



# U.S. MAYOR

Rawlings-Blake Pushes for Criminal Justice Reform . . . . . Page 5

USCM Priorities Included in Senate Water Bill, Support Needed . . . . Page 6

May 25 is Resolutions Deadline for USCM Annual Meeting . Back Page

## Rawlings-Blake/Abramson Hold White House Call on Zika, Landrieu Testifies for Emergency Funding

By Crystal Swann

As of this printing, the Senate has advanced a bipartisan bill to provide \$1.1 billion in Zika funding. Senators voted 68-29 to pass an amendment by Sens. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., to provide the emergency funding. However, Republican House leaders introduced legislation that would provide \$622 million in Zika funding, which they would pay for in part by using money allocated to fight Ebola. The House bill could come to a vote as early as this week.

On Thursday May 5, The U.S. Conference of Mayors hosted a conference call with the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs on the threat of the Zika virus and what mayors could do to address the issue

in their cities. The call - lead by USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jerry E. Abramson, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, involved a discussion on the local impact of the virus and the need for additional resources on the ground for better testing tools and effective strategies to protect citizens.

Shortly thereafter, the Conference of Mayors joined with the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the National League of Cities calling on Congress to pass emergency funding legislation to respond to the Zika virus. Cities and city health departments are on the frontlines of this impending crisis. Many mayors are

mounting aggressive information strategies and mosquito mitigation plans to address the Zika virus as mosquito season gets underway. See the letter on page 3.

Emergency supplemental funding is badly needed to respond to the Zika virus.

CDC has already diverted more than \$44 million from public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) to fund the Zika response as well as nearly \$500 million from Ebola funding. Backfilling this PHEP funding, in particular, is critical to making sure that communities are ready to respond to all threats. In February, President Obama re-

see **ZIKA** on page 3

## Bollwage Testifies in House on Brownfields, Advocates for Five Needed Actions

By Judy Sheahan

USCM Trustee Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, testifying on April 21 before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, urged House members to take up the issue of brownfields redevelopment and pass a bill this Congress. The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee has already included brownfields reauthorization in their recently passed Energy Bill.

"Brownfields redevelopment is a win-win for everyone involved," Bollwage said, "it creates jobs, it cleans up the environment,



Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage (center) speaks at a House hearing about the importance of brownfields reauthorization to, at left, Representatives Paul Tonko (NY) and Frank Pallone (NJ), at right.

see **BROWNFIELDS** on page 4



### Nominating Committee - Indianapolis

Conference President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has appointed the 2016 Nominating Committee for the 84th Annual Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors.

There are 11 members: Chair, Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Past USCM Presidents Elizabeth Kautz of Burnsville and Kevin Johnson of Sacramento, Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, Birmingham Mayor William Bell, Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis, Carmel Mayor James Brainard, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, Charleston Mayor John Tecklenberg, Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan, and Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry. The two alternates appointed are Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle and Nashville Mayor Megan Berry.

If by chance one of the appointed members decides to run for an opening in the USCM leadership, he or she must not accept the appointment and an alternate would move up to be a full-fledged member. Alternates do not attend the Nominating Committee meeting or vote.

Openings for leadership positions this year include the office of Second Vice President, a vacancy created by Second Vice President Mitch Landrieu moving up to the office of Vice President. This opening puts the mayor elected by the delegates in Indianapolis to be our new Second Vice President and in line to be President in June of 2018. This year, the two mayoral candidates for the Second Vice President are Columbia Mayor Stephen Benjamin and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer.

This year there are three openings for Trustees and there are six openings on the Advisory Board.

The Nominating Committee will meet on Saturday, June 25 in Indianapolis. The Committee will make their recommendations report to our delegates assembled Saturday afternoon. And all delegates will vote on the new leader-

ship in full in our Plenary Business Session on Monday, June 27.

If you have any questions about the Nominating Committee process, please contact Sue Fredeen at [sfredeem@usmayors.org](mailto:sfredeen@usmayors.org) or 202-861-6703. Sue is my primary staff person in charge of the Nominating Committee.

### Presidential Candidates - Indianapolis

We continue to work on getting former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator Bernie Sanders, and Mr. Donald Trump to attend our 84th Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. We had invited all of the Republican candidates but since the Trump knockout in the Indiana Primary earlier this month, and the recent meetings last week with Speaker Ryan, we will focus on getting Mr. Trump to come and give us his vision on infrastructure plans for our cities.

There is general consensus that all candidates have spoken on the need to modernize our aging infrastructure including roads, bridges, rails, airports, and water.

Water was a main priority of the Conference in our 2016 presidential agenda. The issue with the Flint situation certainly highlights the poisoning of a city and related to that is our overall aging infrastructure of pipes and lines of our water system throughout the United States.

### 2016 Campaign Issues

As we have discussed the issues within our bipartisan meetings, two issues have emerged under Conference President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake: infrastructure and public safety. These two needs were translated into our 2016 saying, "Invest and Protect." President Rawlings-Blake has laid down this message in her Presidency since June of last year.

Her message is building and getting further bipartisan and media support as we head into our Indianapolis Meeting next month. And we will carry that message through at a number of sites and events:

- The Republican National Convention- Cleveland, July 18-21
- The Democratic National Convention- Philadelphia, July 25-28



## U.S.MAYOR

**Publisher  
Editor-in-Chief  
Tom Cochran**

ISSN 1049-2119

Managing Editor:  
Ed Somers

Contributing Editors:  
David W. Burns\*  
Debra DeHaney-Howard  
David Gatton  
Larry Jones  
Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland  
Paul Leroux  
Eugene Lowe  
Kevin McCarty  
Tom McClimon  
Geri Powell  
Judy Sheahan  
Crystal Swann  
Elena Temple-Webb  
Laura DeKoven Waxman  
Jim Welfley  
Kathy Wiggins

Produced by:  
Yvonne Dailey

*\*proof reader*

Advertising information:  
<http://usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper>  
[advertise@usmayors.org](mailto: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.

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director

email address changes to:  
[usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org)

- The First Presidential Debate- Dayton, September 26
- The USCM Fall Leadership Meeting, Chaired by new President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett - September 29-October 1

see COCHRAN on page 7



NATIONAL  
LEAGUE  
of CITIES



NACCHO  
National Association of County & City Health Officials

May 10, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services &  
Education Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services &  
Education Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Representatives Lowey and DeLauro:

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and National Association of County and City Health Officials call on you to advance legislation without delay to respond to the Zika virus. Our associations serve people in cities and counties where the burden of Zika will be felt directly.

Emerging infectious disease threats like Zika require ongoing vigilance, but the particular risks from this virus require immediate, additional investments. We urge Congress to provide emergency supplemental funding for Zika rather than repurpose money from other high priority programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal agencies that ensure our health security and public health preparedness. CDC has already diverted more than \$44 million from public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) to fund the Zika response. Backfilling this PHEP funding is critical to making sure that communities are ready to respond to all threats.

Although not a new virus, 2015 marked the first widespread transmission of the Zika virus in the Americas. The virus is spread primarily by mosquitoes and usually causes only mild illness or no symptoms. However, in Brazil and other countries affected by Zika there has already been a steep increase in birth defects in infants born to mothers who were infected during pregnancy. In January 2016, CDC warned women who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant to avoid travel to regions and countries with widespread Zika transmission or to prevent being bitten by

According to the CDC, the Zika virus is transmitted to people primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito (*A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus*). These are the same mosquitoes that spread dengue and chikungunya viruses. These mosquitoes typically lay eggs in and near standing water in things like buckets, bowls, animal dishes, flower pots and vases. They prefer to bite people, and live indoors and outdoors near people. Mosquitoes that spread chikungunya, dengue, and Zika are aggressive daytime biters, but they can also bite at night. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites.

For comprehensive information about the virus go to [cdc.gov/zika/index.html](http://cdc.gov/zika/index.html).

### Conference Second Vice President Landrieu Testifies on Urgent Need for Zika Funding

Conference 2nd Vice President New Orleans Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu testified before the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee on May 11 in support of the urgent need for federal funding to help fight the Zika virus. "We have a big time sense of emergency, so the message is now, not later," Landrieu told the committee members.

see ZIKA on page 7

## ZIKA

from front page

quested \$1.9 billion in emergency funding to both expand the Zika fight and restore the funding in the Ebola fund.

With this funding, federal, state and local public health professionals would be able to pursue virus readiness and response, enhanced laboratory, epidemiology and surveillance capacity in at-risk areas, and surge capacity through rapid response teams to limit potential clusters of Zika virus. Moreover, supplemental funding would assist the CDC and USAID in efforts to contain the Zika virus in Zika-endemic countries and ensure that there are resources for surveillance, vector control and services for affected pregnant women and children.

mosquitoes there. With the weather getting warmer and increased numbers of mosquitos in many places in the United States, Congress can no longer wait to act.

In local communities, health departments are engaged in educating the public and health care providers about Zika, conducting prevention activities through mosquito eradication and screening travelers from countries where the outbreak has surfaced. Our associations urge you to act quickly in providing emergency supplemental funding to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support the local response to Zika with increased virus readiness and response capacity focused on areas with ongoing Zika transmission; enhanced laboratory, epidemiology and surveillance capacity in at-risk areas and surge capacity through rapid response teams to limit potential clusters of Zika virus in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. For further information, please contact: Crystal Swann, Assistant Executive Director, at [cswann@usmayors.org](mailto:cswann@usmayors.org) or 202/861-6707; Carolyn Coleman, Esq., Senior Executive and Director of Federal Advocacy at [coleman@nlc.org](mailto:coleman@nlc.org) or 202/626-3023 or Eli Briggs, Senior Government Affairs Director at [ebiggs@naccho.org](mailto:ebiggs@naccho.org) or 202/507-4194.

Sincerely,

Tom Cochran  
CEO & Executive Director  
United States Conference of Mayors

Clarence E. Anthony  
CEO & Executive Director  
National League of Cities

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH  
Executive Director  
National Association of County and City Health Officials



# BROWNFIELDS

from front page

it's pro-business, and pro-community. The reauthorization of this law should be a top priority for this Congress and I urge you to pass a reauthorization bill."

Brownfields are abandoned or underutilized property, whose redevelopment is hindered by either real or perceived environmental contamination. The Government Accountability Office has estimated that there are 400-600,000 brownfields sites in the United States.

Bollwage, who has been the Mayor of Elizabeth since 1993, has also served as the Conference's Brownfields Task Force Chair for more than 20 years and has testified numerous times over his career on this subject, including twice this past year.

Bollwage outlined the tremendous benefits that the Brownfields Program has already

EPA estimates that for the past five years, over 1,700 requests for viable projects were not awarded money because of limited funding. EPA estimates that if they were able to provide funding to those turned away applicants, an additional 50,000

state and Federal level, this innovative project transformed a former brownfield into a thriving shopping experience - with more than 200 stores and a movie theater.

"The conversion of this former eyesore into



Elizabeth Mayor Bollwage thanks Senator Cory Booker (NJ) for cosponsoring the bipartisan Senate brownfields bill.



From left, Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and Senator Patrick Leahy (VT).

accomplished including the completion of 24,000 brownfield assessments, over 1,200 cleanups, 113,000 new jobs and nearly \$22 billion dollars leveraged. In fact, for every EPA dollar spent leverages approximately \$18 in other investments.

According to Bollwage, the problem is that EPA has had to turn away a lot of highly qualified applicants due to lack of funding.

jobs would have been created along with \$12 billion of leveraged funding.

The Mayor highlighted one of his own brownfield redevelopment projects, the Jersey Gardens Mall, which is one of the most successful brownfield redevelopments in Elizabeth. The mall was built on a former landfill in 1999 and through strong private-public partnerships on the county,

a shopping center had numerous positive effects on the health of the neighborhood," Bollwage said, "it created new employment opportunities (1,700 construction jobs and almost 4,000 permanent jobs), assisted in the stabilization of property taxes (\$2.5 million in revenue for the City of Elizabeth in its first 8 months of operation) and continues to improve the overall quality of life within the city." Bollwage said that although the brownfields program was very successful, there were ways to improve the program. "The challenge that communities face now is that many of the easy brownfield sites have been developed and now what remains are the more difficult brownfield sites - the medium to dark brown brownfield sites," said Bollwage, "The Conference of Mayors, believes that with some minor changes to the Brownfields Law and Program would help spur on additional redevelopment projects and economic growth."

These recommendations include the following:

- Full Funding of the Brownfields Pro-

see BROWNFIELDS on page 5

# Rawlings-Blake Commends Changes to Senate Criminal Justice Reform Bill, Urges Quick Floor Action

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

A bipartisan group of Senators announced new provisions and new cosponsors to the comprehensive Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S. 2123) in an April 28 Capitol Hill press conference. These new provisions attracted six additional co-sponsors to the bill, bringing the total to 37 – 19 Democrats and 18 Republicans. Among those participating in the announcement were Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (IA) and Ranking Member Patrick Leahy (VT), along with Senators John Cornyn (TX), Dick Durbin (IL), Mike Lee (UT), and Sheldon Whitehouse (RI).

That same day Conference President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake issued a statement commending the Senators on the bill's revisions, which she said make it a better bill that can garner even more bipartisan support, and urging Senate leaders to bring it quickly to the floor. As a result of the changes, a major law enforcement organization, the National District Attorneys Association, is now supporting the bill.

S. 2123 was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee October 22 on a bipartisan vote of 15-5. Bipartisan negotiations led to the changes announced April 28. These

changes preclude the retroactive application of sentencing reforms to an individual whose record includes a serious violent felony and remove language that actually weakened some penalties for firearms offenses. In addition they require an annual report by the Attorney General that shows how savings that come from the sentencing reforms are being reinvested in federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors.

With these changes, S. 2123 would:

- Reform and target enhanced mandatory minimums for prior drug felons;
- Broaden the existing safety valve for non-violent low-level offenders and create a second safety valve for non-violent low-level offenders facing 10-year minimums;
- Make the enhanced 25-year minimum for certain firearm offenses a recidivist penalty;
- Create new mandatory minimums for interstate domestic violence and certain export control violations;
- Apply retroactively the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 and certain other sentencing reforms, but limit that retroactivity if an individual's record contains any seri-

ous violent felony convictions;

- Provide for prison reform based on the pending legislation that would require the Department of Justice to conduct risk assessments to classify all federal inmates and to use the results to assign inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs, including work and education programs, drug rehabilitation, job training, and faith-based programs;
- Limit solitary confinement for juveniles in federal custody and improve the accuracy of federal criminal records;
- Create a new mandatory sentencing enhancement for offenses involving fantasy; and
- Provide for a report and inventory of all federal criminal offenses.

Although it is likely the bill would pass if it were brought up on the floor for a vote, none has been scheduled so far. Mayors and others have been urging Senate leaders to allow a vote, and the Conference of Mayors is currently circulating among the mayors a sign-on letter to both Senate and House leaders urging quick floor action by both chambers on criminal justice reform legislation.

---

## BROWNFIELDS

from page 4

gram;

- Creation of a Multi-Purpose Grant;
- Increase Cleanup Grant Amounts;
- Allow Reasonable Administrative Costs;
- Clarify Eligibility of Publicly-Owned Sites Acquired Before 2002;
- Remove Barriers to Local and State Governments Addressing Mothballed Sites; and
- Encouraging Brownfield Cleanups by Good Samaritans.

Meanwhile, the Senate EPW Committee included brownfields reauthorization in their

Energy Bill and included many of the provisions that the Conference of Mayors has been advocating for including:

- Creation of a \$950,000 Multi-purpose grant that could be used by a community for assessments or cleanups of one or more brownfield properties;
- Allows Local Governments who owned sites before 2002 to apply for brownfield grants;
- Increases funding for remediation grants from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and can be as much as \$650,000;
- Allows 8% for administrative costs; and
- Expands eligibility for nonprofit organizations to apply for cleanup grants.

The Conference is advocating for the House to introduce a similar bill so that when the Energy bill conferees meet, that the brownfield provisions would stay in the final bill. Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty (CT) has introduced H.R. 4463 that addresses some of the Conference's recommendations and Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ) had introduced bills in past Congresses. Both the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee have expressed a bipartisan willingness to introduce and pass a brownfields bill.

Please contact your Congressional offices and urge them to pass a Brownfields Reauthorization bill this year.

# USCM Priorities Included in Senate Water Bill

## Mayors Encouraged to Register Support

By Judy Sheahan

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, on April 28, passed S. 2848, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) by a vote of 19-1. In addition to addressing the traditional Army Corps issues, the bill, under the leadership of EPW Chairman James Inhofe (OK) and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (CA) contained many provisions that address many top priorities of the Conference of Mayors including: codifying Integrated Planning and Affordability; providing resources to Flint and other communities with lead contaminated drinking water; supporting robust authorization levels for Clean and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs); creating a Sewer Overflow Control grant program; authorizing money for the Water Infrastructure Investment Fund (WIFIA); as well as addressing Water Supply Issues.

"We sincerely thank Senators Inhofe and Boxer for their bipartisan leadership to address our nation's water infrastructure issues. S. 2848 is a major step forward to address many of the issues of concern that have been raised by the Mayors of this na-

tion," said Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, "Mayors are struggling with the issue of rebuilding infrastructure, providing financing, complying with unfunded mandates, and doing it all in a way that remains affordable for their citizens."

For the first time ever, the Senate included language that would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator to inform municipalities of the opportunity to prepare an integrated plan which would allow them to plan comprehensively for all of their water and wastewater needs in a more sustainable and cost effective way. The bill also requires EPA to use other measures beyond 2% Median Household Income (MHI) as their sole basis for what a city can afford as well as require an update of its 1997 Financial Capability Assessment Framework.

The bill also authorizes \$60 million per year for five years for a grant program for replacement of lead service lines, testing, planning, corrosion control, as well as

education. "The measure authorizes much needed resources to the City of Flint and other cities, which find themselves with a crisis of lead exposure due to their drinking water systems," said Cochran, "S. 2848 provides resources to both the public sector and private citizens for lead pipe replacement, loan forgiveness, as well as lead testing in schools and child-care facilities."

The bill also creates a \$1.8 billion per year sewer overflow grant program for addressing combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, and stormwater discharges. It also creates an Office of Municipal Ombudsman at EPA.

We are asking all Mayors to call their Congressional delegations to encourage Senate leadership to take up this bill for a full floor vote and for the House to take up similar provisions during this Congressional year.

To look at the bill or a section by section analysis of the bill, please go to the Mayors Water Council website at [usmayors.org/urbanwater](http://usmayors.org/urbanwater).

### MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile



Lyft is the latest evolution in mobile-based ridesharing – a friendly, safe, and affordable transportation option that matches people who need rides with people who have extra space in their cars. Lyft launched in June 2012 and is now in over 65 cities across the US. Lyft has worked with City and State leaders throughout the country on safety-first policy for this innovative transportation option and the majority of states now have ridesharing legislation in place. 60 percent of all Lyft passengers and 30 percent of drivers are female, a direct demonstration of the platform's safety and accessibility innovations.

For more Business Council profiles visit the USCM Website at [usmayors.org/buscouncil](http://usmayors.org/buscouncil)

# House Passes Legislation Targeting Opioid and Prescription Drug Epidemic

By Crystal Swann

The House voted 400-5 on Friday in favor of a combination of 18 bills that were approved this week to address the growing opioid crisis across the nation. The bills passed over the past four days passed with significant bipartisan support, although Democrats have lamented that the package does not include any new funding to address the programs.

Next week, the chamber will begin the process to go to conference with the Senate, which passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act in March. They will also start to decide which members are a part of the conference committee, which will negotiate a final bill with Senators. Lawmakers hope to put a final version of a bill to address the opioid crisis this summer before congress recesses for the party conventions and August recess.

In a flurry of activity earlier this week, the House of Representatives passed 18 pieces of legislation aimed at tackling the opioid addiction epidemic in the US. The bipartisan legislation includes many elements needed to address the epidemic that is killing a reported 44 people a day in this country.

The House bills try, in various ways, to address the country's epidemic of opioid addiction, from legislation that would help pregnant mothers battling heroin dependency to bills that would crack down on excessive opioid prescriptions. Perhaps most importantly, some of the legislation is aimed at improving what is a thoroughly broken treatment system, with many addicts stuffed into programs that rely on faith-based or 12-step programs, eschewing evidence-based approaches such as medication-assisted treatment.

Some experts believe that some of the House bill provisions such as the availability of naloxone prescriptions and protections for first responders fall short of what many states and localities have already done. For example another proposal would establish a pilot grant program for prescribing naloxone to people at risk for an opioid overdose. Many states have already put in place programs to allow residents to receive naloxone without a prescription at all. In fact, Baltimore's health commissioner issued a blanket naloxone prescription for the entire city last year and has suggested that the medication should be in every medicine cabinet.

The Senate bipartisan bill which, passed on a vote of 94-1, "Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act," echoes many of the elements in the president's budget request.

---

## ZIKA

from page 3

Mayor Landrieu strongly endorsed President Obama's request for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding to fight Zika. Mayor Landrieu in his testimony highlighted that travel and tourism cities like his, attract millions tourists from around the world every year and that adequate mosquito mitigation tools were necessary to prevent any potential outbreaks. Landrieu said New Orleans is home to both of the mosquito species that transmit Zika.

Several mayors including New York City Mayor Bill deBlasio, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu have developed strategic

plans to address the Zika virus.

### Senate Leaders Reach Bipartisan Zika Funding Deal

On May 12, Senate negotiators announced deal on a \$1.1 billion emergency funding measure to battle the Zika virus. That amount is less than President Obama's request for \$1.9 billion in February. The lesser amount has upset some Democrats who foresee a further reduction when the measure moves to the House.

The bipartisan measure is sponsored by Senator Roy Blunt (MO) and Patty Murray (WA), and will mostly likely be attached to the joint Transportation-HUD and Military Construction-

VA appropriations bundle expected on the floor next week.

It's expected that some Senators, upset at the lower number, will try next week to pass amendments raising funding level to the \$1.9 billion requested by the Administration.

Also, some Senate Republicans are expected to offer an alternative amendment that finances the bill through spending cuts. It's being reported that next week the Senate will vote on three bills - the Blunt-Murray bill, the President's \$1.9 billion proposal authored by Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL), and a \$1.1 billion package authored by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) that would use the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset.

---

## COCHRAN

from page 2

We are planning on a final event for the bipartisan Conference of Mayors to hold, a national infrastructure forum in early October. This is a broad outline of events for us to carry our message of "Invest and Protect" as we go forward.

### 84th Annual Meeting - Indianapolis, June 24-27

Indy is going to be a hot political meeting as the mayors gather on the eve of the national political conventions with much to say about the future of our cities and our nation. We will keep you updated about this most important meeting in the swing state of In-

diana and of course, the great city in the heartland, Indianapolis.

Register now! Contact Carol Edwards, Director of Conferences and Conventions, at [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) or 202-293-7330.

# U.S. Justice Department, North Carolina Line Up on Opposite Sides of State's Public Facilities Law

by Laura DeKoven Waxman

The U.S. Department of Justice has weighed in against the North Carolina law overturning Charlotte's ordinance that provided new legal protections for gay, lesbian, and transgender people. Among other things potentially at stake are millions of dollars of federal aid to the State.

In a May 4 letter Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, informed Governor Pat McCrory that the Department has determined that, as a result of the State's compliance with and implementation of the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act (H.B. 2), both he and the State are in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "Specifically, the State is engaging in a pattern of practice of discrimination against transgender state employees and both you, in your official capacity, and the State are engaging in a pattern or practice or resistance to the full employment of Title VII rights by transgender employees of public agencies," the letter reads.

Also that day Gupta sent a letter to University of North Carolina President Margaret Spellings stating that despite her statements that the University will not tolerate discriminatory behavior on the basis of gender identity, "UNC's limitations on bathroom access by transgender individuals on UNC campuses," puts the system in violation of Title VII, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA). She sent a third letter to North Carolina Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank Perry on VAWA violations.

On May 9 the State of North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Justice each filed lawsuits against the other. North Carolina's suit, a declaratory judgment action asking the federal courts to clarify federal law, came first. Commenting on his lawsuit, McCrory said: "The Obama administra-

tion is bypassing Congress by attempting to rewrite the law and set restroom policies for public and private employers across the country, not just North Carolina. This is now a national issue that applies to every state and it needs to be resolved at the federal level." "They are now telling every government agency and every company that employs more than 15 people that

and implementation of H.B. 2.

"This action is about a great deal more than just bathrooms," Attorney General Lynch said in a Justice Department press conference that day. "This is about the dignity and respect we accord our fellow citizens, and the laws that we, as a people and as a country, have enacted to protect them – indeed, to protect all of us. It's about the

"This action is about a great deal more than just bathrooms. This is about the dignity and respect we accord our fellow citizens, and the laws that we, as a people and as a country, have enacted to protect them – indeed, to protect all of us. It's about the founding ideals that have led this country – haltingly but inexorably – in the direction of fairness, inclusion, and equality for all Americans."

- U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch

men should be allowed to use a women's locker room, restroom or shower facility," he continued.

A few hours later, U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch announced that the Justice Department had filed a complaint against the state of North Carolina, the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety alleging that they are discriminating against transgender individuals in violation of federal law as a result of the state's compliance with

founding ideals that have led this country – haltingly but inexorably – in the direction of fairness, inclusion, and equality for all Americans. This is not a time to act out of fear. This is a time to summon our national virtues of inclusivity, diversity, compassion, and open-mindedness. What we must not do – what we must never do – is turn on our neighbors, our family members, our fellow Americans, for something they cannot control, and deny what makes them human."



## Mayor Wahler Addresses 53rd Conference of New Jersey Mayors



USCM Membership Chair Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler shares USCM's 2016 Mayors Compact for a Better America during the N.J. Conference of Mayors 53rd Annual Conference. He urged his colleagues to help advance the 16-points in the Compact and also encouraged them to attend the 84th U.S. Conference of Mayors in Indianapolis.



### MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile



The Alliance promotes energy efficiency to achieve a healthier economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy security. To achieve this mission, the Alliance: Leads worldwide energy efficient initiative in policy advocacy, research, education, technology deployment and communications that impact all sectors of the economy; Provides vision and activism which includes active and engaged Member of Congress, leaders from business, the public interest sector and academia; Initiates and participates in public-private partnerships, collaborative efforts and strategic alliances to optimize resources and expand its sphere of influence; and Executes its mission through a team of recognized energy efficiency experts and professionals.

The Alliance is the sum of nearly 140 Associates and a diverse and bipartisan Board of Directors, now led by our Honorary Chair Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and our industry Co-Chair Jane Palmieri, Business President of Dow Building & Construction, working with an array of other foundations, organizations, partners and stakeholders.

Special Interests: Energy, Environment

For more Business Council profiles visit the USCM Website at [usmayors.org/buscouncil](http://usmayors.org/buscouncil)

# St. Louis Wins 2016 Garden and Green Spaces Award

By Joan Crigger

On May 4, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay launched an Expansion of the Butterfly Byway at Bellerive Park as part of the ScottsMiracle-Gro Company's and The U.S. Conference of Mayors' nationwide GRO1000 gardens and green spaces awards program. The \$40,000 award will fund monarch gardens at the northern portion of the Mississippi Riverfront, establishing a prominent southern terminus for the St. Louis Butterfly Byway Project.

Students from two different local St. Louis schools participated in the event working together with community group volunteers and others and planted the initial garden space in Bellerive Park. The gardens will provide additional acreage of pollinator habitat and educational opportunities for residents to connect with nature and learn the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem. During the dedication ceremony, Mayor Slay said, "The fact is, people need nature."



From left: Joan Crigger, U.S. Conference of Mayors, presenting \$40,000 award to St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay with Brad Rethman, Vice President, ScottsMiracle-Gro.



Unveiling Milkweeds for Monarchs sign, from left, Bill Dawson, Franklin Park Conservatory; St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay; Joan Crigger, USCM; Brad Dawson, and Su Lok, ScottsMiracle-Gro.

Milkweeds for Monarchs: The St. Louis Butterfly Project was launched by Mayor Slay on Earth Day 2014. It is a collaborative effort that is helping advance the Mayor's Sustainability Action Agenda by connecting people to urban nature, while increasing the monarch butterfly habitat.

GRO1000 is a national program launched by ScottsMiracle-Gro in 2011 to create more than 1,000 community gardens and green spaces in the U.S., Canada and Europe by 2018. The U.S. Conference of Mayors partnered with ScottsMiracle-Gro on the GRO1000 initiative to recognize mayors for the installation of innovative public green spaces designed to improve our nation's cities.

This year's winning cities include Atlanta, New York City, Providence, and St. Louis. For more information, go to the website [usmayors.org/gro1000](http://usmayors.org/gro1000).



# Play Ball Proclamations are Celebrating America's Sport

By Jocelyn Bogen

Mayors are issuing Play Ball Summer proclamations to let constituents know their city is participating in Play Ball Summer. Scanned copies are being sent to USCM, and mayors are presenting the original proclamations to little leagues teams, recreation centers and young athletes at a council meetings and local Play Ball events across the country.

Remember to add your event information to the events registry on [usmayors.org/playball](http://usmayors.org/playball). Please send us your Play Ball event photos so they can be featured in the upcoming editions of the Play Ball pages in U.S. Mayor Newspaper.

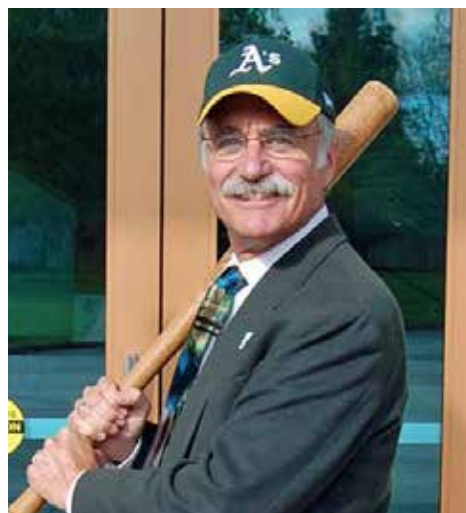
Play Ball is a joint program from Major League Baseball and USA Baseball that focuses on the fun nature of baseball and encourages widespread participation in baseball-related activities. Mayors and cities are planning baseball events June, July and August across the country.

If you have not taken the pledge and would like to participate, to pledge, go to [usmayors.org/playball](http://usmayors.org/playball) and click on the Take the Pledge icon, and provide the requested information. There is a 2016 Tool Kit on the website with information including a sample proclamation, event suggestions, press release and logos.

For more information on the Play Ball Program, please contact Jocelyn Bogen at [jbogen@usmayors.org](mailto:jbogen@usmayors.org) or Tom McClimon at [mcclimon@usmayors.org](mailto:mcclimon@usmayors.org).



Hoffman Estates Mayor Bill McLeod showed his #Cap-Son support for the Chicago White Sox.



Livermore Mayor John Marchand and First Dog Gatsby were proud Oakland Athletics's fans on #CapsOn Day.



## USCM CALENDAR

### 2016

Friday, June 24 - Monday, June 27

#### **84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Mayors**

Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330

Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774

Registration Open

Friday, June 24 - Saturday, June 25

#### **Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board/Annual Conference**

Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Ida Mukendi [imukendi@usmayors.org](mailto:imukendi@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6724

Registration Open

Monday, September 19 - Tuesday, September 20

#### **Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board Meeting 27th Annual Congressional Forum**

Washington, DC

Contact: Ida Mukendi [imukendi@usmayors.org](mailto:imukendi@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6724

Registration Opens Summer 2016

Thursday, September 29- Saturday, October 1

#### **Fall Leadership Meeting**

(Executive Committee, Advisory Board, Committee and Task Force Chairs Only)

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6747

Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774

Registration Opens Summer 2016

Wednesday, November 16-Friday, November 18

#### **Municipal Waste Management Association (MWMA) Fall Summit**

St. Petersburg, FL

Contact: Jubi Headley [jheadley@usmayors.org](mailto:jheadley@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6798

Registration Opens Summer 2016

### 2017

Tuesday, January 17 - Thursday, January 19

#### **85th Winter Meeting**

Washington, DC

Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330

Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774

Registration Opens Fall 2016

Friday, January 20

#### **Presidential Inauguration Day**

Washington, DC



# 84th Annual Conference of Mayors Indianapolis, Indiana June 24 – 27, 2016

Registration now open at [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

The deadline for USCM Member Mayors to submit proposed resolutions or change their Standing Committee memberships is May 25 at 5pm EDT.



**U.S. CONFERENCE  
OF MAYORS** **2016** *Indy*

**Contact:**  
Carol Edwards  
[cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org)  
202-293-7330

**Sponsorship:**  
Geri Powell  
[gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org)  
202-861-6774



Title Sponsor: