



U.S. MAYOR

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BALTIMORE MAYOR RAWLINGS-BLAKE LEADING CITY THROUGH CRISIS

Support for Her Efforts Registered by Nation's Mayors

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The nation's mayors stood with Conference of Mayors Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake as she led her city through one of the most difficult periods in its recent history.

"On behalf of the nation's mayors, I want to register our strong support for Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Police Commissioner Anthony Batts, and the people of Baltimore at this

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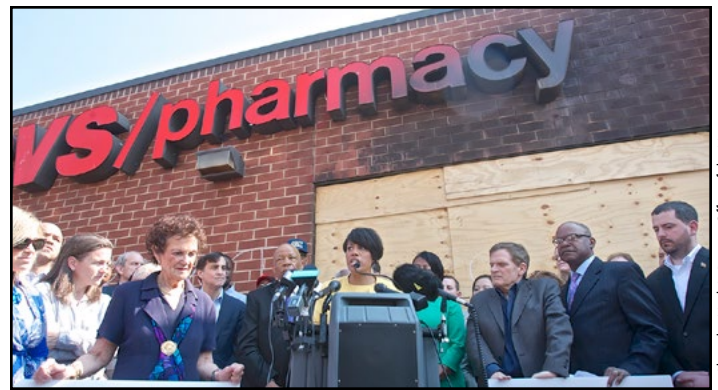


Photo by Mark L. Dennis, Office of the Mayor

Surrounded by community leaders in front of the CVS burned during the April 27 riots, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on May 7 launched One Baltimore, a comprehensive public-private initiative to support ongoing efforts to increase opportunities for the city's children, families and neighborhoods.

Mayors Vexed by Affordability of Water Mandates

See Hope to Save Citizens Money through Integrated Planning Framework

By Rich Anderson

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, Co-Chair of the Mayors Water Council (MWC), convened the Mayors Water Council meeting in Washington (DC) April 30 through May 1. Mayors

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Left to right, Past USCM President Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, Racine (WI) Mayor John Dickert, Lima (OH) Mayor Dave Berger, and USCM Water Council Co-Chair Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard discuss the growing problem of paying for water and wastewater mandates and keeping it affordable for their citizens.



**May 8, 2015
Washington (DC)**

Since August with the Ferguson shooting of Mr. Michael Brown, the riots that followed, the shooting of Walter Scott in North Charleston following a daytime traffic stop for a nonfunctioning brake light, the death in New York of Mr. Eric Garner from the chokehold of the NYPD caught on video by a bystander, the retaliatory assassination of several police officers by citizens and now the boiling over riots in Baltimore, the nation is focused on our cities, our mayors, our police departments and our citizens who live in the neighborhoods in the cities of the richest nation.

Since Ferguson, Conference of Mayors President Kevin Johnson has led a number of Leadership Meetings with mayors, police chiefs, and representatives of the families who have lost young men.

In Little Rock, in September, mayors and police chiefs gathered at the Clinton Presidential Center with President Clinton, then Attorney General Eric Holder, and Ron Davis, Director of the COPS Office at the Justice Department. These were frank and honest discussions. And many police chiefs then said that there is mistrust between the police and parts of the community in many cities.

President Johnson appointed a joint working group of mayors and police chiefs to develop a set of issues to be examined and in some instances, specific recommendations. We released our report at our Winter Meeting this past January. The document is today most pertinent and can be obtained at <http://www.usmayors.org/83rdWinterMeeting/media/012215-report-policing.pdf>.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin said earlier this year that what happened in other cities, prior to his incident in Madison

and the Baltimore riots, could happen to any mayor or any city in our country. I can't tell you in my discussions with mayors and police chiefs how many times I have heard the Soglin statement echoed by others.

Baltimore hits home to us. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is our President-elect and she is, as we say, family. No doubt she was hit hard in the very beginning with CNN reporters and talking heads who have never run a two car funeral much less a tough city like Baltimore. Mayor Rawlings-Blake got in the streets early; she confronted the reporters and accused them of twisting her words.

Throughout the ordeal, she has been resolute, knowing what the law of Maryland is and what it is not. She went to the state capital in Annapolis to try to correct the imbalance and lack of mayoral authority that the mayor and police chief have under the Maryland statutes.

In addition, Mayor Rawlings-Blake and Police Commissioner Batts have been working with the Justice Department for months according to our new attorney general Loretta Lynch's statement on our call with her and the mayors right after she was sworn in.

No doubt with Mayor Rawlings-Blake as our new President when she takes the gavel as our 73rd President at our 83rd Annual Meeting next month in San Francisco, the issue of police and community relations will be a big part of the work we have before us.

This week, Mayor Rawlings-Blake called for the Justice Department to investigate the Baltimore Police Department to determine how Baltimore in a collaborative way working with the police and the community can create the trust that all acknowledge in the city.

As U.S. Mayor goes to press, Attorney General Lynch held a major press conference and her performance was right on the mark, most impressive, in that she, as our new Attorney General, wants to work in a collaborative spirit of cooperation to begin the healing, build the trust

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COCHRAN
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between first the elected officials, second the police departments and their neighborhoods of Baltimore.

Together with the involvement of all three segments, the Attorney General wants to build on the collaborative work of other cities and push forward an agenda to restore the need to trust within our cities. General Lynch said today that the issues we face did not just come today and will not change overnight. Her practical approach to the tough decisions ahead, I believe, will be welcomed by our mayors and police chiefs. And COPS Director Ron Davis, a partner and person we have had with us will be invaluable as we move forward.

While Baltimore is very much front and center now, there are many in Con-

gress and in the administration who are searching for national responses.

The Baltimore riots of 2015 reminded me of 1968. We had the Kerner Commission. We had the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), \$10 billion plus program hiring people to do public service employment. I worked on that legislation and helped lobby the structure. We had a massive increase of summer youth jobs money. I was the staff guy at USCM who worked with Senator Jacob Javits to secure summer jobs money for idle youth.

Today the political environment is totally different even though our organization has had as its top priority – jobs for all – and especially our youth with an emphasis on education and training.

And President Clinton said this week that part of the “three strikes you’re out” during his administration prompted more Americans to be locked up, and increased the prison population to what some are calling the “prison industrial complex,” where people determine future spending for beds and housing for prisons by coming into our grade schools to see the population there.

And in Congress, some Republicans

and Democrats are being pressured to come forward with criminal justice and police reform. Body cameras for all officers, sentencing reform, and reduction in mandatory sentences are all issues that are being voiced by many leading Republicans in the House and Senate.

As I mentioned earlier, we will work with our leadership to continue the work that needs to be done in the months ahead.

San Francisco

June 19 to 22 - you are needed at our 83rd Annual Meeting. Just over a month away, Host Mayor Ed Lee and our President, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson are together preparing a meeting for mayors that will be meaningful and productive. To see for yourself the incredible array of special events that will take place go to our website at usmayors.org/83rdAnnualMeeting/.

Register now! Contact Carol Edwards at cedwards@usmayors.org or 202-293-7330 or register online at usmayors.org/83rdAnnualMeeting/

We will soon be providing you more details as to our agenda and program. Stay tuned!

Calendar of Events

(Updated 05/06/15)



2015

May 13

Mayors Transportation Lobby Day, Washington (DC). Contact: Kevin McCarty kmccarty@usmayors.org / 202-861-6728. Registration Now Open

May 13-15

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

June 19-22

83rd Annual Conference of Mayors, San Francisco. Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Now Open

2016

January 20-22

84th Winter Meeting, Washington (DC). Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Opens Fall 2015

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

BALTIMORE

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difficult time,” said Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson on April 27, the day on which rioting broke out following the funeral of Freddie Gray, the 25-year-old Baltimore resident who died in the week following his April 12 arrest by Baltimore police officers. “Despite their pleas, as well as those of the family of Freddie Gray and numerous community leaders, tragically, violence and looting have occurred. We pray for a quick and peaceful resolution to the current situation,” Johnson continued.

Johnson also sent the mayors’ condolences to the family of Freddie Gray and their hope for a quick recovery to the police officers injured that day in their efforts to maintain and restore peace.

“The nation’s mayors urge that any further protests be peaceful and non-violent, as is the right of all Americans under the Constitution,” Johnson concluded.

As the April 27 rioting intensified, Rawlings-Blake declared a state of emergency in the city and imposed a nighttime curfew. At her request, the Governor of Maryland sent in several National Guard units. Demonstrations, mostly non-violent, continued throughout the week, but the situation changed dramatically on May 1, when the State’s Attorney brought charges against the six police officers involved in Freddie Gray’s arrest and subsequent death.

Shortly after that announcement, Rawlings-Blake, in a strong public statement, said that she was “sickened and heartbroken by the statement of charges that we heard today, because no one in our city is above the law. Justice must apply to all of us equally.” The mayor said she had instructed Police Chief Batts to suspend all officers who are facing felony charges. “In fact, warrants have been executed and five officers are in custody,” she said.

“We know that the vast majority of the men and the women in the Baltimore City Police Department serve our city with pride, with courage, with honor and with distinction,” Rawlings-Blake continued. “But to those of you who wish to engage in brutality, misconduct, racism and corruption, let me be clear: there is no place in the Baltimore City Police Department for you.”



Photo by Mark L. Dennis, Office of the Mayor

Left to right, COPS Office Director Ronald Davis, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake in May 6 meeting.

Johnson’s Statement on State’s Attorney’s Announcement, Rawlings-Blake’s Remarks

Later that day, Johnson issued a statement praising the State’s Attorney’s action and the strong statement by Rawlings-Blake:

“Acting on reports submitted to her yesterday by the Baltimore Police Department and the Medical Examiner, State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby today took quick and decisive action in the effort to deliver justice in the death of Freddie Gray. Her strong public statement regarding the charges against the six police officers involved should assure the people of Baltimore and the nation that the pursuit of justice in this case will be diligent, transparent, and prompt.

“Credit is also due Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake for her immediate and forceful response to the State’s Attorney’s action. She instructed Police Commissioner Batts to suspend and arrest the six officers. And she reflected the feelings of mayors across America when she stated that the vast majority of police officers serve their communities with pride, courage, honor, and distinction, and that there is no place for brutality, misconduct, racism or corruption in the policing of our cities.

“The nation’s mayors stand with Mayor Rawlings-Blake in her pledge of justice for

Freddie Gray, his family, and the people of Baltimore.”

Media Looked to Mayors to Discuss Baltimore Situation

Discussion of the events in Baltimore dominated the news for the balance of that week, and several mayors appeared on Sunday talk shows to discuss the situation. Rawlings-Blake appeared on *Meet the Press*. Up with Steve Kornacki on MSNBC featured a panel discussion with Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chair of the Conference of Mayors Working Group of Mayors and Police Chiefs, Conference Second Vice President Oklahoma Mayor Mick Cornett, and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza. Freeman-Wilson also appeared twice on CNN programs, including *New Day Sunday*. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Birmingham Mayor William Bell, Sr. appeared on CNN’s *State of the Union*. Nutter is a Past President of the Conference of Mayors and with Bell, co-chair of the organization’s My Brother’s Keeper Task Force.

Attorney General Lynch, COPS Director Davis Visit Baltimore

Attorney General Loretta Lynch was in Baltimore May 5 in her first trip since being sworn in April 27, to meet with

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2015 Conference of Mayors Nominating Committee

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, as of May 7, has appointed the following mayors to The United States Conference of Mayors 2015 Nominating Committee for the upcoming Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel on Saturday, June 20 from 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm. The Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for Officers, Trustees and Advisory Board vacancies. The recommendations will be voted on by the assembled membership in San

Francisco on Monday, June 22 during the Business Session.

Member mayors seeking office should submit a letter of interest to each member of the Nominating Committee, with a copy to The United States Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran by fax 202-293-9063 or e-mail a copy to Sue Fredeen at sfredeen@usmayors.org.

Following are the current Leadership openings as of May 7, 2015:

Second Vice President – One (1)

Trustees – Four (4)

Advisory Board – Six (6)

USCM Nominating Committee

as of May 7, 2015:

Columbia (SC) Mayor Stephen Benjamin, Chair

Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz

Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter

Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic

Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

Rochester (MN) Mayor Ardeell Brede

Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle

Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson

New Haven Mayor Toni Harp

Green Bay Mayor James J. Schmitt

Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait

Alternates

Jacksonville (FL) Mayor Alvin Brown

Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido

Portland (OR) Mayor Charlie Hales

BALTIMORE

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Rawlings-Blake, Batts and line officers of the Baltimore Police Department, members of Congress, faith, youth and community leaders, and the family of Freddie Gray. With Lynch were COPS Office Director Ronald Davis, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Vanita Gupta, and Community Relations Service Director Grande Lum.

During the Attorney General's meeting with faith leaders and members of the Maryland congressional delegation, she emphasized that she came to Baltimore to listen to concerns expressed by all groups and reinforced her commitment to have the Justice Department remain in Baltimore after the cameras leave in order to help the city rebuild and move forward. Lynch noted that watching people come together following the unrest last Monday has been personally inspiring.

In her meeting with rank and file officers, Lynch thanked them for their work, saying, "You have picked a noble profession, you have picked a hard profession, but you have picked one of the best professions out there today, because you have picked the one that lets you go out

there every day and say I'm going to help somebody."

Rawlings-Blake Requests Federal Civil Rights Investigation of Police Department

Rawlings-Blake asked the Justice Department May 6, the day following the Attorney General's visit, to conduct a full-scale civil rights investigation into the "pattern and practices" of the city police department. In her letter to the Attorney General (available online at (<http://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/20150506Letter-AttorneyGeneral-FederalPatternOrPracticeInvestigation-Request.PDF>), the mayor said, "I believe the process can help repair the public's trust in the Baltimore Police Department – even when that trust has long been broken – by bringing about transparency, accountability, and greater community understanding."

The Attorney General's spokesperson said later that day that the Attorney General was "actively considering that option in light of what she heard from law enforcement, city officials, and community, faith and youth leaders in Baltimore yesterday."

Two days later on May 8, Lynch

announced that the Justice Department was opening the investigation the mayor requested. Lynch said, "The investigation will begin immediately and focus on allegations that Baltimore Police Department officers use excessive force, including deadly force, conduct unlawful searches, seizures, and arrests, and engage in discriminatory policing." She continued, saying, "The COPS Office will work with the Baltimore police office and with a collaborative reform process will know convert to the division of technical assistance to the Baltimore Police Department."

Strengthening Police-Community Relations in America's Cities,

the report of the Conference of Mayors Working Group of Mayors and Police Chiefs released January 22 during the organization's Winter Meeting in Washington (DC), is available online at www.usmayors.org. That report provides a comprehensive set of recommendations grouped into six areas: building police-community trust, improving police department practices, ensuring timely and accurate communications, conducting independent investigations, addressing racial and economic disparities, and providing national leadership.

discussed public water policy and Best Practices, with special attention to federal water mandates, affordability and how the Integrated Planning Framework is playing out in the EPA Regions. [The MWC Meeting Agenda and power points are available online at <http://usmayors.org/urbanwater/>]

Public Water and Sewer Affordability

Lima (OH) Mayor David Berger opened the panel with a candid description of an Ohio town struggling with growing infrastructure costs and a declining population base. Berger stated that over 34 percent of the population is below the poverty level, unemployment is twice the national rate, and median household income is below \$27,000. Now, he said, the city is obligated to spend \$150 million over the next 26 years on a consent decree with the state and EPA that will require a substantial portion of the population to spend over four percent of their household income on increased rates.

Berger emphasized that the consent decree is based on an optimistic outlook for the city's economic future with very specific metrics identified such as population trends, unemployment trends, poverty levels, etc. to gauge affordability over time. He identified consent decree reopener provisions as a way to deal with uncertainty. Berger stated, "We understand the written consent decree as a set of decisions at a point in time. We do not know the future. None of us do. We have a 24-26 year implementation schedule and it is impossible to know what our situation will be over the course of that period. That is why it is essential that we arm ourselves with all opportunities to come back to the table and revisit what we can afford as we go forward."

Jackson (MS) Mayor Tony Yarber also painted a bleak picture of customer financial burdens. In 2013, the city raised water rates 32 percent, and sewer rates increased 108 percent. The city set aside \$175,000 to assist households with affordability hardship. In 2014 the city was still \$12 million behind in water and



At left, Patricia Jones, an Attorney with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, with Jackson (MS) Mayor Tony Yarber discuss the impact of water and wastewater costs on poor and fixed income residents.

sewer revenues. He also said that some 40 percent of land use in Jackson is not taxable, and 80 percent of children in Jackson are on free or reduced lunch at school, and that is income based.

Yarber pointed out that Moody's lowered the city's bond rating after two years of missing their debt ratio coverage, and this has moved neighboring jurisdictions that currently rely on the Jackson sewer system to consider constructing their own system; and if they are successful, the remaining Jackson households and utility customers will face an automatic 25 percent rate increase to make up the lost revenues. He stated concerns about falling revenues and their ability to maintain safe and uninterrupted public service.

Akron Deputy Service Director Phil Montgomery said that, while he was here to talk about public water affordability, "...in the case of Akron, it is the unyielding, unfunded, and unaffordable requirements of the state and federal government" that are our problem. Montgomery said that Akron has already invested \$300 million to stem overflows, and that there are 13 years left on the current consent decree to "eliminate" all overflows at a price tag of \$1 billion, "...the single largest public improvement project in the city's 200 year history." Montgomery also described a city struggling with population decline, unemployment that

hit a peak of 12.4 percent in 2010, and a poverty rate of 28.7 percent where 43 percent are children. He stated that, "EPA affordability criteria are out of step with trends in local economic conditions for a growing portion of the population."

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee on the Human Right to Water Senior Program Lead Patricia Jones has dealt with the human right to water and sewer around the globe. Here in the United States, she spoke of faith institutions receiving the calls for aid from the poor just like the cities do in their social service programs. The faith based organizations receive requests for assistance from families to help with their water and sewer bills; and, from small communities requesting for assistance for rural water systems.

Jones recounted the story of a single mother requesting financial assistance when the household well went dry and government officials then took her three children into custodial care because of lack of water. As a low-income household, the single mother could not afford to hire lawyers to oppose the custodial taking, could not afford the \$20,000 it cost to hook up to public water, and could not afford to dig a deeper well.

Jones pointed to the 33,000 house-

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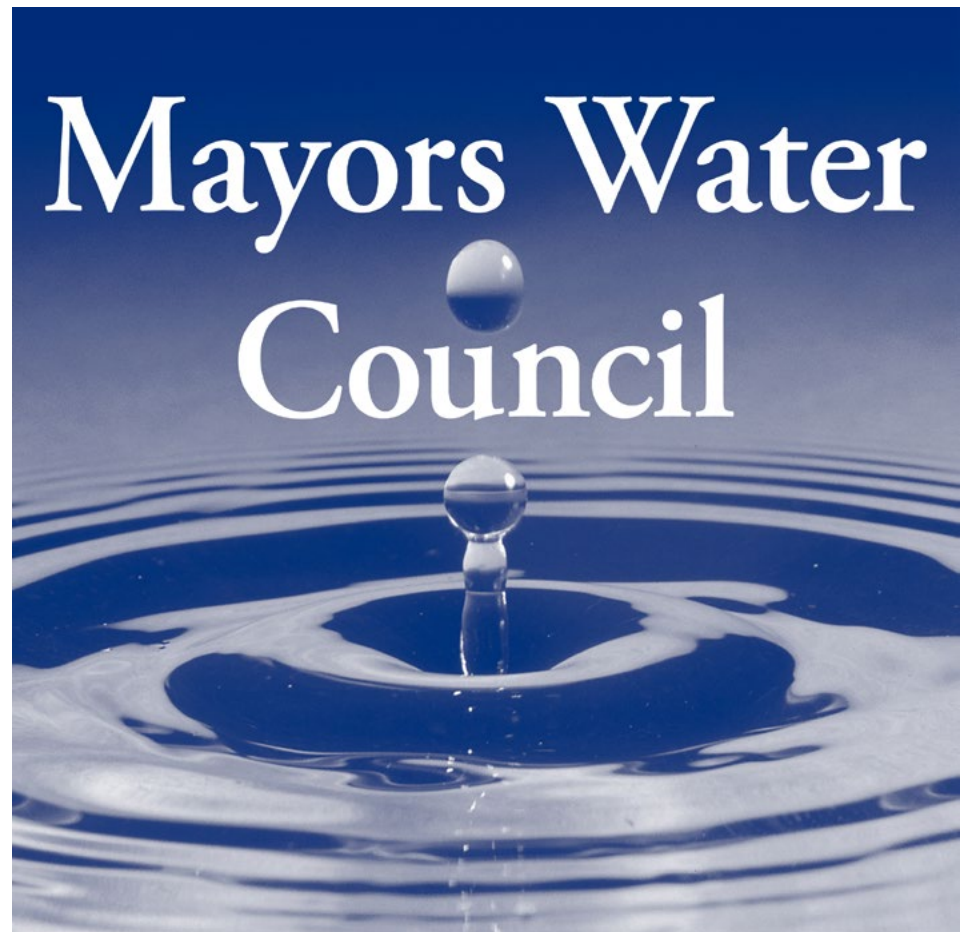
hold shutoffs in Detroit, with another 30,000 planned actions won to come. In Detroit, the faith community uses the church to provide bathing and bathroom to community members. She pointed out that the churches have a lack of resources to adequately respond to the need, not only in Detroit but elsewhere. Jones cited a report that examined the cost per household for water and sewer in California counties and emphasized that public water costs currently exceed 11 percent of household income or more.

American Water Vice President Meg Neafsey provided information on what private water providers (i.e., American Water Works) have been doing to reduce the financial impact of rates on low-income households. Neafsey stated that American Water's corporate policy recognizes that "...adverse economic impacts on vulnerable customers can and should be addressed." American, through its state subsidiaries, has active programs to educate customers how to lower their water costs. American Water helps customers with household retrofits, conservation programs, payment programs and financial assistance, means testing and grants up to \$500, with a customer commitment to stay current on water bills. Neafsey described several specific programs that have been in place for some time. These can be found online in her power point presentation at <http://usmayors.org/urbanwater/>

Panel Expresses Continued Dissatisfaction with EPA

Ballard asked the panelists several questions eliciting their perspective on the current EPA affordability criteria relying on Median Household Income (MHI). He asked if the current affordability assessment process adequately considers the economic burden on lower income populations; and if the panelists think EPA should reconsider using MHI as an acceptable affordability index?

Berger pointed out that the report released November 2014 by The U.S. Conference of Mayors on the Public Water Cost per Household clearly



demonstrates that use of MHI masks the effect on the below median income households, which can be a high burden for low and fixed income households. He stated that Integrated Planning, if codified into law, could be a valuable tool for cities to balance water quality and economic concerns.

Yarber said there clearly should be greater consideration of the percent of households below MHI, and especially those who are also below the poverty line. He stated that this type of consideration "...probably paints a more accurate picture" of the economic burden.

Montgomery gave an Akron example of how using MHI doesn't take income distribution into consideration. The lowest 20 percent (quintile) of population in Akron has a high end of the income bracket at just under \$13,000, and if MHI is used to measure affordability the high end of the income bracket households would have to spend 10.6 percent of their income on sewer.

Jones also agreed that the MHI masks lower income household financial

impacts. She pointed out that high utility bills force low income households to make significant trade-offs in everyday economic life. She stated that the United Nations defines unaffordable water rates as those that require households to give up the right to housing, education, health care, etc. in order to afford water. She pointed to the growing challenge in cities such as Boston, where Mayor Walsh has taken positive steps to address the problem by establishing a 30 percent discount for low income seniors and persons with disabilities. Three states: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut all have adopted state laws to prohibit water shutoffs to households with children under two or 12 years of age.

Jones stated, "We have to broaden the discussion at one of those consent decree negotiations so that the justice voice for low income people can be amplified if it's not just environmental litigators, the municipalities the judge and the EPA at the table."



Carmel (IN) Mayor **Jim Brainard** is on his way to an unprecedented sixth term. Brainard won 67 percent of the vote in the Republican primary on May 5, defeating the City Council President, and no Democrat entered the primary. Brainard, who is a U.S. Conference of Mayors Trustee and Co-Chair of the Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force, has received national attention for his work on building 90-plus roundabouts and transforming his downtown into a vibrant Arts & Design District, City Center and Center for the Performing Arts.



Saving for College vs. Saving for Retirement: Which Comes First?

It's a tricky question — kind of like the age-old chicken or the egg puzzler. While there may be no definitive right answer, there are some things to consider that show you why it may be best to put retirement savings first.

Tax savings boost

One of the most valuable benefits of savings through your workplace savings plan is that contributions are made on a pretax basis. For that reason, the money you save in your plan lowers your taxable income, giving you the potential to pay less in taxes each year.

Playing the percentages

Saving through your plan may give you the opportunity to earn an investment return that exceeds the interest rate associated with a college loan. For example, if you earn a seven percent return on your investments and a student loan carries a

four percent interest rate, you'd come out ahead by saving for retirement.

The known and the unknown

You know that you'll eventually retire. But it's more difficult to predict with certainty if your children will go to college. And even assuming they do, there's the question of which college they will attend. They may end up at a less expensive school. If that's the case, those extra dollars may have been better applied to your workplace savings plan.

You've got options

When it comes time to pay for college, there are more options available to you and your children. There may be an opportunity for a student loan. There may even be partial scholarships available. But you can't take out a loan to fund your retirement.

You may be in a position to save for

retirement and your children's college education. And that's great. But if you are faced with a choice, there are valid reasons to put your own savings first.

It's common — expected even — to want to provide the best opportunities for your children. You just may want to think twice before sacrificing too much of your own future in order to do so. After all, college only last four years, but your retirement could be 20 years or more.

And in one sense, taking care of your finances first does provide a benefit to your children too. They'll have the peace of mind that comes with knowing you're financially independent in retirement — not to mention the fact that it can mean that you won't have to come back to roost with them due to lack of retirement income.

This article is provided by Empower Retirement™. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Empower have a platinum partnership that provides retirement services to Conference of Mayors members. For more information about guaranteed investment options, contact Jeff Bean with The U.S. Conference of Mayors at 202-446-8140 or Don Jurgens with Empower Retirement at 303-737-3370.

Think Your Employees Don't Need Disability Insurance? Think Again.

By Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company Public Sector Market Services Vice President Carey Adamson

Your city employees are in their prime working years, healthy and strong. The last thing they would need to worry about is disability insurance, right?

Wrong — for two reasons.

Reason #1: Disability doesn't discriminate based on age, gender or race. And most people vastly underestimate their chances of being unable to work at some point in their careers because of injury or illness. In fact, a Council for Disability Awareness study last year reported more than 20 percent of workers under 40 say they're more likely to win a big lottery than become unable to work due to illness or injury.

Ready for the real odds? One chance in 259,000,000 they'll hit the jackpot vs. one in four they'll be disabled during their career, according to the CDA. Which do you want them to gamble on?

Reason #2: An employee's ability to earn an income may well be their most valuable asset. OK, most people get that. In the same CDA study, people ranked their income right up there with their home — and just behind their health — as by far the three most important things in life.

But most working consumers aren't doing anything to protect that all-important resource. A strong majority agree it's important to protect their health and home, but only 28 percent see protecting their income as crucial. In fact, way more people — 73 percent — think it's important to protect their car, the CDA survey shows.

Affordable Financial Safety Net

Consider your employees' daily living expenses: mortgage or rent, gas, utilities, food, day care — not mention the fun stuff like movies, soccer camp, piano lessons or those great golf shoes that just went on sale. How long could they continue to pay



their bills without that paycheck?

Many, if not most, of America's workers are already stretched thin financially. A 2013 CareerBuilder.com survey said more than three-quarters are living paycheck-to-paycheck at least some of the time. And the CDA survey said only 38 percent of adults have an emergency fund to fall back on.

Disability insurance purchased through your city's benefits plans, often through payroll deduction, can provide an affordable financial safety net to protect an employee and their family's way of life. So take a few moments to educate yourself. There's lots of good information on the [Council for Disability Awareness website](#), or visit Colonial Life's [benefits learning center](#). Then, if your city doesn't already offer disability insurance as an employee benefit, consider adding it. It's easy and affordable with the right benefits partner.

Because suffering a disability really could be the last thing your employees need to worry about — if you take steps now to help them do something about it.

About the Author

Carey Adamson is vice president of public sector market services for Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company.

Colonial Life is a market leader in providing financial protection benefits through the workplace, including disability, life, accident, cancer, critical illness and hospital confinement indemnity insurance. The company's benefit services and education, innovative enrollment technology and personal service support more than 80,000 businesses and organizations, representing more than 3 million of America's workers and their families. For more information about Colonial Life's products and services, contact Adamson at CLAdamson@ColonialLife.com or visit the website www.ColonialLife.com.



Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company Public Sector Market Services Vice President Carey Adamson

You can also connect with Colonial Life online at www.facebook.com/coloniallifebenefits, www.twitter.com/coloniallife and www.linkedin.com/company/colonial-life.





By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at Justice (COPS) posted information in late April on its 2015 grant programs. The Office expects to open the application period for the programs in mid-May.

The 2015 COPS Hiring Program: CHP provides funds for hiring or rehiring law enforcement officers, funding 75 percent of the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits of each newly hired and/or rehired full-time officer, up to \$125,000 per officer position, over the three-year grant period.

Applicants must identify a specific crime and disorder problem/focus area and how the CHP funding would be used to initiate or enhance their capacity to implement community policing approaches to that problem/focus area. In 2015, those applicants who select "Homicide/Gun Violence," "Homeland Security Problems" or "Building Trust" as their problem/focus area will receive additional consideration. Also receiving additional consideration will be applicants who indicate that the officer position(s) requested will be deployed as a

COPS Office Releases Preliminary Guidance on 2015 Grant Programs

School Resource Officer (SRO) and those who commit to hiring or rehiring at least one military veteran under CHP will receive additional consideration for CHP funding. Details are available online at <http://cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2367>.

Community Policing Development Program

CPD is a competitive grant program designed to advance the practice of community policing in law enforcement agencies through training and technical assistance, the development of innovative community policing strategies, applied research, guidebooks, and best practices that are national in scope. Projects funded in 2015 must relate to one of the following topic areas: Microgrants Initiative for Law Enforcement; Critical Response Technical Assistance; Community Policing Emerging Issues Forums; President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Field Initiated Projects; and Collaborative Reform Initiative Program Evaluation. Details are available online at <http://cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2450>.

Other Initiatives

The COPS Office will also be funding

several smaller initiatives this year which provide funding to states or regional task forces to address specific problems:

- **The Anti-Gang Initiative** is a competitive grant program designed to fund regional anti-gang task forces comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address gang activity, focusing on enforcement, prevention and education, and intervention.
- **The Anti-Heroin Task Force Program** is a competitive grant program intended to assist state law enforcement agencies in states with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for both heroin and other opioids by providing funds to be used for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescription opioids.
- **The 2015 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program** is a competitive grant program intended to provide funds directly to state law enforcement agencies to investigate illicit activities related to the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine.

Justice Department Announces Body-Worn Camera Initiatives

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The Department of Justice announced on May 1 a \$20 million Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Pilot Partnership Program intended to respond to the immediate needs of local and tribal law enforce-

ment organizations. The program is part of President Barack Obama's proposal made late last year to invest \$75 million over three years to purchase 50,000 body-worn cameras for law enforcement agencies.

"This body-worn camera pilot pro-

gram is a vital part of the Justice Department's comprehensive efforts to equip law enforcement agencies throughout the country with the tools, support, and training they need to tackle the 21st century

See CAMERAS on page 11



Key Congressional Committees Pass Fast Track Trade Legislation

By Dave Gatton

Both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee have passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation that establishes the objectives and rules by which the Administration negotiates major trade deals and informs Congress of the substance of such deals. Passage of TPA, which requires Congress to take an up-or-down vote on major trade deals without amendment, is considered the first crucial step in eventual passage of major trade deals, such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act (TPS

2015) was introduced in April by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan. It was passed out of the Senate Committee on a bipartisan 20-6 vote. In the Ways and Means Committee, only two Democrats voted for the measure. The Obama Administration has endorsed TPA 2015 and sees it as critical to eventual passage of major trade deals it is currently negotiating.

Prior to the Committee votes, Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran released a statement in support of TPA 2015 based on policy adopted at its 2014 Annual Conference of Mayors in Dallas. "TPA will

ensure that the nation's metro economies will continue their expansion into the global marketplace," Cochran said. In expressing the Conference of Mayors support, he said that the Conference of Mayors "strongly supports enforceable labor and environmental provisions in future trade deals that raise global standards." (See page 10 for the full statement.) U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman has repeatedly said that the TPP and other trade deals will include, for the first time, enforceable standards, which are also included as key objectives in the TPA legislation.

Both the House and the Senate are expected to move their respective TPA bills to floor action in the May.

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challenges we face," said Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch. "Body-worn cameras hold tremendous promise for enhancing transparency, promoting accountability, and advancing public safety for law enforcement officers and the communities they serve."

Through the Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will provide \$17 million to law enforcement agencies to develop, implement and evaluate BWC programs, which it labels as "one tool in a law enforcement agency's comprehensive problem-solving approach to enhance officer interactions with the public and build community trust." BJA

expects to make up to 50 awards to law enforcement agencies, with about one-third of the grants going to smaller agencies (defined as having less than 250 officers). A 1:1 local match is required.

Grants can be used to purchase equipment, but applicants must establish a strong plan for implementation of body-worn cameras and a robust training policy before purchasing them. The long-term costs associated with storing this information will be the financial responsibility of each local agency. The application deadline is June 16. Details are available online at <https://www.bja.gov/Funding/15BWCsol.pdf>.

During May, BJA also will launch a BWC Implementation Toolkit that will focus on implementation requirements, retention issues, policy concerns, interests of prosecutors, victim and privacy advo-

cates' concerns, and community engagement and funding considerations.

In a competitive procurement, BJA will award another \$2 million to a national BWC training and technical assistance provider that will assist the agencies receiving grants in developing and enhancing their BWC programs, with the goal of supporting successful program implementation.

Finally, the Bureau of Justice Statistics will receive \$1 million to collect data on body-worn camera usage through surveys of law enforcement agencies. BJS will also design data collection forms that can be used in future surveys of prosecutors and public defenders to measure how the courts are using body-worn camera footage in criminal cases.



NEWS

The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM COCHRAN ISSUES STATEMENT ON INTRODUCTION OF TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Washington, D.C. – The United States Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran today issued the following statement in support of the introduction of the Trade Promotion Authority legislation (TPA-2015):

“The United States Conference of Mayors is pleased that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, Ranking Member Ron Wyden, along with Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan have reached agreement on Trade Promotion Authority legislation (TPA-2015). At its 2014 Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX, the nation’s mayors adopted policy in support of TPA that includes high standard objectives. TPA-2015 contains objectives that help protect intellectual property rights and addresses various trade barriers.

“The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports enforceable labor and environmental provisions in future trade agreements that raise global standards. U.S. metro economies represent more than 90% of the nation’s gross domestic product and 92% of the nation’s future economic growth, one-third of which is projected to come from expanding exports. TPA paves the way for our metro economies to take full advantage of dramatically expanding markets overseas, which are critical to our economic future.

“Coupled with stronger Trade Adjustment Assistance legislation, TPA will ensure that U.S. metro economies continue their expansion into the global marketplace. We look forward to working with Congress and the Administration as further details on major trade agreements emerge. Based on our policy resolution, we call on Congress to move TPA-2015 legislation forward.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are nearly 1400 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/usmayors, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.



Johnson, Nutter, Ballard Named to Advisory Council

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

President Barack Obama was at Lehman College in the Bronx May 4 to announce the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, a new independent nonprofit intended to eliminate the gaps in opportunity and achievement for boys and young men of color.

In talking about his MBK initiative started over one year earlier, Obama said, "It's an idea that we pursued in the wake of Trayvon Martin's death because we wanted the message sent from the White House in a sustained way that his life mattered, that the lives of the young men who are here today matter, that we care about your future – not just sometimes, but all the time."

"In every community in America, there are young people with incredible drive and talent, and they just don't have the same kinds of chances that somebody like me had. They're just as talented as me, just as smart. They don't get a chance," the President continued. "And because everyone has a part to play in this process, we brought everybody together. We brought business leaders and faith leaders, mayors, philanthropists, educators, entrepreneurs, athletes, musicians, actors – all united around the simple idea of giv-

President Obama Announces My Brother's Keeper Alliance

ing all our young people the tools they need to achieve their full potential."

Discussing his personal commitment to young men and their future, the President said that he is "in this for the long haul. We're going to keep doing our work at the White House on these issues. Sometimes it won't be a lot of fanfare.... But we're just going to keep on plugging away. And this will remain a mission for me and for Michelle not just for the rest of my presidency, but for the rest of my life."

The MBK Alliance will support programs that target the six MBK goals:

- 1) Entering School Ready to Learn;
- 2) Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade;
- 3) Graduating from High School Ready for College and Career;
- 4) Completing Post-Secondary Education or Training;
- 5) Successfully Entering the Workforce; and
- 6) Reducing Violence and Providing a Second Chance.

It is starting with three programs:

- A Playbook for Corporations and Businesses – a comprehensive guide to mobilize the private sector in addressing key obstacles facing young men of color;
- Innovation Grants – Up to \$7 million in grants to programs and organizations with proven, innovative intervention programs; and
- A Community Grants Competition – A \$15-25 million grants competition to provide up to nine communities with \$3 million to build local infrastructure and capacity.

The Alliance already has more than \$80 million in commitments in in-kind and financial donations from 15 private sector organizations, mainly large companies such as American Express, BET Networks, Discovery Networks, PepsiCo, Sam's Club, and Sprint.

Former Deloitte CEO Joe Echevarria was named the Chairman and CEO of the MBK Alliance. Performer and activist John Legend was named Honorary Chairman. Many of the members of the Alliance's 20-person Board come from the organizations that have provided the cash and in-kind commitments.

A 32-member Advisory Council was also named. Among its members are three mayors, all Conference of Mayors leaders: President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, Past President and Co-Chair of the organization's MBK Task Force Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, Chair of the [Mayors Professional Sports Alliance](#). Among the other Advisory Council members are former U.S. Secretary of State General Colin Powell, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, and U.S. Senator Cory Booker.





Newton Mayor Warren, CDBG Coalition Briefs Capitol Hill Staff

By Gene Lowe

In an ongoing effort to increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the CDBG Coalition, a group of 21 national organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, held a briefing on Capitol Hill April 28. The CDBG Coalition is requesting Congress to increase CDBG to \$3.3 billion.

Attended by more than 40 Capitol Hill staff, remarks were made by Newton Mayor Setti Warren, Dauphin County (PA) Commissioner George P. Hartwick III and George Washington Regional Commission Executive Director Tim Ware, a Past President of the National Association of Development Organizations.

Representative Joe Kennedy (MA-04) and Representative James McGovern (MA-02) also shared remarks at the briefing to demonstrate their strong support of the program.

The briefing provided an overview of the CDBG program, which has been

cut by nearly \$1 billion since fiscal year 2010. The CDBG Coalition also discussed the results of a recent survey of the program. The results of the CDBG survey suggest that the 25 percent reduction in formula funding for CDBG over the last five years is having a substantial negative effect on the collective ability of cities, counties, and states to serve Americans in need, promote homeownership, grow local economies, and strengthen the nation's infrastructure.

During the program, panelist Warren, who also serves as Chair of the Conference of Mayors Community Development and Housing Committee, said, "CDBG is one of the most effective and vital federal programs allocated to local government. Based on flexible choice and implementation by local decision makers, CDBG provides the agility to respond to unique local problems and concerns. Having just celebrated its 40th year in existence, the program is a mainstay of community and economic development, housing infrastructure, public

improvements, and public services to thousands of cities across the nation."

Hartwick, a member of NACo's Board of Directors, explained that the program is just as critical to counties as it is to cities. "Counties across the country leverage the flexibility of CDBG funds to support local top priorities including community revitalization and economic development, homeownership, infrastructure and human services. As we work with the private and non-profit sectors to address local needs, we need strong partners on Capitol Hill. We urge Congress to invest in the CDBG program to support our communities and residents," he stated.

Ware urged unwavering Congressional support saying, "At a time when local governments and rural communities are striving to overcome intensifying economic competition, aging public infrastructure, and shrinking federal investments, it is vital that federal policy makers continue to maintain strong funding for the CDBG program."

House Appropriations Subcommittee Funds CDBG at \$3 Billion

By Eugene T. Lowe

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) approved \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula grant program for FY2016. The program would receive the

same as last year's funding, but \$200 million above the Administration's FY2016 budget request.

But the subcommittee, chaired by Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (FL), cut the HOME Investment Partnerships program from \$900 million to \$767 million; the Administration had recommended \$1 billion. The bill also sends all 2016 National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) resources to

the HOME program and does not allow any resources to go to the NHTF.

The Public Housing Capital Fund is cut from \$1.8 billion to \$1.6 billion, while the Public Housing Operating Fund is funded at last year's funding level of \$4.4 billion. Homeless Assistance Grants is slightly increased from last year but

See CDBG FUNDS on page 15



By Larry Jones

House and Senate negotiators reached agreement after weeks of back and forth deliberations on a final 2016 budget April 29 that promises to balance the federal budget over the next decade, repeal the President's signature health care law (the Affordable Care Act), strengthen national defense, and improve economic growth. The House approved the measure by a vote of 226 – 197 on April 30, mostly along party lines, and the Senate adopted it by a vote of 51– 48 on May 5, again mostly along party lines.

The measure would allow a \$38 billion increase in defense spending, which would be treated as emergency spending not subject to spending limits imposed on

Congress Approves 2016 Budget Along Party Lines

defense and domestic spending under the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA). The BCA was enacted in part to reduce the federal deficit by controlling discretionary spending. To get around this limit, the increase was added to an emergency defense spending account known as an Overseas Contingency Operations account, which requires no offsets.

No parallel increase was added for domestic programs. However, the measure includes \$20 billion for Changes in Mandatory Program Spending, which is nothing more than an accounting gimmick that allows appropriators to exceed spending limits on domestic programs by showing that unspent funds from mandatory programs (which have restricted use) are used to support other priorities.

While the budget resolution adopted by Congress is non-binding, it serves as a guide for appropriators to develop

the 12 spending bills that fund federal departments and programs. The measure assumes overall spending in 2016 will remain at or near its current level.

The measure approved by Congress is on a collision course with the President, who submitted his own budget earlier this year. The President's budget calls for ending the spending limits on both defense and domestic programs, and adding an additional \$38 billion for defense and \$37 billion for domestic programs. The increased amount for domestic programs in the President's budget is almost double the amount in the budget approved by Congress. This is unlikely to win approval from the White House. Further, the President has vowed to veto legislation called for in the congressional budget that would repeal the Affordable Care Act by a simple majority vote.

CDBG FUNDS

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below the Administration's request of \$2.4 billion. The subcommittee said that the approved funds for Homeless Assistance Grants "will enable the renewal of all projects meeting performance standards." The Choice Neighborhood Initiative is cut from \$80 million to \$20 million, far below the Administration's request of \$250 million.

The CDBG Coalition, comprised of 21 national organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, in a letter thanked Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member David Price (NC) for providing an increase of \$200 million above the President's request for the Community Development Block Grant Program as

part of the FY2016 Transportation-HUD bill. The CDBG Coalition said further: "CDBG is important to state and local communities and this funding will make a difference in the lives of low- and moderate-income people. CDBG has been cut substantially since FY2010 and we will continue to advocate for at least \$3.3 billion for CDBG in the final FY2016 THUD measure. We recognize how hard you worked to achieve the \$3.0 billion level for CDBG in the FY2016 House THUD bill, considering the budget climate, and we greatly appreciate it."

Subcommittee Chair Mario Diaz-Balart said, "This bill supports our nation's most critical infrastructure and housing needs by focusing on core operations and cutting wasteful programs. Though difficult decisions had to be made, I am confident

our priorities will ensure the stability of these vital areas. I look forward to continue working with my colleagues to move this bill through the legislative process."





By Kevin McCarty

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson joined his colleagues from the leading national organizations of locally elected and appointed officials to urge Senate and House transportation leaders to use the new surface transportation renewal law to direct more federal highway program dollars to cities and local areas.

Johnson joined the top leaders of the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Association of Regional Councils, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and National Association of Development Organizations on the April 20 letter to key Congressional transportation leaders. (See groups' letter at <http://usmayors.org/documents/MAP-21RenewalLetter.pdf>.)

Writing to Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Jim Inhofe (OK), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (CA), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) and Ranking Member DeFazio, the coalition letter conveyed specific recommendations seeking to "localize" more highway program funding as federal legislators continue to draft a long-term "MAP-21" renewal.

"On behalf of the local government community and its elected and appointed transportation officials, we are writing to thank you for your ongoing efforts to avoid any disruption in the flow of critical transportation funding for federally-assisted bridge, highway, and transit projects," the groups wrote. "As you continue your efforts to secure an adequately-funded, multi-year surface transportation bill, our organizations will stand with you to advance this critical legislation, especially

Conference of Mayors, Local Groups Urge Congress to Direct More Federal Transportation Dollars to Local Areas



At left, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler joins with Senator Cory Booker (NJ), Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security, following a May 5 hearing on MAP-21 renewal.

as our members see renewed Congressional commitments to local and regional decision-making."

Conveying the united position of the six organizations, the leaders added, "Specifically, we urge you to suballocate more funding to local decision-makers and local areas under the Surface Transportation Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, details of which we have shared with your staff. We also seek reaffirmation of longstanding federal commitments to the more than 177,000 federal-aid highway bridges (or "on-system bridges") that are not a part of the designated National Highway System, which lost access to predictable

funding after MAP-21 took effect. These requests can be accomplished within the program's current structure, without the need for new programs."

Piscataway Mayor Wahler Supports Effort

Appearing before a Senate Subcommittee hearing on renewing MAP-21, Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler conveyed the support of local elected and appointed officials in New Jersey for the coalition's recommendations, urging support for more resources to local areas under the Surface Transportation Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and

See HIGHWAYS on page 17



By Kevin McCarty

The Administration's newly-established Broadband Opportunity Council (BOC) recently invited public comment on how federal agencies can promote broadband deployment, adoption and competition.

In its formal request for comment issued April 28, the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, the BOC's lead agencies, are soliciting public input on actions federal government agencies can take to modify current regulations and change other practices that might hinder the deployment of broadband.

This official request also seeks recommendations on strategies to promote public and private investment in broadband and information on the challenges facing areas that lack access to broadband. The Council, which is made up of 25 federal agencies, was initially created by Presidential action in March, and is charged with identifying regulatory and policy barriers, ways to incentivize investment in broadband, and strategies to align funding policies and decisions to support broadband access and adoption.

"In an increasingly interconnected world, reliable access to broadband is essential to U.S. economic growth and competitiveness," said Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administra-

Administration's New Broadband Council Seeks Comments on Ways to Promote Broadband Deployment, Adoption, Competition

tion Lawrence E. Strickling, who has been designated as Commerce's representative on the Council. "While Commerce's broadband programs have made great progress in expanding broadband access and adoption, the Council will look for new and improved ways all federal agencies can target resources and regulations to ensure all Americans can take advantage of this vital technology."

"Everyone has a stake in ensuring that all Americans, whether they live in the city or a rural community, have high-speed Internet access. We look forward to hearing from all stakeholders on what further steps the federal government can take to expand broadband access, adoption and competition," said Under Secretary for Rural Development Lisa Mensah, the Agriculture Department's designee on the Council.

This request for comment identifies a number of questions where the Council is seeking specific comments. The deadline for submitting comments is June 10. Written comments may be submitted by e-mail to BOCrfc2015@ntia.doc.gov or by mail to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

In addition to the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, the Council shall include the heads, or their designees, of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Science Foundation, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, the Council of Economic Advisers, the Domestic Policy Council, the National Economic Council, the National Security Council staff, and such other Federal agencies or entities. Notably, the Council shall consult with other relevant agencies and with the Federal Communications Commission as appropriate.

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the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program.

Testifying as President of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, Wahler delivered his remarks at a May 5 hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on [Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine](#)

[Infrastructure, Safety and Security](#). At the Conference of Mayors, Wahler serves as an Advisory Board Member and chairs the Standing Committee on Membership.



Transportation Secretary Foxx Announces “Ladders of Opportunity” Initiative

By Kevin McCarty

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently announced a new element of his “Ladders of Opportunity” initiative, one that will deliver technical assistance to seven communities nationwide to help “foster sustainable economic development related to planned transportation projects.”

Foxx joined Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard April 23 in his city to unveil the new technical assistance program – LadderSTEP – designed to support these cities in making decisions regarding transportation infrastructure that, according to the department’s release, will “revitalize communities, create pathways to work, and connect hardworking Americans to a better quality of life.” Indianapolis was selected as one of the seven cities and will receive technical support focusing on its Red Line Corridor of the city’s bus rapid transit (BRT) project.

“Transportation plays a critical role in connecting Americans and communities to economic opportunity,” Foxx said. “This pilot program is not only about helping seven cities achieve their visions for projects, but also about demonstrating that transportation infrastructure is about the people that use it, and not just the equipment needed to build it.”

In addition to Indianapolis, the LadderSTEP pilot program will also provide technical assistance to the cities of Atlanta, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Charlotte, Phoenix, and Richmond, delivering support for better planning and economic growth in the focus areas. In Atlanta, for example, the focus area will be the Vine City neighborhood, targeting ongoing investments in the region’s rail transit system



At left, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx who announced the seven pilot cities under the Ladders of Opportunity Initiative during a recent visit to Indianapolis.

(MARTA), BeltLine and Atlanta Streetcar to help influence the development future of the area. All of the other cities, similarly, will focus on future development and improved transportation access made possible through investments in rail transit or BRT projects. These efforts are expected to produce results benefiting other cities and local areas that are undertaking similar investments in transportation systems and services.

Among the several tools and other Departmental and Administration programs efforts that will be brought to bear on these focus areas, discretionary funds at U.S. DOT, including future TIGER grants, are also expected to support these pilot programs.





By Kevin McCarty

U.S. DOT Issues Final Rules to Promote Safer Rail Transportation of Crude Oil, Flammable Liquids

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx released a long-awaited set of rules May 1 providing for the safe transportation of flammable liquids by rail, offering up a significant and comprehensive array of changes to improve accident prevention, mitigation and emergency response.

The rules, developed by U.S. DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in coordination with Canada, focus on safety improvements to prevent accidents, mitigate consequences in the event of an accident, and support emergency response.

Key elements of the rulemaking package includes a new, enhanced tank car standard and schedules for retrofitting for older tank cars used to carry crude oil and ethanol, requires a new braking standard for certain trains to reduce the

severity of accidents, sets new operational protocols for trains transporting large volumes of flammable liquid (including information for local government agencies), and new sampling and testing requirements to improve classification of energy products placed into transport.

"Safety has been our top priority at every step in the process for finalizing this rule, which is a significant improvement over the current regulations and requirements and will make transporting flammable liquids safer," said Foxx. "Our close collaboration with Canada on new tank car standards is recognition that the trains moving unprecedented amounts of crude by rail are not U.S. or Canadian tank cars – they are part of a North American fleet and a shared safety challenge."

"I commend Secretary Foxx for his continued leadership and quick action

to set rail safety standards that will help keep our communities safe from the growing number of oil trains passing through them," said Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who has been a national leader among mayors in calling for stricter federal safety rules. "I have discussed these issues with mayors across the Midwest and across the country, and we all agree that the Administration, Congress, industry and state and local officials must take a comprehensive approach to rail safety in order to prevent, mitigate and respond to potential disasters."

In addition to this substantial rulemaking, other federal agencies are also working to make transporting flammable liquids safer, efforts by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Energy (DOE), which are pursuing strategies to improve safety.

Following DOT's announcement on the new rules, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (SD) and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) issued a joint statement, mostly praising the action. "We are pleased the Department of Transportation has finally set a stronger Federal standard for transporting crude oil by rail. The new tank car requirements are a sensible approach to address shortcomings in older car designs and will lead to substantial safety benefits."

The final rule represents the latest in a series of nearly 30 U.S. DOT actions over the last 19 months, including additional emergency orders, safety advisories and other actions.



West Sacramento Tackles Urban Blight with Urban Farms

By Crystal D. Swann

West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon accepted on behalf of The 5th and C Street Urban Farm the 2015 GRO1000 Community Garden and Green Spaces award to expand urban agriculture in the city of West Sacramento. The grant, funded through a partnership between The United States Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro, will help increase healthy food accessibility for area residents.

"This grant marks a tipping point in our efforts to support the growth of urban farms in West Sacramento," said Cabaldon. "It [5th and C Street Urban Farm] has helped to deal with one of the toughest food deserts in our community as well by bringing fresh healthy local produce to folks in the neighborhood at extraordinarily affordable prices and has brought back



At left, West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon and ScottsMiracle-Gro North American Region President Mike Carbonara discuss the future of urban farming in West Sacramento.

GRO1000

healthy eating to a neighborhood that has been challenged by that in the past."

Located in the Bryte-Broderick neighborhood of West Sacramento, the 5th and C Street Urban Farm transformed an abandoned lot into a bustling urban

farm, which produced more than 7,500 lbs. of produce last season alone. By expanding the urban farm program to additional locations, 5th and C Street will help address the issue of public health by providing a healthy food source for the community. With the help of GRO1000, the completed expansion will have a mobile farm stand for produce sales and donations, a tool lending library and increased farm locations for beginning farmers to engage in urban agriculture.

The expanded 5th and C Street Urban Farm will improve the lives of West Sacramento residents by:

- Providing an environment where healthy living is encouraged through agricultural training programs.
- Creating a sustainable urban farm business model to revitalize the local economy.
- Promoting healthy lifestyles through better nutrition and outdoor gardening activities.
- Inspiring youth and community members to create a local food source that fosters community stewardship.



Left to right, ScottsMiracle-Gro North American Region President Mike Carbonara, USCM Assistant Executive Director Crystal Swann, West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, and ScottsMiracle-Gro Corporate and Community Partnerships Director Su Lok.

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Mayors Provide Financial Education to Residents for DollarWise Month

Mayors across the country were invited to participate in April DollarWise Month, an initiative designed to help Americans seek free help during tax season. This year's theme was "Be DollarWise With Your Tax Refund." DollarWise urged mayors to promote their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites as well as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Cities were encouraged to distribute comprehensive online financial literacy tools from BetterMoneyHabits.com, to help Americans understand how to responsibly use their tax refunds.

Some of the participating cities included: Akron, Alexandria (VA), Boston, Chester, Hialeah, Lake Charles, Louisville, Merced, Northglenn, Palm Bay, Pembroke Pines, Jacksonville, and Washington (DC).



DOLLARWISE

MAYORS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY

DollarWise also encouraged cities to promote "Spent: Looking for Change," a documentary that addresses the dangers of payday lending. Lansing aired "Spent: Looking for Change" on its public access channel, with an introductory message from Mayor Virg Bernero. Kansas City (MO), and Memphis are scheduled to hold public viewings of the film in the coming months.

DollarWise congratulates each of these mayors and their cities for their participation, and for their dedication to financial literacy. For more information on The DollarWise Campaign, contact Program Manager James Kirby at jkirby@usmayors.org.

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- Creating a place for area youth to learn about food production and the benefits of community green spaces.

This year, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will award four grants to city-based gardening and green spaces programs across the U.S. including programs in Hartford, Rochester, West Sacramento, and Dallas. The partnership with ScottsMiracle-Gro Company is a part of The U.S. Conference of Mayors overall commitment to highlight outstanding mayoral leadership in the areas of community gardening and green space development. For more information on the program, visit the website usmayors.org/Gro1000.



Left to right, ScottsMiracle-Gro U.S. Regions and Latin America President Jim Tate, West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, and Franklin Park Conservatory Growing to Green Program Coordinator Bill Dawson.

Winning Jacksonville Program Expands Food Accessibility to Fight Obesity

By Crystal D. Swann

Better food options for children have expanded in west and east Jacksonville thanks to a program announced jointly Monday by Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, the I'm A Star Foundation, the American Beverage Association (ABA), the Florida Beverage Association, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Florida Department of Health in Duval County. In addition to announcing the expansion plans of the award-winning program, Brown accepted a \$150,000 grant for Jacksonville's obesity prevention efforts.

"Here in Jacksonville, we all want our kids to be happy and healthy," said Brown. "The I'm A Star Foundation's new healthy corner stores will increase the availability of nutritious fruits and vegetables, giving children in our community better snack options. I am proud to support these important efforts to promote healthy lifestyles for our kids."

Jacksonville received grant funding from the Conference of Mayors and the ABA because of its outstanding local programs that encourage healthy weight through balanced diet choices and regular physical activity.



Left to right, I'm a Star Foundation Executive Director Betty Burney, Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown, and USCM Assistant Executive Crystal Swann surrounded by the I'm A Star Kids during the launch of new healthy corner store project.

"The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds Mayor Brown and the I Am A Star Foundation for their work and dedication to fighting childhood obesity. Combating childhood obesity has become a top priority for mayors in their cities," said Conference of Mayors CEO and

Executive Director Tom Cochran. "And that's why we're so proud of our partnership with the American Beverage Association, to support the pioneering strategies that mayors and cities are developing to eradicate childhood obesity."

"We're proud to support Jacksonville and Mayor Brown's innovative efforts to prevent obesity by encouraging balance for the city's children," said American Beverage Association President and CEO Susan Neely. "This partnership proves that by working together, industry and mayors can make a real difference in the lives of families when it comes to diet and health."

Under the leadership of the I'm A Star Foundation, the funding will be used to open two new healthy corner stores that will expand access to nutritious food options, especially fresh fruits and vegetables, in areas of town exhibiting a lack of affordable, healthful food.

The I'm A Star Foundation is comprised of middle and high school students from schools throughout Duval County, with a mission to empower young people



A small sampling of the produce that will be available through the new healthy corner store initiative in Jacksonville made possible through a grant from USCM and ABA.

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Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Johnson Talks on Sports Issues at NYU



Photo by NYU Photo Bureau/Asselin

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson was the guest at a Mayors Forum on Sports in the City, sponsored by the Tisch Institute for Sports Management, Media, and Business at New York University April 23. Johnson was interviewed by nationally renowned law professor, television commentator, and now Associate Dean of the Tisch Center Arthur Miller before a group of more than 200 hundred students, faculty and friends of the Tisch Institute. Johnson covered such issues as NBA and Cities 3.0, the challenges facing the major sports leagues, the technology enhancements of the new Sacramento Kings arena, and ways sports can address societal issues.

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Mayors Against Illegal Guns

Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a program of Everytown for Gun Safety, is a national, bipartisan coalition of mayors working to make America's communities safer by cracking down on illegal guns. Since its creation in April 2006, Mayors Against Illegal guns has grown from 15 mayors of major cities to more than 1,000 current and former mayors in nearly every state and more than two million grassroots supporters – making us the largest gun violence prevention advocacy organization in the country.

Special Interests: Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice

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usmayors.org/buscouncil



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to become solution-oriented leaders in their respective schools and communities. I'm A Star equips local youth to perform at high levels of excellence and recognize that they are STARS: Smart, Talented and Resilient Students! All programs, projects and initiatives are designed, developed and implemented by students ages 12-18.

"Our student leaders understand the devastating impacts of childhood obesity and are working tirelessly to make Jacksonville one of America's healthiest cities," said I'm A Star Foundation CEO Betty

Burney. "I am grateful that they will have the resources to impact the entire city of Jacksonville."

Since 2011, student leaders in the I'm A Star Foundation have advocated for bold action and decisive steps in the fight against childhood obesity. The organization is the recipient of numerous awards from the Florida Department of Health and has been at the forefront of a local movement to make Jacksonville a health-conscious city.

"Organizations such as the I'm A Star Foundation provide an opportunity for students to engage the community in developing solutions to reduce health disparities," said Florida Department of

Health in Duval Director Dr. Kelli Wells. "The Healthy Corner Store initiative is an excellent way to raise awareness about the importance of consistent access to healthier food choices."

With a focus on public-private partnership and community collaboration, this most recent award underscores Mayor Brown's expansive efforts to support healthy lifestyles in Jacksonville, which also include his commitment to increase access and grow opportunities for active living, especially for young people, through the city's expansive park system.

Conference of Mayors Helps to Open World Expo, Strengthens Ties with Italian Mayors

By Paul Leroux

As the official guest of both the USA Pavilion and the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI), The U.S. Conference of Mayors participated in official opening activities of the 2015 World Expo. The Expo, themed "Feeding the planet, energy for life," was officially opened in Milan on May 1 by Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, the former mayor of Florence.

A U.S. Conference of Mayors delegation, led by CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, was in attendance to represent America's cities at the overall Expo Opening Activities. This event featured speeches by Prime Minister Renzi, Milan Mayor Giuliano Pisapia, Lombardy Regional President Roberto Maroni, International Exhibitions Bureau President Ferdinand Nagy, and, via video link, Pope Francis.

That same day, the Conference of

Mayors delegation participated in the Opening Ceremony of the USA Pavilion, which is themed American Food 2.0 and features a collection of transplanted American food trucks. The delegation was welcomed by USA Pavilion Commissioner General Douglas T. Hickey and Ambassador Philip Reeker, the U.S. Consul General to Milan. Following the Opening, Cochran met with Reeker and his staff to discuss ways to further support the Pavilion and its promotion of America's cities.

While in Italy, the delegation also met with ANCI, the Conference of Mayors Italian counterpart about strengthening ties between U.S. and Italian mayors. ANCI Secretary General Veronica Nicotra and Head of Institutional Marketing and Associations Patrizia Minnelli held multiple conversations with the Conference of Mayors in the last week, and together are developing plans for a more formalized dialogue.



Left to right, U.S. Consul General to Milan Ambassador Philip Reeker, USA Pavilion Commissioner General Douglas T. Hickey, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran at the opening of the USA Pavilion's Food Truck Nation during Expo 2015.

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL

Member Profile

DUKE ENERGY

Duke Energy is the largest electric power holding company in the United States with more than \$100 billion in total assets. Its regulated utility operations serve approximately 7.1 million electric customers located in six states in the Southeast and Midwest. Its commercial power and international business segments own and operate diverse power generation assets in North America and Latin America, including a growing portfolio of renewable energy assets in the United States.

Headquartered in Charlotte (NC), Duke Energy is a Fortune 250 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available online at www.duke-energy.com.

Special Interests: Downtown Development, Economic Development, Education, Energy, Environment, Infrastructure, Real Estate, Small Business Development, Utilities Issues

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





San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee

SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR ED LEE

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May 19 at 5:00 p.m. EDT**



Host City Events:

- Welcome Gala: San Francisco City Hall – Friday Night
- Sunrise Walk Across the Bay: The Golden Gate Bridge – Saturday Morning
- Color of Life Global Celebration: California Academy of Sciences – Saturday Night
- Celebration of Faith and Community Service: Glide Memorial Church – Sunday Morning
- Bash by the Bay: The Embarcadero – Sunday Night
- Morning in the Park: Golden Gate Park – Monday Morning
- San Francisco Tech and Innovation Tour: Autodesk, Twitter and Uber – Monday Afternoon
- Year of the Goat Chinese Celebration: Chinatown – Monday Evening
- Family Activity Programs – Throughout the conference, families and guests will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including boat rides to Alcatraz Island, Wine Country tours, visits to Muir Woods, Fisherman's Wharf, and the Exploratorium, and a Presidio Play Day for the kids.

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