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Senate Votes 63–30 to End Filibuster on Marketplace Fairness Act: Vote on Final Passage Scheduled for May 6

By Larry Jones

After several days of intense debate, the Senate voted 63–30 on April 25 to limit debate on the Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 743) and schedule the measure for a final vote on May 6. In a significant victory for state and local governments, the Senate will only take two votes on May 6: on the key sponsors perfecting amendment, and on final passage. This is significant because several Senators filed amendments to weaken or make the bill unacceptable. These will no longer be considered.

Once enacted, the Marketplace Fairness Act will establish a level playing field for businesses on Main Street and those that sell over the Internet. For the first time, Internet and other remote

sellers will be required to collect state and local sales taxes just as businesses on Main Street are required to do so. The University of Tennessee estimates that state and local governments will collect \$23 billion annually in taxes on remote sales.

During debate on the proposal, many attempts were made by the Key sponsors of the bill—Senators Richard Durbin (IL), Michael Enzi (WY) and Lamar Alexander (TN)—to get Senators to agree to consider amendments and eventually final passage of the measure under a unanimous consent agreement. But they could not convince opponents of the bill to dispense with delay tactics and procedural roadblocks. As a result a cloture vote was

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USCM, National Organizations Unite to Save Municipal Bonds

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Mayors, President Clinton Join with Chicago Mayor Emanuel to Explore Infrastructure Financing

By Debra DeHaney-Howard and Kevin McCarty

At a special meeting of the Conference of Mayors newly-established Infrastructure Financing for Cities Task Force, led by Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, President Bill Clinton challenged mayors, city financial officers, and private and non-profit infrastructure and financing experts to "figure out the public-private financing of our infrastructure."

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Left to right, Former President Bill Clinton, USCM Task Force Chair Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin, USCM President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter, UC Berkley Professor Laura Tyson, and U.S. DOT Secretary Ray LaHood.



Washington, DC
April 26, 2013

Municipal Bonds

This past week, I hosted at Conference headquarters a meeting of our coalition to protect the tax-exempt status of our municipal bonds. Over 40 organizations attended, and we are now focusing on the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, the two Congressional Committees that have jurisdiction. We are also supporting a bipartisan House resolution sponsored by Congressman Neal of Massachusetts and Congressman Terry of Nebraska. The resolution is a public endorsement and recognition of the 100 years, since 1913, of infrastructure development. Ask your house Members to sign on to H.Res. 112 now.

President Clinton and Mayor Emanuel – Task Force on Infrastructure Financing

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel brought members of the Conference of Mayors Infrastructure Financing for Cities Task Force to the headquarters of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce this week. The task force has partnered with the Clinton Global Initiative, and President Clinton joined mayors and others associated with infrastructure financing. This is

the first meeting of the task force as we continue to recognize the need for infrastructure financing as the federal government fails to provide needed federal funding for today's American infrastructure development. Mayor Emanuel and President Clinton have invited the USCM Infrastructure Task Force Member Mayors to be with them for another meeting during President Clinton's CGI Summit in Chicago June 13-14. Another meeting will take place for further discussion on this issue during our 81st Annual Conference of Mayors in Las Vegas June 21-24.

Marketplace Fairness Act - Senate Actions

We are most pleased with the Senate action on a top priority for us, the passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act. After delay tactics by Senators Baucus of Montana, Wyden of Oregon, and Hatch of Utah, the Senate rebuffed them this week and they have scheduled a vote for May 6. We will have over 70 Senators voting in favor of this action, which will finally provide states and local governments tax revenue that is not presently collected due to remote sales.

Las Vegas 81st Annual Meeting June 21-24

We are working closely with Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman to produce our 81st Annual Conference of Mayors, one that you will not want to miss. If you have not registered it's not too early. You can register online at: usmayors.org/registration or call Carol Edwards at 202-293-7330.



U.S. MAYOR

Publisher,
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ISSN 1049-2119

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Produced by Cicuye Studios
Proofreader: Lina Garcia

Advertising information:
<http://usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper>
advertise@usmayors.org

U.S. MAYOR (ISSN 1049-2119) is published semi-monthly except for August, September and December by The United States Conference of Mayors, 1620 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-4005.

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Send address changes by e-mail to:
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please e-mail address corrections to usmayor@usmayors.org. No telephone calls please.

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Menino: We Are One Boston



Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick have announced the formation of One Fund Boston to raise money to help those families most affected by the tragic events that unfolded during Boston's Marathon and in the related events that followed. To donate online, go to the website www.onefundboston.org.



The Honorable Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Remarks at the Interfaith Prayer Vigil
Cathedral of the Holy Cross
April 18, 2013

Good morning. And it *is* a good morning because we are together. We are one Boston. No adversity, no challenge – nothing – can tear down the resilience of this city and its people.

It is written that, "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins." And since the clocks struck that fateful hour, love has covered this resilient city. I have never loved it and its people more than I do today. We have never loved it and its people more than we do today.

We love the brave ones who felt the blast and still raced to the smoke. With ringing in their ears, they tugged gates to the ground to answer cries from those in need. This was the courage of our city at work.

We love the fathers and the brothers who took shirts off their backs to stop the bleeding. The mothers and the sisters who cared for the injured. The neighbors and the business owners, the homeowners all across this city, they opened their doors and hearts to the weary and the scared. They said, "What's mine is yours. We'll get through this together." This was the compassion of our city at work.

We have never loved the heroes who wear the uniforms more than we do at this hour. Boston's Finest in their blue carried kids to safety and calmed a city in a crisis. The EMTs performed miracles in an instant. Firefighters answered the call. We love the National Guard and our service members who brought valor to our streets. The volunteers in their BAA jackets and vests. And the doctors and the nurses who waited in their scrubs and did not buckle as the victims and their grave injuries arrived. This was the strength of our city at work.

We have never loved the people of the world and our great country more for their prayers and wishes. And yes, we even love New York City more – "Sweet Caroline" playing in Yankee Stadium and our city's flag flying in Lower Manhattan.

It gives us even more strength to say prayer after prayer for the victims still recovering in the hospitals and at home. It gives us the strength to say good-bye to the young boy with a big heart, Martin Richard. We pray for his sister and mom, his brother and dad. It helps us say that we'll miss Krystle Campbell and celebrate her spirit that brought her to the marathon year after year. And it prepares us to mourn Lingzi Lu who came to this city in search of an education, but found new friends who will never forget her.

Nothing can defeat the heart of this city. Nothing. Nothing will take us down because we take care of one another. Even with the smell of smoke in the air... blood on the streets... tears in our eyes... we triumphed over that hateful act on Monday afternoon. It is a glorious thing the love and the strength that covers our city. It will push us forward and it will push thousands and thousands and thousands of people across the finish line next year. Because this is Boston, a city with the courage, compassion and strength that knows no bounds.

Statement by Conference President Nutter on Bombings at Boston Marathon, April 15

"The thoughts and prayers of the nation's mayors are with the victims of yesterday's senseless bombings at the Boston Marathon, Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and all of the people of Boston. Keeping our citizens and our cities safe is the first responsibility of every mayor. Working with our police and other public safety officials we do whatever we can to stay ahead of the next insane thing some-

one or some group might do. We do the best we can to plan for the known and the unknown and to respond when something does occur. Boston's response to the bombings was extraordinary and exemplary, with police and emergency personnel immediately on the scene, caring for those who were injured and beginning the investigation to determine who was responsible for this heinous crime and why it was committed.

"The bombings happened on Patriot's Day in Boston and in Massachusetts, the day that commemorates the start of

the Revolutionary War, the beginning of America's fight for freedom and independence. Regardless of the motive behind the bombings, they are an assault on our freedom and on our nation.

"The U.S. Conference of Mayors stands with Mayor Menino, Police Commissioner Edward Davis, Governor Duvall Patrick and all of those who will help the victims of this horrific tragedy and the people of Boston to heal. Boston is a resilient city, and this is a resilient nation. Together we will get through this and we will be stronger than ever."

INFRASTRUCTURE

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Emanuel, who enlisted the Clinton Global Initiative to partner with the Conference of Mayors on the work of his task force, gave his assessment of the financing challenges before mayors and the federal government's ability to help cities finance these needs in the future. "Washington is broken, on a policy level and a political level," he said during the opening session of the task force meeting, held April 19 at the national headquarters of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington (DC).

These circumstances led Emanuel, he explained in his remarks, to explore other options for his city, including establishment of the Chicago Infrastructure Trust, an initiative that will initially target the retrofitting of city buildings.

The former President was not certain about the potential for federal actions in support of local infrastructure efforts. "The idea of a national infrastructure bank is one which should be done nationally but probably won't," he said.

Conference of Mayors President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter discussed the need to do both strategies: keep the federal government involved and increase the role of the private sector. "We have two big partners – one still has to be the federal government, and the other is the private sector, working with them to unleash resources."



USCM Transportation and Communications Committee Chair Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed describes his city's efforts to build the BeltLine streetcar project.



Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx discusses his expansion plan for the region's public transportation system, which includes additional rail transit lines.

"We [mayors] are all facing the same challenges," Nutter said. Acknowledging Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, he added that at the Conference of Mayors, "It is always about sharing best practices, regardless of the size of the city."

Clinton called on the task force to take on a few activities to advance the work of mayors in financing needed projects. He urged the "task force to aggregate all the good things mayors are doing." Noting that there are many state law-based barriers to local action, Clinton also urged the mayors to develop "a strategy for taking down [state] barriers."

LaHood Praises Mayoral Leadership

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood joined with the mayors and the former President at the session to share his perspectives on financing infrastructure and how mayors are leading on the issue. "Innovative, young new mayors and the cities are the incubators. It is not states anymore. It's the cities," LaHood said.

"If you want to attract investment, you have to have infrastructure," he said in citing Dubuque (IA) and their success in attracting new jobs and business development as a result of their infrastructure commitments.

Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin joined with the leaders to talk about her foundation's objectives, stating, "Our

goal is to build greater resilience and more equitable growth. The final participant at the opening session was UC Berkeley Professor Dr. Laura Tyson who spoke about the multiple benefits of infrastructure investment and underscored the need to attract more private capital. "We have to mobilize more private money."

Mayors' Project Challenges Cited

Following these remarks, individual task force members had the opportunity to speak to their most pressing projects, ranging from expansion of rail transit in Charlotte, paying for stormwater improvements in Redmond (WA) to the build-out of "Coliseum City" in Oakland. In discussing New Orleans, Mayor Mitch Landrieu said, "As we work together, we have to find the models that work." Echoing this theme, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed said, "We are all looking for a model."

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake praised the Conference of Mayors for its work on integrated planning for wastewater and stormwater. "We can't pay for all of our infrastructure needs with our city's tax capacity," she said.

Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown explained his efforts to increase investment in downtown Jacksonville without raising any new taxes. Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett reminded mayors about the continuing need for additional federal research and development to improve methods for infrastructure development.

After the opening session, former OMB Director and now Citigroup Vice Chairman Peter Orszag joined with Meridian Infrastructure Chairman Jane Garvey to discuss features of various financing structures. In the afternoon, Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx presented his city's plan to significantly expand public transit throughout Charlotte and Mecklenburg County as a case study for participants. Others took part in two other separate sessions on public-private partnerships on infrastructure financing.

Emanuel will bring members of the Infrastructure Financing for Cities Task Force to Chicago for the June 13-14 Clinton Global Initiative summit, with a task force meeting planned the following week during the Conference of Mayors 81st Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

COPS Hiring Grants: Due by May 22

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services is now accepting grant applications from police and other law enforcement agencies for the FY 2013 COPS Hiring Program. Approximately \$165 million are available this year. The application period ends May 22.

Grants will cover up to 75 percent of the approved entry-level salary and benefits for three years for newly

hired, full-time sworn officer positions. The maximum federal contribution is \$125,000 per position over the three-year grant period. Funds may be used to fill existing unfunded vacancies or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a specific future date as a result of local budget cuts.

"Additional consideration" will be given to applicants who commit to taking active steps to recruit, hire and deploy at least one military veteran,

to those who indicate that the officer positions requested will be deployed as School Resource Officers, or to those who choose "Homicide" or "Gun Violence" as their community policing problem area.

Information is available online at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2367>. Questions may be telephoned into the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770.

Richmond (CA) Receives DollarWise Summer Youth Grant

By James Kirby

DollarWise visited Richmond (CA) April 16 to present Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and Richmond YouthWORKS with a \$4,000 Summer Youth Campaign Grant. Richard Aguilar, AVP and Banking Center Manager for Bank of America of the Greater San Francisco Area, joined DollarWise for the presentation.

The Summer Youth Campaign Grant will support the Richmond YouthWORKS summer program, which will place over 260 youth in employment opportunities in local businesses and community organizations this summer. Youth involved in the program will also participate in six mandatory, pre-employment workshops that will include: academic and career assessments, a financial literacy class, a sexual harassment awareness session, as well as a "soft" skills and a resume production workshop.

The Summer Youth Campaign Grant was made possible through a grant from the Bank of America Foundation, founding sponsor of the DollarWise Campaign.

Each year, DollarWise gives five grants of \$4,000 each to cities that maintain effective summer youth employment programs and then go a step further to integrate a robust financial education component. The Summer Youth Campaign is part of a larger initiative of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, Bank of America Foundation, and the DollarWise Campaign to incorporate financial education into every summer youth job by 2015.

This summer DollarWise will again launch its Summer Youth Jobs Contest. Starting in June, youth involved in a summer jobs program will have the opportunity to visit the DollarWise website and complete a series of financial education sections related to financial planning, checking and savings accounts, credit cards, and budgeting. Completing these sections will enter youth into weekly drawings giving them the chance to win an assortment of prizes. For more information, contact DollarWise Program Manager James Kirby at jkirby@usmayors.org.



Back row, left to right, Mechanics Bank Vice President Xavier Abrams, Richmond (CA) Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, DollarWise Program Manager James Kirby, and Bank of America of the Greater San Francisco Area AVP and Banking Center Manager Richard Aguilar. Front row, Summer 2013 YouthWORKS participants.

Conference of Mayors, ScottsMiracle-Gro Kick Off 2013: Gro1000 Greenspace Dedications in Fort Worth, Tuscaloosa

Recently, Fort Worth dedicated its newly renovated and expanded Children's Vegetable Garden. In Tuscaloosa – almost two years to the day after a devastating tornado in which more than 5,000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed and 53 people perished – the city broke ground on Alberta Gardens, a greenspace that will serve as both a symbolic and literal centerpiece of Tuscaloosa's rebuilding and recovery efforts. Both projects were made possible thanks in large part to \$25,000 grants from The United Conference of Mayors and The ScottsMiracle-Gro Company's GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Program.

GRO1000, a partnership between the Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro launched in 2011, aims to improve U.S. cities by creating increased access to public gardens and green spaces. Fort Worth and Tuscaloosa, which serve as the kick-off cities for this year's GRO1000 program, are two of five winning cities that were chosen from a field of almost sixty applicants. The grants to the winning cities include a combination of cash and in-kind

product from ScottsMiracle-Gro, to support their efforts to create dynamic new urban gardens and greenspaces in their communities.

"From improving the urban fabric through enhancing the quality of public green spaces, to improving access to healthy, locally grown food for children and families, this partnership addresses so many of the quality-of-life issues faced in communities across the country," said Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. "We're proud to partner with ScottsMiracle-Gro to sponsor Gro1000, and to support the work of forward-thinking mayors like Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox to improve the quality of life for their residents."

Fort Worth: Children's Vegetable Garden

The Children's Vegetable Garden, located within the Fort Worth Botanical Garden, is designed to be a gathering place for children and families to learn about healthy eating, nutrition and life-

GRO1000

style, in a fun, hands-on environment. Through the GRO1000 grant, the Children's Vegetable Garden now has a new irrigation system, paved walkways, educational pavilion, playhouse, greenhouses and garden beds. GRO1000 funds will also support educational programming and bring more school groups to the Garden. The Garden's new educational pavilion will serve as an outdoor classroom, with workshops and classes for the public on container gardening, specialty plants and healthy eating.

"GRO1000 goes hand-in-hand with my FitWorth initiative centered on making healthier life choices and fighting childhood obesity," said Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price in commenting on the grant award. "When families, especially children, come visit this new garden, they will see how to incorporate healthy foods into their meal and how great it is to get outside and plant their own garden. I want to thank The U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro for this tremendous gift to the City of Fort Worth." During her remarks at the dedication ceremony, Price also touted the Gro1000 grant as a prime example of the types of public-private partnerships that she feels are vital to helping her city leverage its own stretched public resources.

As part of the April 12 dedication ceremony, Scotts also awarded one student – Calvin Hale, an eighth grader at the Applied Learning Academy in Fort Worth – its "Give Back to Gro Youth Gardener Award," based on nominations received from schools and from Price's office. Hale, who gardened since he was four years old, said during his acceptance speech at the dedication ceremony that he'd formulated a fertilizer – made of kelp, bone,



Left to right, Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, and US West Regions and Latin America of Scotts Miracle Gro President Jim Tate at the dedication ceremony for the Fort Worth Children's Garden.

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GRO1000

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seed meal, and dolomite – that, based on an experiment he conducted, “was better than Miracle-Gro.” That prompted ScottsMiracle-Gro executive Jim Bates (President, U.S. Regions and Latin America) to quip, “You’re hired.”

Following the formal dedication ceremony, Fort Worth schoolchildren, community leaders and volunteers, as well as staff and volunteers from USCM, ScottsMiracle-Gro, and other national partners, were on hand to plant garden beds for spring.

The expanded Children’s Vegetable Garden is ready for the public to visit immediately. For information on the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, visit the website www.fwbgo.org.

Tuscaloosa: Alberta Gardens

Alberta Gardens is the final destination along a planned 5.5-mile City Walk that follows the path of destruction from the 2011 tornado. The Gardens will encompass about 60,000 square feet of landscaping featuring fruit trees and bushes, herbs and flowers, as well as sitting areas and community garden space. The project is a cornerstone of the proposed Alberta Parkway project – one of the biggest recovery projects planned by the city – for which Tuscaloosa Mayor



Left to right, ScottsMiracle-Gro Global Research and Development SVP Bruce Caldwell, USCM staffer Crystal Swann, and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox with the \$25,000 check for the GRO1000 Garden and Greenspace Award Program.

Walter Maddox has proposed allocating millions in federal disaster recovery money, including infrastructure improvements for roads, water, sewer, storm drainage and fiber. “Front and center in those recovery efforts is right here on Seventh Street East... In fact, probably the crown jewel of our recovery is going to be the Alberta Parkway,” Maddox said.

In concert with the April 24 dedication and ground-breaking ceremony, students from Alberta Elementary School joined Maddox and other city officials, Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro staff, local volunteers, and GRO1000

national and local partners to install edible garden beds at recently rebuilt Habitat for Humanity homes in the community. In addition, area residents received new flower and/or vegetable garden beds around their homes and children participated in educational activities.

In commenting on the significance of Alberta Gardens, Maddox said, “The growth of the Alberta Gardens will symbolize our continued growth as a people who learned there is so much more that unites us than divides us...on this spot, thanks to Scotts Miracle-Gro and The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the seeds of hope will replace the harvest of despair we experienced two years ago, and for that we are thankful.”

The Fort Worth and Tuscaloosa GRO1000 dedications are the first of several public installation events being held in the U.S., Canada and Europe this year. Similar dedication ceremonies and community service activities will be held in the coming weeks in each of the three additional winning Gro1000 U.S. cities for 2013:

- Sacramento, CA
- Bridgeport, CT
- Cincinnati, OH

For more information about the GRO1000 Gardens and Green Spaces Program, contact Crystal Swann on the Conference of Mayors staff by telephone at 202-861-6707 or send e-mail to cswann@usmayors.org.



Bill Dawson, Franklin Park Conservatory and Alberta Elementary School children throw wild flower balls into an open field as part of the educational activity. The balls containing wild flowers seeds that will begin to grow in the now barren area next to the new community garden.

In Response to Senate Vote, Mayor Nutter Says Mayors Will Not Give Up on Gun Safety Legislation

The U.S. Senate on April 17 rejected four amendments to the Safe Communities, Safe Schools Act strongly supported by The U.S. Conference of Mayors:

- *Senators Patrick Toomey (PA) and Joe Manchin's (WV) bipartisan compromise to require background checks for private-party gun sales in commercial settings and preserve current record-keeping practices;*
- *Senator Dianne Feinstein's (CA) amendment to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines;*
- *Senators Frank Lautenberg (NJ) and Richard Blumenthal's (CT) amendment to ban high-capacity magazines;*
- *Senators Patrick Leahy (VT) and Susan Collins's (ME) amendment that would create federal offenses for straw purchasing and trafficking of firearms and expand and increase penalties for several existing gun laws.*

Following the day's voting, Conference of Mayors President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter released the following statement:

"It is with deep disappointment that the nation's mayors today watched the Senate reject amendment after amendment that would have strengthened the nation's gun laws and helped to prevent

the tragedies which occur every day on the streets of our cities and the mass shootings in Newtown, Aurora, Tucson, and too many other places in our nation. Those amendments would have strengthened and expanded the background check system, banned assault weapons, strengthened federal gun statutes, and banned high-capacity magazines.

"Clearly the shots heard 'round the world on December 14 were not heard by enough U.S. Senators to make a difference on April 17. Nor were the shots which have killed nearly 3500 additional people in this country since December 14.

"Despite the appeals of the families of those children and teachers shot and killed in Newtown, despite the appeals of former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, not enough Senators were persuaded that more can be done to keep guns away from those who would turn them on us.

"Despite the appeals of Mayors and law enforcement leaders across this nation, too many Senators believe that the laws governing firearms in our country do not need to be strengthened as was proposed today, that the loopholes in those laws do not need to be closed.

"In poll after poll, the vast majority of Americans voice their support for stronger gun safety laws, but their voices are



USCM President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter

consistently drowned out by the organized advocates of the status quo who have a stronger presence in the halls of Congress.

"Mayors never stop fighting to ensure the safety of our citizens, and we will not give up on our efforts on this issue. The U.S. Conference of Mayors has supported measures to reduce gun violence for more than four decades and we won't be deterred from pushing for what is right. That is what the American people want and what our cities and our nation needs."

"Clearly the shots heard 'round the world on December 14 were not heard by enough U.S. Senators to make a difference on April 17."

- USCM President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter





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Disgrace in the U.S. Senate – A Police Perspective

Cops are true optimists. Surrounded by violence and facing danger every day, we have to be optimists. We represent the Police Chiefs from every major city in the Nation – and we believe we can do more to make America safe.

That's why we looked to the U.S. Senate for courage and leadership on gun violence, to enact reforms that are long overdue. With 94 % of the public asking for better gun laws, we expected the Senate to do what cops do – protect the public. But a minority of Senators protected themselves instead of the American people. That's a disgrace.

A handful of courageous Senators had offered bills to enact modest Federal reforms intended to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill, laws already on the books in many of the States. None of the proposed reforms would have taken guns from anyone and there were no plans for gun registration or licensing. Nothing to threaten those who own guns for recreation, sporting and hunting. But the gun lobby said "No" to all of it, and when weak Senators caved into the pressure, these common-sense measures did not pass. Not one of them.

Showing an unprecedented lack of courage, U.S. Senators defied the will of the American people and voted according to their instructions from the Washington gun lobby. Much was said about the rights of gun owners, but almost nothing was said about the equal rights of the public to be safe from gun violence. As the families of children murdered in Newtown watched from the Senate gallery, better laws were defeated by less than a majority because of a procedural requirement for 60 votes. The Newtown families came for justice and reassurance, but they witnessed a disgrace in the U.S. Senate.

During the same week in America, the Boston bombings came as a grim reminder of the violence that constantly threatens the public and their police. But the events in Boston also remind us that bravery and leadership are the qualities that make Americans proud – and that's why we will remain optimistic no matter what.

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MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Toronto, Ontario
Tucson, Arizona
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Vancouver, British Columbia
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Washington, DC
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Like all the cops who put on a uniform each day, Chiefs of Police will not give up on Washington. We will continue our struggle for laws that protect the public from gun violence. Just as the public knows their police will be there for them, the Chiefs want Americans to know that we are not giving up and going away.

This was a week that should forge a new resolve. The grief of the Newtown families and spirit of Boston's citizens and police will not be lost on those of us who are committed to public safety.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey
Philadelphia Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association

Board of Directors

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By Larry Jones

Organizations Come Together to Fight Efforts to Cap Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran convened a meeting of diverse organizations (representing airports, housing, education, labor unions, roads and transportation, economic development, bond dealers, public power, state and local governments, general contractors and many others) on April 22 to discuss a strategy to protect municipal bonds from efforts to cap or eliminate the tax deduction on interest earnings for investors. More than 50 organizations attended the April 22 meeting, where representatives talked about a proposal in the Administration's 2014 budget that would cap the tax deduction on municipal bond interest for top income earners at 28 percent; and a proposal in the Senate budget that offers alternatives that would cap or eliminate the deduction. Groups were united in opposition to both proposals.

ference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC) and the International City Management Association) at which representatives agreed to work together to actively oppose the 28 percent cap and full elimination of the tax-exemption on municipal bond interest. Representatives feel strongly that both proposals would shift the burden of funding critical infrastructure from the federal, exclusively to state and local governments.

During the Big 7 meeting, Cochran informed those in attendance of the progress that the Conference of Mayors had achieved in working with NLC and NACo. He mentioned a study released by the three organizations that shows how state and local governments would have

Obama on behalf of state and local governments cautioning against shifting the burden of the national fiscal challenges to states and cities by capping or eliminating the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. He also pointed out that 60 organizations joined with the Conference of Mayors, NLC and NACo in signing a letter that was sent to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) expressing concern about the municipal bond language in the Senate 2014 budget proposal and urging them to support the continuation of the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. After hearing about the organizations letter, Big 7 representatives expressed an interest in working with the 60 organizations and asked Cochran to convene the April 22 meeting on behalf of the Big 7.

During the meeting, there was consensus to work together to protect the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds; find champions in both houses of Congress who will promote our cause; meet with key leaders in the Senate and House to educate them on the impact of the 28 percent cap and the full elimination of the tax exemption; use the Begich letter to build support in the Senate and get a similar letter going in the House; urge members of the House to sign a bipartisan resolution sponsored by Representatives Lee Terry (NE) and Richard Neal (MA) celebrating the history of municipal bonds and the 100-year tax exemption for municipal bond interest; work together to develop a Washington strategy, a grassroots strategy and a media strategy.

60 organizations joined with the Conference of Mayors, NLC and NACo in signing a letter that was sent to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) expressing concern about the municipal bond language in the Senate 2014 budget proposal and urging them to support the continuation of the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

The April 22 gathering grew out of an earlier Big 7 meeting (a coalition of state and local government groups that meet monthly to share information and work together on issues of common interest; which, in addition to The U.S. Conference of Mayors, include the National Governors Association, National Con-

spent \$173 billion more to finance infrastructure projects over the last decade if the 28 percent cap had been in place and \$495 billion more if the deduction had been eliminated.

Cochran told the group that Senator Mark Begich (AK) and 13 other Democratic Senators sent a letter to President



By Eugene T. Lowe

Senate and House Members Call For \$3.3 Billion for CDBG Formula Funding

In a "Dear Colleague" letter to Chairwoman Patty Murray (WA) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (ME) of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, 39 Senators requested support for \$3.3 billion in formula funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The letter, spearheaded by Senator Patrick Leahy (VT), said: "We understand that difficult decisions face the Subcommittee in meeting funding needs under the restrictions created by the Budget Control Act. However, we remain concerned about the impact past cuts have had on the program and the continued

impact any additional cuts will have on the communities that rely on this funding to serve their most vulnerable residents."

Similarly, 138 House members in a "Dear Colleague" letter to Chairman Tom Latham (IA) and Ranking Member Ed Pastor (AZ) of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies also requested \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG. The House letter said: "Despite being a key tool for aiding the growth of communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of robust cuts in recent years, falling substantially – by over \$1 billion since FY2010."

The CDBG Coalition, a group of nation-

al organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, also sent a letter to the both House and Senate appropriation subcommittees urging support of \$3.3 billion in CDBG formula funding. The letter said: "Since FY2010, funding for CDBG has been cut by over \$1 billion, yet the need for these important resources at the local level has continued to grow. While we understand the need to address the federal budget, we also understand the value of the local investments made by CDBG." The CDBG Coalition expressed a deep concern with the Administration's FY2014 proposed budget cut to CDBG, "funding the formula program at \$2.8 billion."

MARKETPLACE

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taken to limit future debate and ensure a vote on final passage. Over 70 Senators have consistently voted in favor of the legislation and are expected to do so when they vote on final approval.

Senate Majority leader Harry Reid (NV) and the key sponsors were aiming to complete action on the bill by April 25 before members departed town for a week recess. But opponents, lead by Senators Max Baucus (MT), Orrin Hatch (UT) and Ron Wyden (OR), who are from states without a sales tax, objected because the bill did not go through regular order in that it was not referred to the Finance Committee before being considered on the floor of the Senate; and because they claim it would impose enormous burdens on small businesses located in their states.

In response, Senators Durbin and Alexander reminded members that the bill was consistently referred to the Senate Finance Committee but the Committee failed to act on the bill for over a decade. That's why the sponsors filed a motion that was approved by the Senate to bring the bill to the floor without going through Committee. Senator Enzi also clarified that the legislation would exempt small businesses with less than \$1 million in annual remote sales. He pointed out that since 99 percent of small businesses have less than \$1 million in annual remote sales, nearly all of them would be exempt from the act.

Numerous amendments were filed and discussed during debate, many of which were offered to weaken the bill including: a measure offered by Senator Hatch that would sunset the law after five years; an amendment by Senator Jeanne Shaheen (NH) that would exempt retailers in the

five states that do not have a sales tax; and an amendment by Pat Toomey (PA) that would have exempted small businesses with \$10 million in gross annual sales. A troublesome amendment sponsored by Senators Ron Wyden (OR) and John Thune (SD), which is opposed by the Conference and other state and local groups, would have added the digital goods bill to the Marketplace Fairness Act to preempt state and local governments ability to tax purchases such as downloaded music, movies and online services.

The Conference of Mayors is asking all mayors to continue to urge their Senators vote for final passage of the Marketplace Fairness Act.





By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Bipartisan Immigration Reform Bill Moving Quickly through Senate Judiciary Committee

As has been widely reported, on April 18 the bipartisan “Gang of Eight” introduced the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) in the Senate. The eight drafters are Senators Charles Schumer (NY), John McCain (AZ), Robert Menendez (NJ), Lindsey Graham (SC), Marco Rubio (FL), Richard Durbin (IL), Jeff Flake (AZ) and Michael Bennet (CO). The Senate Judiciary Committee quickly held three hearings on the bill and Chairman Patrick Leahy (VT) announced that he plans to markup the bill early in May and bring it to the floor in June.

Based on an analysis by the National Conference of State Legislatures, the bill would:

- Establish the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Trust Fund with an initial federal outlay of \$6.5 billion to be used for border security. The fund will be sustained through various visa fees and penalties. This funding is designated as emergency funding, would not violate spending caps, and would be available for ten years.
- Initiate a comprehensive border security program that includes 3,500 additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, funding for state and local law enforcement through the Operation Stonegarden Program and for interoperable communication for federal, state, and local law enforcement, and reimbursement to state and local governments for costs associated with prosecution and pretrial detention of federally initiated criminal cases declined by local U.S. Attorney’s offices.
- Reauthorize the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (currently funded at \$240 million) through 2015.
- Ensure that the enforcement of civil

immigration law is a responsibility of the federal government by providing enhanced training for federal border security and immigration officers.

- Establish a Border Oversight Task Force to review and make recommendations on immigration and border enforcement policies and strategies. State and local government would have five seats on the commission – two from the northern border region and three from the southern border region.
- Mandate E-Verify for all employers with a five-year phase-in, beginning with federal contractors. A national ID card would be specifically prohibited; identity verification through enhanced fraud-proof documents would be required. States could voluntarily submit driver’s license photos to the federal E-Verify system, and those that voluntarily participate could be reimbursed through a \$250 million grant program.
- Create a new guest worker-type visa, the “W” visa, for jobs requiring less than a bachelor’s degree, and reform the high-skilled visa system.
- Restructure and replace current H-2A visa systems with an Agriculture Worker Program and create a process for unauthorized agricultural workers in the United States to gain legal status through a new “blue card” temporary residency program.
- Create a path to legal status and citizenship through the creation of a Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) status. RPI status would be available to individuals who meet eligibility criteria after paying a fee and penalty and submitting a completed application. Eligibility requirements would include demonstrated continu-

ous physical presence in the United States on or before December 31, 2011; not being convicted of any serious crime; and not having a federal tax liability. Initial registration would be valid for six years. RPIs would then have to apply for renewal, which would require a background check, additional fees, and a fine, along with proof of employment and proof that they will not become a public charge. After ten years, RPIs could apply for an adjustment in status, such as Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) and, after three additional years, apply for naturalization. They would need to pay fees and fines, demonstrate proof of employment and English language acquisition, pass a background check, and meet other requirements.

- Allow individuals who were brought to the United States as children before they were 16 and completed high school or a GED to be eligible for RPI status (DREAMers). Individuals who received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals would be grandfathered into RPI status. DREAM RPIs would be exempt from penalties and triggers and are eligible to adjust to Legal Permanent Resident or naturalize after five years. Children under 16 would not be included and would have a separate set of criteria for their path to citizenship.
- Address the visa backlog by creating a new merit-based visa program that would award points to individuals based on several factors, including employment, education, and length of United States residence. No one with RPI status would be allowed to

See IMMIGRATION on page 14

Mesa Mayor Smith Joins Arizona Leaders at Washington Immigration Forum

Conference of Mayors Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith was in Washington (DC) April 24 to introduce Arizona Talks Immigration, a panel discussion sponsored by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. Joined at the event by Avondale (AZ) Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, President of the National League of Cities (NLC), Smith pledged that the Conference of Mayors and NLC will continue to work closely together to represent cities' interests as Congress considers immigration reform legislation.

Held at the National Press Club, the session was moderated by USA Today Washington Bureau Chief Susan Page. Representing Arizona on the panel were Arizona Representative Krysten Sinema and Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery. Sinema suggested that the pragmatism and leadership that mayors Smith and Lopez Rogers demonstrate would be most welcome in Congress. She also discussed the immigration legislation being developed in the House, both a comprehensive bipartisan proposal and individ-



USCM Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith introduces Arizona Talks Immigration Session at National Press Club.

ual bills being developed by the House Judiciary Committee. Montgomery commented that establishing border security will make Arizonans much more willing to discuss a path to citizenship. Several

other panelists discussed immigration from a more national perspective and included some thoughts on the role that the situation in Arizona is playing in the national debate.

IMMIGRATION from page 13

apply for citizenship until the visa backlog is ended.

- Include an improved Conrad 30 program that allows doctors to receive a waiver of the requirement to return to their home country in exchange for three years of service in a medically underserved area in the United States (30 per state per year).
- Incorporate a pilot program to promote immigrant integration at state and local levels. This pilot program would award competitive grants for integration activities to state and local governments in states with high immigrant populations.
- Deny RPIs federal means-tested benefits (Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, TANF, SSI)

for at least 10 years after RPI status is granted. (DREAMers would be denied such benefits for at least five years of RPI status). This does not include the five-year waiting period that most qualified immigrants must wait before becoming eligible, so most RPIs would be ineligible for federal means-tested benefits for at least 13-15 years.

Impact on Local and State Government

The Conference of Mayors has been working closely with other state and local government groups to monitor the potential for and guard against a negative impact on local and state governments by immigration reform legislation. One concern has been any possible requirement that local police or other officials would have to determine an individual's status. The Senate bill does not include

such a requirement and makes it clear that enforcement of civil immigration laws is a federal responsibility.

In response to concerns about potential fiscal impacts of the bill, the Senate bill would reauthorize the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, provide limited assistance to law enforcement along the border, and establish a pilot program to foster community integration of immigrants, it does not include a specific provision which the groups have been advocating: flexible funding which local and state governments could use to provide needed assistance, such as English language training or health care, to immigrants. The groups are meeting with staff to key Senators and Representatives to raise these issues and urge inclusion of a provision that would use a portion of the visa fees collected to support such a program

2013 National Community Development Week Builds Support For CDBG, HOME Funding

By Eugene T. Lowe

Cities, counties and states from across the nation observed the 2013 National Community Development Week April 1-6. All sponsored and held local events designed to showcase the accomplishments of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME investment Partnerships programs. CDBG has made outstanding contributions to local and state governments for the past 39 years, while HOME has done the same for 22 years. The theme of the 2013 National Community Development Week was "Changing Communities, Changing Lives."

National Community Development Week was created 27 years ago when national organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, found that many members of Congress were not familiar with the CDBG program and what the program meant to citizens and communities. As it has always been, the goal of CD Week is to educate members of Congress and the community on CDBG and HOME regarding the impact of both programs on the lives of low- and moderate-income citizens.

What is at stake is the funding level of both programs. In FY2001, CDBG formula funding stood at \$4.406 billion. In FY2013, the formula funding level is \$3.0 billion. For HOME, as recent as FY2010, the funding level was \$1.825 billion. In FY2013, the funding level is \$950 million.

Below is a sampling of the 2013 CDBG and HOME celebration events from around the country.

Portland (OR) – A walk was held along Congress Street to show the use of CDBG funds, including façade improvements for local businesses.

Lowell (MA) – Throughout the week, the city hosted tours and open houses of

projects supported by CDBG and HOME. Lowell had its celebration one week later, April 9-13 (a common practice by many localities is to hold CD Week at the most convenient time for all participants).

Jacksonville (FL) – Events were held to showcase the following accomplishments: a computer literacy and training program to assist 250 public housing and Section 8 participants; social, cultural, educational, recreational and informational activities for 12,500 seniors to remain independent; activities for 125 low and moderate income, at-risk youth; literacy skills to 75 homeless and other adults who are currently without a high school diploma.

Madison (WI) – the city highlighted its accomplishments for CDBG and HOME over several years: 484 lower income households have been able to purchase their first home; over 1,000 low income households have benefited from the creation or improvement of affordable housing units; over 300 individuals for lower income households have obtained jobs; and, over 410,000 lower income individuals have benefited from a service or program at a neighborhood center.

New Bedford (MA) – Mayor Jon Mitchell presented a proclamation designating National CD Week. Team Builders, Inc., a CDBG funded youth program made a presentation. The Homeless Provider Network presented the annual Sister Rose Award to a deserving individual in recognition of their achievement and dedication to serving the homeless community.

Newton (MA) – National Community Development Week Film Screening & Awards Ceremony (featuring a documentary exploring the impact of community development programs on the lives of Newton residents).

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

American Water

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater services provider. American Water has both regulated state subsidiaries and market-based businesses, serving approximately 14 million people in more than 30 states and parts of Canada. American Water has a successful track record of public-private partnerships and offers municipalities, the military and other entities a range of solutions to help meet water and waste water system challenges. With its dedication to customer service and water quality, the company scores greater than 99.9 percent compliance for EPA drinking water standards and consistently delivers high customer satisfaction scores. More information can be found at www.amwater.com.

American Water's homeowner services subsidiary, American Water Resources, LLC. (AWR) provides Water Line, Sewer Line and In-Home Plumbing Emergency protection for homeowners in 34 states. Selected by New York City as the official service line protection provider for homeowners in its five boroughs, AWR also forms partnerships with municipalities, offering cities an income opportunity while also providing a valuable customer service to homeowners. The programs are administered by AWR and provide customers with comprehensive protection for repairs not covered by homeowners' insurance or their water or sewer service provider. More information can be found at www.awrusa.com.

* In CA (DBA as American Water Resources Insurance Services) and in VA, this program is insurance, which is provided by Virginia Surety Company, Inc.

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



2013 Mayors' Innovation Summit

Philadelphia, PA | May 22-24, 2013

PROGRAM • The Westin Philadelphia

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Registration

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Evening Reception, Comcast Center

THURSDAY, MAY 23

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registration

8:00 a.m.

Breakfast and Welcome

Innovating for Democracy

MICHAEL A. NUTTER, Mayor of Philadelphia, President, The United States Conference of Mayors

EDWIN M. LEE, Mayor of San Francisco, Chair, Technology and Innovation Task Force

9:00 a.m.

Technology for Social Impact

MATTHEW STEPKA, Vice President, Google

9:20 a.m.

The New Urban Toolbox

MATTHEW STEPKA, Vice President, Google

NEIL KLEIMAN, Special Advisor to the Dean at New York University

10:45 a.m.

Coffee and Conversations

10:45 a.m.

Press Conference

11:00 a.m.

Opening the Government: Creating Data Democracies for the Public Good
EDWIN M. LEE, Mayor of San Francisco, Chair, Technology and Innovation Task Force

CHRIS TONJES, Chief Information Officer, Baltimore

TED SMITH, Chief Information Officer, Louisville

PHILIP ASHLOCK, Open311

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

DAVID L. COHEN, Executive Vice President Comcast Corporation

1:00 p.m.

Seeding Civic Engagement with Technology

WILLIAM OATES, Chief Information Officer, Boston

LILLY LIU, Founder and CEO, PublicStuff

KEYA DENENBAUM, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ElectNext

MICHAEL BRENNAN, Second Muse

2:00 p.m.

The New Infrastructure: The Economy of Investing in Broadband

MILO MEDIN, Vice President Access Services, Google

3:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversations

3:15 p.m.

Building the Team: Marshaling the Urban Forces of Innovation

JOHN MARKS, Mayor of Tallahassee

BILL HARRISON, Mayor of Fremont

KARIMA ZEDAN, Internet Essentials, Comcast Corporation

CHRIS OSGOOD, Co-Chair, Boston New Urban Mechanics

NAVARROW WRIGHT, Chief Technology Officer, Interactive One

5:00 p.m.

Tour of the Navy Yard

7:30 p.m.

Dinner, Urban Outfitters

FRIDAY, MAY 24

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration

8:00 a.m.

New Catalyst for Urban Innovation: Collaborating Across Partnerships A Breakfast Roundtable

MICHELLE LEE, CEO, Textizen

9:30 a.m.

Breaking Through the Barriers to Spur Innovation

JEN PAHLKA, Executive Director, Code for America

BEN HECHT, President and CEO, Living Cities

10:30 a.m.

Coffee and Conversations

10:45 a.m.

Next Steps: Where Do We Go From Here?

SUSAN MOLINARI, Vice President of Public Policy & Government Affairs, Google

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Closing Lunch

More Information: Julie Fesenmaier, Center for Competitive Government, Fox School of Business, Temple University
juliefes@temple.edu | 215-204-7040



Fox School of Business
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Calendar of Events

(Updated 04/24/13)

May 1- 3

World Cultural Economic Forum (International and U.S. Mayors), New Orleans. Contact: Jocelyn Bogen jbogen@usmayors.org / 202-861-6727. Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Now Open

May 8

U.S. Communities Strategic Sourcing Summit, Tarpon Springs (FL) (Tampa area). Contact: Jeannie Fanning jfanning@usmayors.org / 240-393-9672

May 13

U.S. Communities Strategic Sourcing Summit, Norristown (PA) (Philadelphia area). Contact: Jeannie Fanning jfanning@usmayors.org / 240-393-9672

May 15

Benefits Best Practice Forum, East Orange (NJ). Contact: Jeannie Fanning jfanning@usmayors.org / 240-393-9672

May 17-19

His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visit / Muhammad Ali Meeting / Compassion in Governing Panel, Louisville. Contacts: Brenda Frank brenda.frank@louisvilleky.gov / 502-574-2018. Lori Hatton lori.hatton@louisvilleky.gov / 502-574-4543

May 22-24

Mayors Innovation Summit, Philadelphia. Contact: David Burns dburns@usmayors.org / 202-861-6765. Registration Open

May 23

Benefits Best Practice Forum, Greenwood Village (CO). Contact: Jeannie Fanning jfanning@usmayors.org / 240-393-9672

June 21-24

81st Annual Conference of Mayors, Las Vegas. Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330. Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Open

August 1-3

Summer Leadership Officers Meeting (*USCM Executive Committee, Advisory Board and Chairs Only*), Park City. Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330. Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Available in June

September 12-13

Coalition of Cities Against Racism, Birmingham. Contact: Tom McClimon mcclimon@usmayors.org / 202-861-6729. Registration Available Soon

2014

January 22-24

82nd Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, Washington (DC). Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330. Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Available Fall 2013



For updates or changes,
visit our website at
usmayors.org

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Bank of America

Bank of America's support of communities through philanthropy, volunteerism, environmental initiatives, community development lending and responsible corporate practices is an investment in its long-term success as a business. Today, the bank is delivering on three significant goals over the next ten years to improve the economic health and vitality of the communities it serves: a \$1.5 trillion community development lending and investing goal focused on affordable housing, small business growth and other economic development initiatives; a philanthropic goal to invest \$2 billion in charitable organizations committed to strengthening neighborhoods; and a \$20 billion environmental initiative to address the issue of climate change. From promoting home ownership and retention through responsible lending and investing to fostering the new green economy and providing access to educational, leadership, arts and cultural opportunities, Bank of America recognizes that healthy communities are important to all stakeholders and the company's bottom line. As a result, the bank works closely with community leaders to implement relative programs including The U.S. Conference of Mayors DollarWise Campaign to promote financial literacy in cities across the U.S.

The Bank of America Local Market Delivery team also partners with the mayors on a variety of issues including market growth, transit, social issues and more. For additional information about Bank of America's commitment to communities, visit the website www.bankofamerica.com/foundation.

Special Interests: City Livability, Community Development, Credit/Debt Rating, Debt Management, Economic Development, Economic Policy, Environment, Financial Management, Homeland Security, Housing, Minority Issues, Municipal Bond Counsel, Neighborhood Redevelopment, Pension Issues, Public Financing, Small Business Development, Tax Legislation

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

Conference of Mayors, Wells Fargo Work to Prevent Foreclosures

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Wells Fargo, who services about one of every six U.S. home loans, met for the fifth time in San Diego in April as part of a national alliance focused on foreclosure prevention, property disposition, homeownership, and community development. Mayors and Conference of Mayors staff joined Wells Fargo industry experts to discuss efforts and strategies to address housing challenges in local municipalities. During the forum, Wells Fargo officials emphasized the importance to encourage constituents facing financial distress to contact their mortgage servicer.

"When customers choose to work with us, we help about seven of 10 with a solution to avoid foreclosure," said Joe Ohayon, senior vice president and head of community outreach with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage servicing.

While 93 percent of Wells Fargo mortgage customers are current with their loans and the company's delinquency and foreclosure rates are better than the industry average, Ohayon says commonly, homeowners' financial challenges extend beyond their mortgage and are often

related to an employment change – losing a job or making less money at a new job, health problems and even divorce.

"Our goal is to help as many homeowners as we can avoid foreclosure whenever possible," said Ohayon.

At the home preservation workshop that was held at the same time as the San Diego forum, Wells Fargo met with 138 homeowners struggling with mortgage payments among more than 40,000 the company has met with at its workshops nationwide.

The effort is helping homeowners avoid foreclosure. For instance, after an excellent payment history on their first and only home, Roderick and Cleo of California were experiencing payment challenges and attended a recent Wells Fargo home preservation workshop. They had a series of personal setbacks beyond their control, including Roderick suffering an injury at his job and Cleo getting laid off from hers. That changed their income and their ability to stay current with their mortgage payments. The choice to attend the workshop resulted in their payment being more manageable, and helped them keep their

WELLS FARGO

home and avoid foreclosure.

Wells Fargo has participated in more than 1,100 home preservation events since 2008, including hosting 88 large-scale home preservation workshops. Wells Fargo has scheduled more home preservation workshops in Phoenix (April 23), Stockton (CA) (May 7), Dallas (May 23), New Orleans (June 14), and Birmingham (AL) (June 20). Local mayors are welcome to tour the upcoming workshops.

Wells Fargo customers facing mortgage payment challenges can visit the website www.wellsfargo.com/homeassist/ or call 800-678-7986 to work with Wells Fargo to explore options that may be available to help them avoid foreclosure.

Wells Fargo is also taking a proactive approach to maintain abandoned properties. Officials may contact the Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Property Preservation Department by calling toll free at 1-877-617-5274 or send e-mail to code-violations@wellsfargo.com.

"We service and regularly inspect and maintain our vacant properties," said Wells Fargo Home Mortgage's Property Preservation Department Vice President Sherilee Massier.

Another important resource is a database, known as MERS®, that can be used to research the mortgage servicer for at-risk properties. MERS provides access to data on the MERS® System free of charge to homeowners, county officials, and regulatory officials (subject to privacy restrictions). Officials can access the data on local mortgage loans registered on the MERS® System online at www.mersinc.org or by calling toll-free 1-888-679-6377.

USCM Local Events

Benefits Best Practice Forums

Wed., May 15th: East Orange, NJ

Thurs., May 23rd: Greenwood Village, CO

U.S. Communities Purchasing Summits

Wed., April 10th: Phoenix, AZ

Wed., May 8th: Tarpon Springs, FL

Mon., May 13th: Norristown, PA

RSVP: Jeannie Fanning, jfanning@usmayors.org



World Cultural Economic Forum May 1-3 • New Orleans • AGENDA

(as of 4/24/13)

It is requested that all participants and guests pre-register for this meeting. All delegates must wear WCEF badges for all sessions and social events. The badge is the chief identification for admission to all scheduled events. Failure to wear badges may cause inconvenience to participants.

Wednesday, May 1

All Day Arrival in New Orleans

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Registration

1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

- Tour of New Orleans Cultural & Creative Industries (OPTIONAL). Pre-registration required. The tour will cover the city's cultural arts education & talent pipeline with a visit to the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and the Ellis Marsalis Center in Musicians Village; future expansions of the cultural economy with a visit to the Lafitte Greenway Cultural District and the Lower Garden District Film & Music Production Cluster; and, a discussion of the heart of New Orleans' cultural economy, the City's annual Mardi Gras celebration. The tour will return to the Roosevelt Hotel.

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Welcome Reception

Thursday, May 2

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

- Registration

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM

- Breakfast Buffet

8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

- Opening Ceremony of the World Cultural Economic Forum

- Distinguished visitors will be welcomed and enjoy a demonstration by Mardi Gras Indians
- Tracing their roots back to a time when American Indians helped shield runaway slaves. The Mardi Gras Indians are among the most colorful and mysterious of New Orleans's Cultural phenomena. Finding it difficult to participate in Mardi Gras "Krewes," early African Americans developed their own way of celebrating by organizing Mardi Gras Indian tribes as Krewes. Today, Mardi Gras Indians shine at every opportunity by showcasing their spectacular hand-made costume, lovely song and contagious spirit. Watch them parade and perform at several events including Jazz Fest, "Super Sunday" the Sunday after St. Joseph's Day or come during Mardi Gras season when their celebratory spirits shine most – you can't leave New Orleans without having joined in this truly unique tradition.
- MITCHELL LANDRIEU, Mayor of New Orleans
- MICHAEL NUTTER, Mayor of Philadelphia, President, United States Conference of Mayors
- TOM COCHRAN, CEO and Executive Director, United States Conference of Mayors
- St. Petersburg: A Cultural Capital
HIS EXCELLENCY SERGEY KISLYAK
Russian Ambassador to the United States
- Bay Lights Project: Melding Art, Technology and the City. The world's largest light sculpture illuminating the world famous San Francisco Bay Bridge was unveiled in early March. This public art project, which is illuminated by more than 25,000 LED lights, will be on display for two years. The panelists will discuss the artist's vision behind the project, the impact on the city and the technology and sustainability goals achieved in the process.

- JO BELTRAN, President, San Francisco Arts Commission
- AMY CRITCHETT, The Bay Lights, Executive Producer, Illuminate the Arts, Executive Director
- PHIL O'DONNELL, Operations Manager – Iconic Installations, Philips Color Kinetics

11:00 AM

Official Photo Opportunity for WCEF Participants/Press Availability

12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

Luncheon

HIS EXCELLENCY GARY DOER, Canadian Ambassador to the United States

1:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Plenary Session

Liverpool's Cultural and Economic Renaissance

- ANDY SNELL, Head of International Investment, Liverpool Vision
- Creative Place Making: Public Art and Urban Planning
JASON SCHUPBACH, Director of Design, National Endowment for the Arts
- From Tragedy to Heritage Destination
WILLIAM BELL, Sr., Mayor of Birmingham

2:45 PM

BREAK

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Hosting Large International Sporting Events. Security session about hosting large international sporting events. Discussion will cover topics including transportation, security, branding/marketing and legacy around the sporting events.

- Panelists:
MITCHELL LANDRIEU, Mayor of New Orleans, Chair, United States Conference of Mayors Tourism, Arts, Parks,

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THE 2013 WORLD CULTURAL ECONOMIC FORUM

May 1 – 3, 2013 • NEW ORLEANS

Hosted by The United States Conference of Mayors and Mayor Mitch Landrieu, City of New Orleans

REGISTER NOW

May 1 – 3, 2013

NEW ORLEANS

WCEF highlights the role of culture as an economic and social force that drives the creation of vibrant cities.

WHY YOU SHOULD BE THERE:

- Build partnerships with the world's mayors and business leaders and shape the global dialogue on the importance of a vibrant culture
- Explore new opportunities for the development of your city's cultural economy and share best practices from your city's experiences
- Participate in the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival presented by Shell, With 12 stages of soul-stirring music featuring over 60 musicians, meeting participants are given VIP access to experience food from chefs and restaurants around Louisiana, as well as cultural exhibitions of the many components of New Orleans' international heritage.

For more information, please contact Jocelyn Bogen: jbogen@usmayors.org or 202-861-6727

WCEF

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Sports, Entertainment Standing Committee

MICHAEL ANDERSON, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations, New Orleans

7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

New Orleans: Live from the Joy!
Location: Joy Theatre, 1200 Canal Street, Attend a special concert for WCEF participants featuring performances by New Orleans' most renowned and Grammy nominated musicians.

Friday, May 3rd

8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Jazz Breakfast Buffet

9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Briefing on the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival presented by Shell

- C. SCOTT HUTCHESON, Advisor to the Mayor for Cultural Economy Office of Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu City of New Orleans

11:00AM to 7:00PM

Visit the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival – Louisiana Fairgrounds. Take in the complete culture of New Orleans on full display and experience firsthand performances by the Zac Brown Band, Marcia Ball, Delfeayo Marsalis' Uptown Orchestra, and over sixty musicians, food from chefs and restaurants around Louisiana, and cultural exhibitions of the many components of New Orleans' international heritage.



Saturday, May 4

11:00AM to 7:00PM

Visit the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival (Optional)

Join the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2013 National Summer Youth Jobs Challenge!

In March 2013, The U.S. Conference of Mayors announced its first annual National Summer Youth Jobs Challenge. The Conference of Mayors has partnered with the Workforce Development Council (WDC) and the DollarWise Campaign to urge mayors to create innovative partnerships with their local business and non-profit communities to ensure that the nation's youth have a meaningful summer job experience. The Conference of Mayors, WDC, and DollarWise are inviting mayors from across the United States to join by completing a brief online survey to describe their summer program. Three winning cities (small, medium, and large) will be selected for recognition during the 2014 Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting for their programs' excellence. Mayors are still eligible to join and can do so at: <http://www.usmayors.org/job-challenge>.

Mayors who have joined to date:

Alexandria (VA) Mayor William Euile
Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Boston Mayor Thomas Menino
Bridgeport (CT) Mayor Bill Finch
Bristol (CT) Mayor Art Ward
Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx
Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel
Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman
Durham (NC) Mayor William V "Bill" Bell
East Hartford (CT) Mayor Marcia Leclerc
Gary (IN) Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson
Hartford (CT) Mayor Pedro Segara
Jackson (MS) Mayor Harvey Johnson, JR.
Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown
Lake Charles (LA) Mayor Randy Roach
Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Manchester (CT) Mayor Leo Diana
Miami Beach Mayor Matti Herrera Bower
New Bedford (MA) Jon Mitchell

New Britain (CT) Mayor Tim O'Brien
New Orleans Mayor Mitchell Landrieu
Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle
Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl
Saint Paul (MN) Mayor Chris Coleman
San Diego Mayor Bob Filner
San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee
Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn
St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay
Surprise (AZ) Mayor Sharon Wolcott
Virginia Beach Mayor William D. Sessions
Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer

For more information on the 2013 National Summer Youth Jobs Challenge contact James Kirby at jkirby@usmayors.org.

Thank you to all of the participating mayors for your involvement and for your dedication to summer youth employment!

\$250,000 GRANTS AWARDED
for
"Lead Safe for Kids Sake" Grants



**Hurry and apply
only 2 weeks left**



DEADLINE is MAY 10

***For information, send e-mail to
scienceintheschoolday@verizon.net***

Mayors, Business Leaders Highlight Importance of Wellness in Workplace

By Jeannie Fanning

Mayors and business leaders joined together April 3 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for an open conversation and best practices workshop highlighting the topic of "Wellness in the Workplace." Racine (WI) Mayor John Dickert and Alexandria (LA) Mayor Jacques Roy spoke on panels highlighting their work inside and outside city hall to motivate employees and citizens to focus on improving their health. District of Columbia Director of Human Resources Shawn Stokes spoke on behalf of Mayor Vincent Gray to quantify the District's recent successes in employee wellness. Colonial Life, the Conference of Mayors partner for voluntary employee benefits and education, also provided wellness program best practice examples.

Dr. Robert Karch of American University moderated the first panel focusing on "The Virtues of Workplace and Community Wellness." Colonial Life Public Sector Director Bill Heydt explained that cities are looking at four key areas when analyzing their health care plans today: cost sharing, supplier management, governance, and wellness. Cities know they need and want to implement and expand current wellness programs, but the already high demands on staff make this a slower process than most would like. Heydt did conclude with a solution, surmising that the "...longevity of wellness programs is dependent on cost savings," in addition to the incredibly valuable, but intangible benefits, like improved employee morale.

Roy expanded the panel to include wellness outside city hall, explaining his city's efforts to implement a strong smoking ordinance in Alexandria, the only of its kind in

Louisiana. He focused on the political implications that these wellness ordinances can bring – including being accused of infringing on personal rights. The mayor looked at this from a different angle, explaining that, "The public sector builds the road, so the private sector can drive the car." Making a healthier Alexandria breeds a better environment for businesses to thrive and grow.

Dickert and Stokes spoke on second panel, highlighting Best Practices in addition to new wellness program accreditation standards. Recognizing the concern of tight staff time, Dickert and Racine's "Well City Program" bring a low cost, competitive edge to wellness in city hall. Dickert focused on what he called "...creating the collaboration between employees and government," in wellness engagement. Through an exercise-tracking program, employees try to beat the mayor by a number of weekly workouts. In the first year, the program saw 675 participants.



Racine Mayor John Dickert discusses the city's "Well City" designation.



Washington (DC) Human Resources Director Shawn Stokes explains the district's wellness program changes since 2011.

The number of participants increased to 754 in the next year. Efforts like this aim to bring better health to an employee population that saw a health insurance rate increase of \$1 million last year.

Stokes has also looked at cost and time effective ways to help her employees in the District of Columbia. By analyzing reports and finding the ten most common health issues to her employees, Stokes and her team started a campaign around highlighting the right health care choices. The issues were not just older, high-risk employees. "Employees 21-35 were using Urgent Care instead of a primary care doctor. We had to focus our messaging to those employees," explained Stokes. The district has also branded "Wellness Wednesday," one day a week to encourage employees to get out and be active. Education and creating a healthy environment are two keys to success for cities.

Chamber of Commerce Labor, Immigration, and Employee Benefits Research Policy Manager Michael Billet summarized, saying, "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's event on workplace and community wellness highlighted the unique partnerships between the business community and non-profit organizations to improve health in communities across

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U.S. Communities Unveils New Electrical Supplies, Services Contract

By Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland

Graybar, a leading distributor of electrical, communications and data networking products, has been awarded a three-year contract to supply electrical commodities and services to the participants of U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. Los Angeles County served as the lead agency and awarded Graybar the contract after carefully evaluating proposals from several other distributors.

Graybar is a Fortune 500 corporation and one of the largest employee-owned companies in North America. Through its network of more than 240 North American distribution facilities, it stocks and sells products from thousands of manufacturers, helping its customer's power, network and secure their facilities with speed, intelligence and efficiency.

This award represents Graybar's fourth term as the electrical provider through the U.S. Communities cooperative purchase program. This three-year contract contains two additional one-year options and offers services that include: inventory control, technical support, eBusiness, contract compliance, emergency preparedness, engineering assistance, systems analysis, product replacement,



system retrofits or upgrades, installation and integrated services.

Graybar offers manufacturer discounts, comprehensive services packages, strategic sourcing and volume incentives to the more than 90,000 state, local government, K-12, higher education, special districts and eligible non-profit agencies within the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. By negotiating additional savings from its suppliers, Graybar has provided additional savings for U.S. Communities participants while increasing the depth and breadth of products available through the program. Graybar also holds the Communication/Security contract for U.S. Communities.

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. Participants have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with best in class national suppliers.

U.S. Communities is the only government cooperative purchasing organization to be founded by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), the Association of School Business Officials, International (ASBO), and the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP).

For more information about U.S. Communities and the various products and services offered to local governments, contact Jeannie Fanning at 240-393-9672 or send e-mail to jfanning@usmayors.org, or Jeff Bean at 202-446-8140 or e-mail jbean@usmayors.org.

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the country. As wellness programs continue to evolve, businesses, with the assistance of local leaders, will continue to explore innovative ways to control health care costs by promoting better health. The Chamber applauds the leadership of Mayors Roy and Dickert and Director Stokes in advancing policies that will benefit the health of citizens in their communities."



Left to right, Dr. Robert Karch of American University, Colonial Life Public Sector Director Bill Heydt, Ochsner Center Executive Director Dr. Patrick Quinlan, and Alexandria (LA) Mayor Jacques Roy.

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Host*