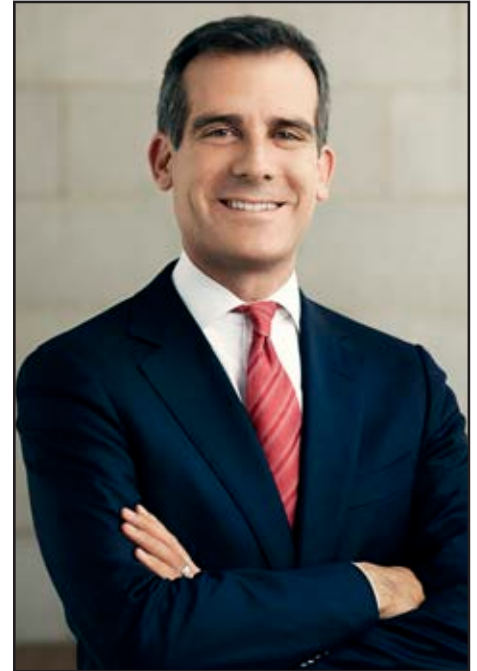
"Creating jobs is my top priority in Los Angeles, and since we're the nation's gateway to Asia and Latin America, and home to the nation's busiest seaport and destination and arrival airport, we are uniquely positioned in terms of international trade," said Garcetti. "I am honored for this appointment and look forward to advancing international trade in ways that create jobs right here in the U.S.A."

The chair of the Task Force will decide the scope and direction of the task force, attended by mayors from around the country, and become the primary way that U.S. mayors can advance action on programs, regulations, and investments needed in the areas of trade and global economic development. For example, the task force can serve to advocate the collective views of mayors within the U.S.-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue, implementation of the Look South Initiative of the Obama Administration, and similar efforts.

Over the past year under Smith's leadership as Conference of Mayors President, he has placed a strong focus on trade and made promoting the growth of U.S. cities a central priority, by expanding commercial relationships with counterparts in Mexico, Canada, and throughout Latin America. Smith spearheaded the passage of a Conference policy resolution to set objectives for a "Trade in the Americas" agenda.

And at the Winter Meeting in January, Conference of Mayors leaders featured Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora and Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker to highlight the new "Look South" initiative.

The Conference of Mayors also recently signed formal partnership agreements



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

between Conference of Mayors and associations of mayors in both Mexico (Federation of Mexican Municipalities/ FENAMM) and Brazil (the Brazilian Association of Mayors/ FNP), to strengthen direct relationships between mayors in the U.S. and Latin America.

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran said, "We are pleased L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti will be leading our efforts as we follow through on the signed memorandum of understanding and the body of work and success we will have with our partner mayoral organizations, FENAMM in Mexico and FNP in Brazil."

Through the new Trade in the Americas Task Force, the nation's mayors will be able to build on their recent efforts and enhance the work already taking place in other Conference of Mayors committees including: international affairs, exports, transportation, manufacturing, workforce, and metro economies.

"Creating jobs is my top priority in Los Angeles, and since we're the nation's gateway to Asia and Latin America, and home to the nation's busiest seaport and destination and arrival airport, we are uniquely positioned in terms of international trade."

– Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

San Antonio Mayor Castro Welcomes Mayors' Institute on City Design for 58th National Session

The Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) was held in San Antonio March 5-7 for its 58th National Session. Hosted by San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro and the city, the event was attended by Santa Rosa (CA) Mayor Scott Bartley, Palm Bay (FL) Mayor William Capote, Somerville (MA) Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Plano (TX) Mayor Harry LaRosiliere, Cape Coral (FL) Mayor Marni Sawicki, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, and Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson. Experts in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, real estate development, transportation planning, and urban design joined the mayors in the two-and-a-half-day discussions and offered pragmatic advice on how the mayors could approach the city design challenges facing each of their cities.

The 58th National Session began with a walking tour of downtown San Antonio led by San Antonio Center City Development Office Director Lori Houston. The tour showcased several downtown sites, including the Alamo and San Antonio Riverwalk. The opening reception and dinner were held at the Empire Theater, a redeveloped cultural facility. Castro welcomed participants to San Antonio after remarks were made by MICD Director Trinity Simons, National Endowment for the Arts Director of Design Programs Jason Schupbach, and Conference of Mayors Managing Director Tom McClimon.

Stimpson initiated the design discussions the following morning, presenting on Mobile's efforts to integrate parts of the working waterfront to downtown. The

city would like to improve access and connectivity to the waterfront attractions, including the convention center, Cooper Park, the new National Maritime Museum, and a cruise ship terminal. The Resource Team stressed the importance of protecting and maximizing the public realm on the waterfront and advised the mayor to make Water Street more walkable and pedestrian-friendly through road diet strategies and streetscape improvements.

Sawicki followed with a presentation on Cape Coral's efforts to create a cultural and entertainment hub in the central business district. The city is searching for opportunity sites along Cape Coral Parkway to develop and promote as the heart of downtown. The Resource Team identified Bimini Basin on the west end of downtown as an area with the highest development potential and gave guidance on how the city can target businesses and housing in this node, using creative techniques and incentives.

Curtatone presented on Somerville's efforts to redevelop and master plan the area around Union Square, the site of a

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Front Row: left to right, Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere; Mithun Solomon Partner Daniel Solomon, FAIA; MIG Principal and Director of Urban Design Mukul Malhotra; and Domus Development President Meea Kang. Middle Row: left to right, Ten Eyck Landscape Architects Principal Christine Ten Eyck, FASLA; Somerville (MA) Mayor Joseph Curtatone; Santa Rosa (CA) Mayor Scott Bartley; Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan; Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki; MICD Director Trinity Simons; Arup Principal Ellen Greenberg, FAICP; MICD Program Manager Jeff Jamawat; and Raleigh Chief Planning and Development Officer and Planning Director Mitchell Silver, AICP, PP. Back Row: left to right, Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson; USCM Managing Director Tom McClimon; Palm Bay Mayor William Capote; National Endowment for the Arts Director of Design Programs Jason Schupbach; and Stull and Lee Vice President M. David Lee, FAIA.

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future light-rail station. In this capacity, the city needs to strike a healthy balance between meeting the demand for new housing spurred by transit and preserving the unique character of the neighborhood. The Resource Team encouraged the mayor to enlist design professionals from different firms and disciplines to ensure the architectural diversity within the planning area.

LaRosiliere concluded Thursday's discussions with a presentation on the aging commercial centers located at one-square-mile intersections throughout Plano. The mayor has selected the Parker Road and Alma Drive intersection as a demonstration project for commercial center redevelopment, exploring opportunities to enhance and reimagine the design and use of the existing site. A successful project would provide a coherent redevelopment vision for other commercial centers in Plano. The Resource Team laid out some development options for the city to consider, including the adaptive reuse of building structures for senior and mixed-generation housing, as well as a network of open spaces.

Sheehan commenced the discussions on the final day of the Institute by presenting on Albany's effort to redevelop key parcels along the eastern boundary of the Park South neighborhood. The

city is seeking appropriate uses for these properties that are located blocks away from downtown. The Resource Team weighed in on the possibility for the area to become a medical/healthy living district with the hospital and grocery store as anchor institutions, and encouraged the city to invest in the existing housing stock in the neighborhood.

Bartley followed with a presentation on the annexation of Roseland, an unincorporated "county island" surrounded by Santa Rosa. The mayor would like to develop a strong vision for the area and build momentum for annexation and future development. The Resource Team advised the mayor to take a community development approach when investigating the benefits of annexation and its impact on the people in the Roseland community, looking at the annexation issue through the prism of social equity and equitable development in addition to physical design.

Capote concluded the Institute by presenting on Palm Bay's efforts to develop the Bayfront Village downtown entertainment district. The city would like to build and market the site, providing a variety of housing options to attract young professionals to Palm Bay. The Resource Team offered the mayor a pragmatic, step-by-step strategy to obtain the necessary pieces, build community support, and engage the university as partner in the longer-term planning effort.

Joining the mayors at this National



Session were Resource Team members: Ellen Greenberg, FAICP, Principal at Arup; Meea Kang, President at Domus Development; M. David Lee, FAIA, Vice President at Stull and Lee; Mukul Malhotra, Principal and Director of Urban Design at MIG; Mitchell Silver, AICP, PP, Chief Planning and Development Officer and Planning Director at the City of Raleigh; Daniel Solomon, FAIA, Partner at Mithun Solomon; and Christine Ten Eyck, FASLA, Principal at Ten Eyck Landscape Architects.

MICD is a National Endowment for the Arts leadership initiative in partnership with the American Architectural Foundation and The United States Conference of Mayors. The 58th National Session was sponsored in part by United Technologies Corporation. Since 1986, MICD has helped transform communities through design by preparing mayors to be the chief urban designers of their cities. MICD conducts several sessions each year. For a list of upcoming events, past attendees, or for more information, visit the website www.micd.org.

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way that we never have before. The mayors want more and with Mayor Johnson's leadership we will work together because mayors want the best public schools, not the worst, for the greatest country on earth the United States of America. For all our members and non-members, we say, come to Dallas and learn, share and, yes, get the courage to stand up all in their cities and forge new partnerships and new strategies to give our kids the simple and

basic right for a pre-K through 12 education that will make them stronger, happier and successful in any line of work or profession they choose.

Thanks again to all the mayors and their education leaders participating last week for the most dynamic beginning. Thank you Mayor Johnson. And thank you Mr. Bill Gates and your great team. Let us continue. We will and we must.

Dallas, June 20 – 23

Dallas Mayor Rawlings is planning one blockbuster 82nd Annual Conference of Mayors – with one event after another.

And we are working to bring you a meeting of substance, sharing, learning and business opportunities. And most of all, the opportunity to spend time with the greatest and most exciting political leaders on earth – the mayors of The United States of America! So sign up for Dallas now. You don't want to miss this one!





USCM/Walmart Manufacturing Grants Now Open for Applications

The Walmart U.S. Manufacturing Innovation Fund will provide \$10 million in grants for research and development in the manufacturing sector over the next five years. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are funding the program and working in collaboration with The U.S. Conference of Mayors to identify and support leaders in manufacturing innovation.

For the Fund's first year, the Request For Proposals focuses on innovation in manufacturing processes for textiles and apparel as well as common manufacturing processes that apply to a broad range of consumer goods, such as small motor development and tooling for plastic injection molding. Proposals will be accepted from 501(c)(3) institutions that could include: consortiums, research and academic institutions, think tanks and other non-profit entities focused on innovations in manufacturing.

Projects must have a budget exceeding \$100,000 per year, and overhead costs must not exceed 10% of total project budget.

Key Dates/Details:

- **April 3 from 2:00-3:00pm (EDT) Informational Conference Call**
- **April 22 at 11:59 (EDT) Initial Application Deadline**

Program Details:

www.usmanufacturingfund.com

Questions:

USCM Chief of Staff Ed Somers esomers@usmayors.org / 202-861-6706

Energy Intensive Manufacturing to See Strong Growth in Metro Economies

By Dave Gatton and Elena Temple-Webb

Inexpensive natural gas will boost manufacturing growth in the U.S. and its metropolitan areas according to a new report released March 20 by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and prepared by IHS Global Insight.

Unveiled by key members of the Conference of Mayors Advanced Manufacturing Task Force, the report titled *Impact of the Manufacturing Renaissance from Energy Intensive Sources*, details the impact the energy sector has had on nine manufacturing sectors in the nation's metropolitan areas from 2010 through 2012.

According to the report, from 2010 to 2012, energy intensive manufacturing sectors added over 196,000 jobs and increased real sales by \$124 billion in the nation's metro areas. In 2012, metro economies accounted for greater than 78 percent of the total employment and 82 percent of the real sales in energy intensive manufacturing industries.

"We believe the energy revolution is helping the U.S. regain its footing in the manufacturing sector," said Lansing (MI) Mayor Virg Bernero, Chair of the Conference of Mayors Advanced Manufacturing Task Force who led the call. "Most of these manufacturing jobs will occur in our cities and their metropolitan regions, which we know are the drivers of the national economy."

The report also forecasts expected employment and sales from 2012 to 2020 in the top 100 metro areas, all 363 metros combined, and nationally, for manufacturing sectors that include fabricated metals, iron and steel, and machinery, among others.

Through 2020, the report projects that energy intensive manufacturing employment will expand by more than one percent annually nationwide, with 72 percent of those jobs coming in metro areas.

"This report underscores that the manufacturing sector has been critical in helping the national economy rebound from

the recession, especially in metropolitan areas. The energy intensive industry, in particular, has been a key component in the manufacturing expansion and has played a key role in the country's overall economic recovery," said Waterbury (CT) Mayor Neil O' Leary, Vice-chair of the Conference of Mayors Manufacturing Task Force. "We are energized to see that employment in this area will continue to grow, which means new jobs locally for residents in our cities."

Other key findings of the manufacturing report (available online at usmayors.org) include:

Over the last three years, metro area manufacturing employment has expanded by an average annual rate of 1.7 percent. Energy intensive industry, in particular, has been a key component in manufacturing expansion.

Expanded demand for new pipelines and mining equipment has resulted in a 17 percent increase in real sales and a 9.7 percent increase in employment (2011-2012) in steel, iron, fabricated materials and machinery manufacturing in metro areas.

The increased availability of natural gas and oil also resulted in a surge in plastic, rubber, resin and chemical manufacturing, resulting in these industries increasing their employment by 2.6 percent within metro areas.

The Chicago metro area leads the fabricated metals sector with 64,536 jobs in 2012, slated to grow to 75,757 jobs in 2020, or a 2.0 percent average annual growth rate. The sector's annual sales growth rate is expected to be 2.8 percent nationally through 2020.

The Houston metro leads employment



in machinery manufacturing with 53,377 jobs in 2012, projected to grow to 69,591 jobs by 2020. Nationally, the sector is expected to see 3.7 percent increase in sales through 2020.

Chicago had the highest level of employment among metros in iron and steel (18,911 jobs); fabricated metals (64,536 jobs); nonmetallic mineral manufacturing (8,816 jobs); and plastics and rubber products manufacturing (29,468 jobs). Houston led employment in organic chemical manufacturing (20,225 jobs); machinery manufacturing (53,377 jobs); resin, rubber and fiber manufacturing (4,473 jobs); and petroleum and coal manufacturing (10,229 jobs). Baton Rouge led in agricultural chemical manufacturing (1,944 jobs).

Beaverton (OR) Mayor Doyle, also a Vice-chair of the Conference of Mayors Manufacturing Task Force, said, "In my

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Great-West Financial® Retirement Services President Nelson Receives PLANSPONSOR's Lifetime Achievement Award

By Jen Mosca

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been honored to partner with Great-West Financial in administering the Conference of Mayors' deferred compensation program since October 2012. When Great-West Financial was selected, they were identified as the best-in-class service provider capable of offering products and services that focus on benefiting city employees. Great-West Financial is one of the nation's leading providers in the retirement services industry. In fact, they are the number one provider of retirement plan record-keeping for the 457 public market and the fourth-largest retirement plan record keeper in the United States, servicing 30,000 plans representing 4.9 million participant accounts and \$219.9 billion in assets as of December 31, 2013.

At the annual PLANSPONSOR/PLANADVISER Awards for Excellence Dinner held March 11 in New York City, Great-West Financial Retirement Services President Charles Nelson received the 2014 PLANSPONSOR Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is given annually to a retirement business leader who

has a vision for what a recordkeeper should offer advisers, plan sponsors and participants.

Nelson joined Great-West Financial in 1983 and was appointed President of its Retirement Services division in 2008 after serving as the unit's Senior Vice President since its inception. He continues as the senior officer responsible for all aspects of the firm's defined contribution and defined benefit programs, overseeing the corporate, government, health care, non-profit and institutional lines of business.

He has logged many hours working with retirement plan industry organizations, having served as The SPARK Institute Board of Directors President, and has been a member of the National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators since 1985.

Nelson is a graduate of Whitman College with a degree in chemistry and economics. He was appointed to the Whitman College Board of Overseers in 2008. He also is the chairman of the board for the American Heart Association's Denver Affiliate and serves as a board member of its Southwest Affiliate.



Great-West Financial Retirement Services President Charles Nelson



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own Portland-Metro region, our current 12,000 plus jobs in the fabricated metals sector are slated to grow to almost 14,000 by 2020. That's 1.8 percent annual average growth in jobs, which is really important to our local economy. In addition to the job numbers, we are also projected to see an average annual increase in sales of 2.9 percent. These projected jobs will be incredibly important to our region."

Bernero told reporters "The U.S. Conference of Mayors Advanced Manufacturing Task Force examines the leadership role mayors can take to promote advanced manufacturing and job creation in their cities." "This emerging sector provides essential goods and equipment directly to consumers as well as to a wide range of industries, including energy production. Increased focus on this sector will boost overall productivity in a city and connect skilled workers to high-wage jobs. More and more, manufacturers are relocating to America's cities, where

the infrastructure and intellectual capital drive productivity and innovation."

The report can be viewed online at usmayors.org.



Partner America's 10 Tips to Promote Small Business

American Management Services Executive Vice President and COO Lou Mosca has been working with the Partner America Program for over 15 years. To help mayors connect with small business and with the Partner America Program, Mosca recommends the following tips.

- Make small businesses in your city a priority
- Get out and visit two small businesses per month.
- Host a quarterly luncheon or sit-down with small business owners. Ask for their input. Listen to them. Try to help them.
- Appoint someone on your staff to a senior position as The Small Business Director or Ambassador on your behalf. This is the community "go to" person at city hall.
- Encourage all city officials to walk the streets and shop locally. When

they walk streets or shop locally, they should introduce themselves.

- Personally welcome new business to your city.
- Use the PartnerAmerica™ Program to your benefit
- Link your city website to the PartnerAmerica™ website and have PartnerAmerica™ literature in city hall.
- Schedule small business workshops with Partner America representatives.
- Maintain network of fellow mayors to discuss issues and opportunities on a frequent schedule.

Partner America is a strategic partnership between The U.S. Conference of Mayors and American Management Services. To find out more about the Partner America Program, contact Jeff Bean at 202-446-8140 or jbean@usmayors.org



**American Management Services
Executive Vice President and COO
Lou Mosca**

U.S. Communities Announces Two New Contracts

The U.S. Conference of Mayors's partner, U.S. Communities, has recently awarded two new contracts that will add to the solutions provided by the program.

As a way to maximize savings on traffic and parking solutions, Traffic & Parking Control Co., Inc. (TAPCO) has been awarded a three-year contract to provide traffic control products and solutions through U.S. Communities. This exclusive contract was awarded through a competitive solicitation process conducted by lead public agency Barron County (WI) and is eligible for use as of March 1st.

The contract delivers solutions and services that will help you maximize savings on traffic and parking expenditures, make roadways safer and drive procurement efficiency. Through this contract, TAPCO provides over 12,000 discounted products along with custom solutions and services to

meet all of your traffic and safety needs.

The additional new contract, through Kronos, helps control labor costs, minimize compliance risk and improve workforce productivity. Kronos has been awarded a three-year contract to provide workforce management solutions. This exclusive contract was awarded through a competitive solicitation process conducted by lead public agency Harford County Public Schools and is eligible for use as of March 18.

As budgets are tightened, it is even more important to drive operational efficiency. Kronos is the leader in workforce management solutions that enable organizations to more effectively manage their largest and most controllable expense—their employees. The workforce management contract delivers an automated solution for tracking employees' time, attendance, absences, schedules, HR and payroll so you can con-

trol labor costs and minimize risk.

U.S. Communities will be launching three additional new contract offerings in the coming weeks.

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S. Communities provides world-class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education and nonprofits.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is a sponsor and founder of U.S. Communities. More than 55,000 government entities in the United States are registered to use the program. For nearly 20 years, U.S. Communities has provided significant hard-dollar savings on commodities and services, as well as soft-dollar savings on avoided administrative costs, to public agencies nationwide.

For more information, contact Conference of Mayors Staff at 301-460-5251.



By Larry Jones

Several witnesses testified before the House Judiciary Committee on March 12, sharing ideas on proposals that could level the playing field between merchants on Main Street and those who sell over the Internet. Under current law (the Supreme Court's 1992 ruling in *Quill v. North Dakota*), Main Street merchants are required to collect state and local sales taxes while out-of-state merchants are not. As a result, Main Street merchants are at a competitive disadvantage. That's why for more than a decade, the pressure has been increasing on all levels of government to fix this problem. And until a solution is found, state and local governments will continue to lose an estimate \$23 billion annually in uncollected tax.

The Senate addressed the issue last May by passing the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) by a strong bipartisan majority, 69 to 27. Under the bill Internet and other out-of-state retailers would be required to collect the same tax as retailers on Main Street, provided state and local governments adopt the uniform, simplification tax collection principles outlined in MFA. But the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Bob Goodlatte (VA), said the Senate bill suffers from fundamental defects because, in his view, it is perceived as imposing a taxing the Internet, and would expose out-of-state retailers to multiple audits. The hearing was scheduled to hear from individuals with ideas on alternative approaches for addressing this issue.

In addition to the Streamlined Sales Tax Project mentioned in MFA, four alternative approaches were discussed: origin based sourcing (the idea that tax collection should be based on the state sales

House Panel Examines Alternative Approaches for Collecting Taxes on Internet Sales

tax where the seller is located instead of where the buyer is located, which is considered destination based sourcing), reporting by remote sellers to facilitate use tax collection, the International Fuels Tax Agreement model, and banning interstate commerce.

Testifying at the hearing Stephen P. Krantz, a Partner with McDermott, Will and Emery, LLP told members of the Committee Congress has two choices, it could: "(1)...provide a framework under which states can enforce collection by remote sellers, or (2) Congress can do nothing. The Senate bill refers to the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA) as the framework state and local governments can use to enforce the collection of Internet and other out-of-state sales taxes. Twenty four states have adopted the uniform, simplification measures in SSUTA and more are in the process of adopting it. Speaking in favor of the Agreement, Krantz said "The only alternative being discussed today is one in which Congress creates a federal framework to address the Internet sales tax issue based on a compact among the states but which leaves intact the general ability of states to decide whether, and on what to impose a sales tax."

Several witnesses shared their views on the shortcomings of SSUTA and in favor of alternative approaches. Christopher Cox, a former member of Congress and a tax policy advisor to NetChoice, told members of the Committee "the actual simplifications achieved by the Streamlined Sales Tax Project are few—and not nearly sufficient to justify Congress abandoning its role in protecting interstate commerce." He explained that one of the original principles for remote sales, which would have limited states to "one rate per

state" and represented true simplification, was abandoned because too many states were unwilling to support it. This idea was discussed and finally dismissed by most state and local governments because it was determined to be unworkable. The view was if Main Street merchants are required to collect state and local taxes then Internet retailers must be required to do the same. To simplify the collection of remote sales taxes under SSUTA, states will be required to purchase software for Internet and other out-of-state retailers that will show state and local tax rates instantly at the point of sale.

Cox argued that "Today's approach to the taxation of Internet sales is consistent with due process. All retailers collect sales tax for every state where they choose to have a presence." However, it goes without saying that the status quo does not address the issue of unfair competition between merchants on Main Street and those who sell over the Internet.

On the issue of origin sourcing, Krantz testified that it "would likely result in the elimination of the sales tax as a funding option for states." He explained that under this approach, retailers could get around the obligation of collecting state and local taxes merely by setting up an operation in states without a sales tax.

For a complete copy of the testimony of all of the witnesses testifying before the House Judiciary Committee on March 12 go to the website house.gov and click on: (1) House Judiciary Committee, (2) Hearings, and (3) then click on Hearing: Exploring Alternative Solutions on the Internet Sales Tax Issue.



By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson March 18 announced grant guidance for more than \$1.6 billion for the Department's primary homeland security grant programs this year. These programs are intended to assist states, urban areas, tribal and territorial governments, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector to strengthen the nation's ability to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

The grant guidance for the various programs focuses on the nation's highest risk areas, including urban areas that face the most significant threats. This year it includes funding for 39 high-threat, high-density urban areas. Last year, at the direction of Congress, Urban Areas Security Initiative funding was limited to 25 areas. The Department notes that this year's funding represents the highest number of urban areas nation-wide since FY 2010.

DHS is encouraging grantees to utilize grant funding to maintain and sustain current critical core capabilities through investments in training and exercises, updates to current planning and procedures, and lifecycle replacement of equipment. It is requiring that new capabilities being built using homeland security grant funding be deployable if needed to support regional and national efforts, and that all capabilities being built or sustained must have a clear linkage to the core capabilities in the National Preparedness Goal.

Among the key programs and this year's funding levels are:

- **State Homeland Security**

Announcing 2014 Funding Availability, DHS Again Pushes Consolidation

Program, which provides more than \$401 million to all states and territories to support the implementation of risk-driven, capabilities-based State Homeland Security Strategies to address capability targets. The states are required to pass-through at least 80 percent of the funds to local jurisdictions. The 9/11 Act requires states to dedicate 25 percent of SHSP funds to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities;

- **Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)**, which provides \$587 million to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities of the nation's 39 highest-risk, highest-threat, highest-density urban areas. Here as well, the 9/11 Act requires that 25 percent of UASI funds be used for law enforcement terrorism prevention activities. This year's 39 designated UASI areas are Phoenix, Anaheim/Santa Ana, San Francisco, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, Denver, District of Columbia National Capital Region, Miami/Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Tampa, Atlanta, Honolulu, Chicago, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Kansas City, St. Louis, Las Vegas, Jersey City/Newark, New York City, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Portland (OR), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington, Houston, San Antonio, Salt Lake City, Hampton Roads, and Seattle;

- **Operation Stonegarden**, which provides \$55 million to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along U.S. land and water borders;

- **Nonprofit Security Grant Program**, which provides \$13 million to support target hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack and located within one of the FY 2014 UASI-eligible urban areas;

- **Port Security Grant Program**, which provides \$100 million to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities; and

- **Transit Security Grant Program**, which provides more than \$90 million to owners and operators of transit systems to protect critical surface transportation and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

National Preparedness Grant Program Proposal

At the same time that the guidance is being released, Secretary Johnson and FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate have been appearing at various House and Senate hearings to explain the Administration's budget proposals, including the proposal to consolidate all of the homeland security grant programs covered by the March 18 announcement into a new state-centric National Preparedness Grant Program funded at \$1.043 billion. For the first time the Administration has sent draft legislation to Congress to authorize the NPGP, which is intended "to develop, sustain, and leverage core

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PREPAREDNESS

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capabilities across the country in support of national preparedness, prevention, and response."

Among other things, the proposed language would repeal the existing programs, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Block Grant, and port security grants. Federal funds would go only to states and tribes. States would be required to pass-through 80 percent of the funds to local governments, but the definition of local government would be expanded to include the kinds of local public and private organizations that have previously received funds through the current programs. The requirement that 25 percent of the Urban

Area and State Homeland Security Block Grant funds be used for law enforcement terrorism prevention would be removed.

The Conference of Mayors has been leading a coalition of local government, emergency management and first responder organizations that have had significant concerns with the two previous proposals. That coalition has worked with Congress to keep those proposals from moving forward and is continuing to do so this year.

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

We know you have good news to share about your mayor or a unique local program. Tell us about it so other cities can learn from your success!

Send your press releases and photos for U.S. Mayor newspaper to USCM Public Affairs Office:

etemple@usmayors.org
202-861-6719

Calendar of Events



(Updated 03/20/14)

March 27

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

April 21-26

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

April 25-26

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

June 20-23

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

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

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

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

October 15-17

Municipal Waste Management Association (MWMA) Fall Summit, San Diego. Contact: Jubi Headley jheadley@usmayors.org / 202-861-6798. Registration Available June

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



Anaheim Mayor **Tom Tait**, Co-chair of the Conference of Mayors Immigration Reform Task Force, met with key House members and staff on Capitol Hill March 13, to discuss the importance of immigration reform to America's mayors and cities. In the meetings, he presented the Conference of Mayors' letter, now signed by more than 150 mayors, urging the House to act expeditiously.

Oklahoma City Mayor **Mick Cornett** swept to a reelection victory on March 4 with 66 percent of the vote. Cornett is the first Oklahoma City mayor to be elected to a fourth term, and will become the city's longest serving mayor. Cornett is a Trustee of The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

In commenting on the election, Cornett said, "The election ultimately came down to people asking themselves if the city was heading in the right direction. The people of Oklahoma City are proud of our community and its forward momentum."

Fresno Mayor **Ashley Swearingin** has filed paperwork to run for California State Controller. Under California's election system, the top two candidates in the primary go on to the general election regardless of party. Swearingin, a Republican, will face two Democrats in the primary. Swearingin, who still has almost three years remaining in her second and final mayoral term, said, "I love the role of public service, and frankly I'm ready for the next challenge." Swearingin was first elected mayor in 2008, easily won re-election in 2012, and is a Trustee of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. She will continue to serve as mayor during her statewide run, with the primary election taking place on June 3, 2014.

Former Boston Mayor **Thomas M. Menino** has been diagnosed with an advanced form of cancer. Menino, who left office at the end of 2013, was elected five times as mayor of Boston, served as



Photo by Peter Dolese

Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett celebrates his win during a watch party at the Grill on the Hill, a family restaurant/local landmark in South Oklahoma City.

President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors from 2002-2003, and hosted the Conference of Mayors 72nd Annual Meeting in June 2004. Since leaving office, Menino was named Co-Director of a new Institute on Cities at Boston University.

"My attitude really is: we'll get through it," Menino said. "We got through the [illnesses in 2012]; we'll get through this. I have great doctors and supportive friends."

Conference of Mayors Vice President Sacramento Mayor **Kevin Johnson** has been nominated for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Johnson, spent 12 years in the NBA, much of it with the Phoenix Suns. He is a three-time NBA All-Star and has been a strong advocate as mayor with keeping his hometown team, the Kings, in Sacramento. The selections to the Basketball Hall of Fame will be announced April 7 prior to the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship game. If selected, he will be enshrined on August 8 in Springfield (MA).



Conference of Mayors Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson



82nd Annual Conference of Mayors IN DALLAS June 20-23

HIGHLIGHTS:

Friday Night:

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

Saturday Night:

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

Sunday Night:

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

Monday Night:

- Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens – Backyard Bash



Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, Host

Registration Now Open at usmayors.org

Contact Carol Edwards 202-293-7330

Sponsorship Information: Geri Powell 202-861-6774

