



# U.S. MAYOR

Taveras: Transforming Public Education in Providence . . . . 4

Immigration Reform Bill Approved by Senate Committee . . 10

Foxx DOT Nomination Subject of Senate Hearing . . . . . 11

## Nutter Spotlights Innovation, Engagement at Philadelphia Summit

By David W. Burns

Mayors, Chief Innovation Officers, New Urban Mechanics, and other city leaders met May 23-24 for the 2013 Mayors Innovation Summit, co-hosted by Philadelphia, Temple University's Fox School of Business, and The United States Conference of Mayors. Over the course of the two-day summit, participants had a chance to engage and discuss what innovation means for cities, how it's taking shape, and what makes cities successful when embarking with an innovation agenda.

"We have lots of innovative ideas to share, but we are also learning from what others are doing," said Conference of Mayors President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter. "We need to be constantly pushing the envelope."

See INNOVATION on page 5



USCM President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter opens the 2013 Mayors Innovation Summit.

## Villaraigosa Hosts 7th Sino-U.S. Mayors Summit

See Story on Page 6



Left to right, USCM Executive Director and CEO Tom Cochran, Immediate USCM Past President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, CAM President Beijing Mayor Wang Anshun, and CAM Secretary General Cui Hengde.

## Fischer Hosts Mayors, Dalai Lama on Compassion in Governing

See Story on Page 7



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and guests.



**May 31, 2013  
Washington, DC**

Louisville Mayor Greg Fisher hosted the Festival of Faiths in Louisville and invited mayors on May 16-17 for The Compassion in Governing Panel. The word compassion has different meanings to different people. Former President of the Conference of Mayors Dick Lee of New Haven once said that mayors are responsible for arresting the bad guys and they have the responsibility of wiping away the tears of people who need comforting.

The mayoral panel I moderated touched on the role of mayors through disasters, abject bigotry of many toward others, prejudices against one due to his or her religion, and lastly, the overall compassion citizens have toward one another concerning the ongoing equality issues we confront in a capitalist democracy.

In the somewhat cynical world in which we live, there are those who would question what Mayor Fischer is doing in Louisville. Cynics need to look at what the United States Conference of Mayors did in 2012. Mayor Fischer and Louisville were awarded our coveted City Livability Award for their citywide compassionate initiative, "Give a Day," which encouraged volunteerism across Louisville.

It was a learning experience for me, staff and other mayors to be in Louisville, to see for ourselves how widespread the living and active compassion movement is and how it permeates all faiths and all citizens of Louisville.

Congratulations Mayor Fischer to you and your team. We know you will continue to lead us and focus on sharing best practices on compassion, our caring for others, in other cities throughout our nation.

## Seventh Sino-American Summit/Chinese and USA Mayors in Los Angeles

We held our 7th Sino-American Summit in Los Angeles on May 14. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa hosted the summit in his hometown. Conference Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith led the American delegation and the Chinese delegation was led by Mayor Wang Anshun of Beijing, who is also President of the Chinese Association of Mayors.

This Summit, our 7th with the Chinese Association of Mayors, focused more on economic trade than the best practices on a particular subject that we have held in past years.

The economic trade thrust began when Mayor Scott Smith and I led a delegation to Nanjing last June. In Nanjing, we had over 40 business transactions/deals signed between businesses from China with American cities and vice versa.

We are constantly challenged with The U.S. Conference of Mayors international relations, which no doubt help the economy of our own nation and yet we receive no financial assistance or resources to implement treaties and memorandums of understanding by our federal departments or the Chinese Government.

Other nations provide financial assistance and resources to our counterpart organizations around the world. But we get no assistance. American diplomats go to China and sign agreements that there shall be meetings, summits, exchanges between "sub-national" governments, that's us folks – cities. Then we are left to find corporate or foundation funding to implement the agreements. It's frustrating, not realistic, and unfair.

We do believe international relations, import-export activities, and trade are essential in our new mission and we will continue.

We appreciate Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa opening his home to host us

**See COCHRAN on page 3**



**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

Evangelina Garcia

Larry Jones

Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland

Eugene Lowe

Kevin McCarty

Tom McClimon

Geri Powell

Judy Sheahan

Crystal Swann

Elena Temple-Webb

Laura DeKoven Waxman

Jim Welfley

Kathy Wiggins

Produced by Cicuye Studios

Proofreader: Crystal Swann

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.*

*Send address changes by e-mail to:  
[usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org).*

*Subscriptions: <http://www.usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper/>*

*[usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)*

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please e-mail address corrections to [usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org). No telephone calls please.



**COCHRAN**  
from page 2

following the summit. We were delighted to meet Mayor Trias of Barcelona there. We have a longstanding relationship with Barcelona and we have pledged to strengthen it in the coming months.

**Incoming President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith/  
Leadership Meeting, August 1-3, Park City, Utah**

Senior Staff and I met with Incoming President Mayor Scott Smith and his key staff in a private working dinner this past week. Mayor Smith will be announcing and unfolding his vision and work plan for the Conference to all of you as he takes the gavel to become our next President June 24 at our 81st Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Mayor Smith has already called for a

Super Leadership Meeting of Mayors in Park City, Utah, August 1-3. It is Mayor Smith's desire to get more of our membership mayors' issues on the table. He believes we must make sure that all recommendation coming from our member mayors be heard. Therefore, the Park City meeting, we hope, will provide a more retreat atmosphere with an open discussion of how we involve all members to help us with member-oriented goals. We all welcome this approach. It is needed and please make your plans to be with us in Park City, Utah, August 1-3.

**Las Vegas, 81st Annual Meeting, June 21-24, 2013**

With less than one month to go, we are planning for a great Las Vegas meeting. The Annual Meeting of The Conference of Mayors is THE meeting for USA every year. This week Ed Somers and I met with Conference of Mayors President Michael Nutter in Philadelphia as we are putting the finishing touches on our 81st.

We continue to work toward providing new "takeaways" and learning experiences and best practices you can take home to your city.

No doubt, we will have an array of dynamic speakers and the most impor-

tant thing about the Annual Meeting is for you to meet with your peer mayors in formal and informal meetings. As someone said, there is no book to teach one how to be mayor. You have leadership qualities and you best learn how to be a mayor, not from the so-called experts and social engineers. You learn best from other mayors and our organization and especially this annual meeting provides opportunities you can't find anywhere else.

Host Mayor Carolyn Goodman and her Las Vegas team has worked hard with us to make this event meaningful, productive, and, yes, enjoyable. Delegates are going to be surprised as to the "new" Las Vegas and it's not what is happening on the strip. The new Las Vegas, started by former Mayor Oscar Goodman and carried forward by his wife, the current Mayor Goodman, is an example of what mayoral leadership and action can do in transforming an old city into a dynamic place to live and work. We are pleased to showcase this success and progress as we give tribute to Mayor Carolyn Goodman for what she continues to do in this dynamic place, Las Vegas, USA.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas – soon!

---

## Conference of Mayors President Nutter Statement on Disaster in Moore, Other Communities in Oklahoma City Area

*Conference of Mayors President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter issued the following statement May 21 in response to the tornadoes and destruction in Moore (OK):*

"Across the country, Americans have watched the horrible destruction brought on by the devastating tornadoes that tore through the Oklahoma City region yesterday afternoon. But Americans also wit-

nessed the bravery of local first responders on the scene, of teachers protecting students, and of neighbors helping neighbors as rescue efforts began.

"The thoughts and prayers of the nation's mayors are with all of those who were killed or injured by these tornadoes and their families. And our thoughts and prayers are with Moore Mayor Glenn Lewis, Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, officials of the many other affected

communities across the region, and the people of the Oklahoma City area, as they struggle to recover from the damage and begin the extensive process of rebuilding their communities.

"Like the Joplin officials who have already sent a team to help rescue and recovery efforts, the nation's mayors stand ready to help their colleagues in the Oklahoma City area recover from this devastating tragedy."





# From Head Start to Harvard: Transforming Public Education in Providence

*By Providence Mayor Angel Taveras*

My commitment to transforming public education in Providence and urban school districts across our nation is rooted in my journey from Head Start to Harvard through Providence's public schools. Like many urban cities, Providence's schools face challenges. Forty six percent of third graders in Providence's schools are reading on grade level, and 37 percent of all students were chronically absent last year. Research shows that students who haven't learned to read by third grade are significantly more likely to struggle academically and drop out of school in future years. We have set an ambitious goal in Providence to have 70 percent of our students reading on grade level as they begin fourth grade.

We have enlisted our entire community in the effort to transform public education in Providence. The city is working closely with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet – 160 community leaders who are helping to guide the future of education in our city.

In October, Providence's Children and Youth Cabinet was among 31 organizations from across the nation recognized as a Together for Tomorrow Challenge winner for our efforts to turn around

low-performing schools and raise student achievement in every public school. Together for Tomorrow is a joint initiative of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships together with the U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

At the beginning of this school year, we launched Providence Reads – an initiative in partnership with businesses and organizations across our city to increase grade-level reading, promote school readiness, improve school attendance and support summer learning in Providence. And in March, Providence was selected from among 305 cities across the nation as the \$5 million grand prize winner of the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge. Our innovative initiative, Providence Talks, employs new technology and partners with home visitation programs to give families in our city the tools they need to measure and increase the number of words spoken in their households.

Children need to hear approximately 21,000 words every day for their vocabularies to develop at an appropriate pace. But research has shown that children growing up in less affluent homes hear far fewer words each day than their peers in middle and high-income households. This word gap adds up dramatically. By the time children growing up in low-income households reach their fourth birthday, they will have heard 30 million fewer words than their peers in middle- and high-income households.

Providence Talks – a free, confidential



**Providence Mayor Angel Taveras**

and completely voluntary early intervention program – is our plan to solve this national challenge right here in Providence. By improving their vocabularies before they even begin kindergarten, we believe "Providence Talks" will put low-income children on a path toward success in the classroom and lifelong achievement.

Education transformed my life. Education is the path out of poverty for our children. We believe that cities across America will one day look to Providence Talks as a game-changing model to level the playing field for children of all backgrounds.



# INNOVATION

from page 1

"Cities are platforms for innovation," said Conference of Mayors Technology and Innovation Task Force Chair San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee. "Cities are ecosystems that constantly adapt and change. So as we think about 'Innovating for Democracy,' we must remember that democracy isn't only a right, but is also a responsibility. We are all part of the ecosystem and we all play a role in innovating them so they thrive."

The first day of the summit opened with a panel titled "Innovating for Impact," a showcase of best practices from Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Boston CIO William Oats, and Jacksonville CIO Usha Mohan.

After showcasing the work cities are doing, the summit dove into the different tools and strategies mayors can use. This began with city a panel on open data moderated by Lee along with a talk by Chicago CTO John Tolva.

Lunch featured remarks by Comcast Executive Vice President David L. Cohen and a keynote by Brian Forde, Senior Advisor to the U.S. CTO from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he talked about using technology as a part of disaster planning and response along with how to include more women and minorities in the tech field.

After lunch, the Broadband infrastructure panel took stage with a talk by Google's Vice President of Access Services Milo Medin who, along with Kansas City Mayor Sly James and others, discussed Google Fiber and the importance of fast, reliable, and widespread Internet access and its role in innovation.

Immediately following was a panel on "Seeding Civic Engagement" moderated by Philadelphia CIO Adel Ebeid and featuring Conference of Mayors Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith. Smith, along with Boston New Urban Mechanics Co-chair Chris Osgood and others, shared different approaches for how citizens can participate in government, be it through apps, social media, or other forums.

"Marshalling the Forces," the panel on how to build an innovation agenda inside city hall and its impacts, concluded the first day of the meeting. This panel, mod-

erated by Tallahassee Mayor John Marks and featuring Fremont Mayor Bill Harrison, focused on how setting an innovation agenda inside city hall can be a starting point for economic development in a city.

Friday morning of the summit opened with a panel comprised of five entrepreneurs from Philadelphia's tech startup community, all working on projects to improve government or civic participation. Following was a diverse panel that discussed the "Barriers to Innovation," which featured Code for America's Jennifer Pahlka, Denver's Chief Performance Officer David Edinger, Nutter and others.



**USCM Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith discusses his "iMesa" initiative on the civic engagement panel.**

Concluding the summit was a panel about next steps and the role mayors can play to spur innovation in city hall and in their cities. Moderated by Google's Vice President of Public Policy Susan Molinari, Nutter, Smith, and Lee each shared their thoughts and ensured that the discussion would continue beyond the summit.

The summit provided a tremendous opportunity for civic innovators, be it a mayor, city staff, or entrepreneurs from the outside, to talk with one another and share ideas and current practices. Data, access, and inclusion appeared to be the key areas of focus for developing and



**USCM Technology and Innovation Task Force Chair San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee moderates a panel on open data during the first day of the 2013 Mayors Innovation Summit.**

executing an innovation agenda in a city.

"That's what happens when you have a lot of people in cities looking at information – they come back and show you things you hadn't even thought of," said Kansas City Mayor Sylvester "Sly" James.

The summit, the seventh hosted by the Center for Competitive Government at Temple University's Fox School of Business, added The United States Conference of Mayors for this year's summit. Philadelphia had been a partner in previous years and with Nutter being the Conference President along with innovation being a popular agenda item for the Conference of Mayors in its Technology and Innovation Task Force, it was a natural fit to collaborate on this year's summit.

More information about the summit and the Conference of Mayors Technology and Innovation Task Force can be found online at [usmayors.org/innovation](http://usmayors.org/innovation).



**Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer shares what his city is doing to innovate take advantage of new data they've never been able to use before.**



# Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa Hosts 7th Sino-U.S. Mayors Summit

By Lina Garcia and Tom McClimon

Mayors from dozens of cities in the United States and China met in Los Angeles last week to discuss the importance of increased cooperation and two-way trade and investment opportunities amongst the two nations. The United States Conference of Mayors, the Chinese Association of Mayors (CAM), China Center for International Economic Exchanges and the Paulson Institute co-hosted the 7th Sino-US Mayor's Summit, in Los Angeles on May 14, 2013, at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Participating mayors present during the two-day summit included Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Immediate Past President of Conference of Mayors; Conference of Mayors Vice President Mesa (AZ) Mayor Scott Smith; Akron (OH) Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic; San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee; Oakland Mayor Jean Quan; Tallahassee Mayor John Marks; and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. Beijing Mayor Wang Anshun, CAM President along with CAM Secretary General Cui Hengde headed up the Chinese delegation along with the mayors of Guiyang, Urumqi, Qiqihar, and Taicang.



**Signing of Memorandum of Understanding by USCM Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith; USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran; Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Beijing Mayor and President of the China Association of Mayors Wang Anshun; and Secretary General of the China Association of Mayors Cui Hengde.**

"We highly respect and cherish our relationship with the Chinese government and look forward to continuing to work with them, especially at the local level," said Cochran. As part of the meeting, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Chinese Association of Mayors signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to fur-

ther strengthen their long-standing relationship. In the memorandum, they also pledged to continue to work together for the betterment of local government, citizens, and urban areas, and, ultimately for their two nations.

The summit ended with a dinner hosted by Villaraigosa at the Getty House. JPMorgan Chase and Company was the main sponsor of the summit.

This was the seventh summit held between The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the China Association of Mayors.



**Mayors from U.S. and China attend 7th Sino Mayors Summit in Los Angeles.**



# Louisville Mayor Fischer Hosts Mayors, Dalai Lama on Compassion in Governing

By Lina Garcia and Tom McClimon

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer hosted a delegation of mayors on May 16-19 to attend The Festival of Faiths, which has become an annual week long event in the city. The keynote speaker of the event this year was His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The night before the speech by the Dalai Lama, mayors held a panel discussion hosted by Fischer and moderated by U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran to discuss compassion in governing. Participating in the panel in addition to Fischer and Cochran were Columbia (SC) Mayor Steve Benjamin and Joplin Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean. Each mayor talked about what compassion means to them personally and their city. Earlier that day, mayors toured the Muhammad Ali Center, a site dedicated to the life of Muhammad Ali and designed to inspire personal and global greatness. Muhammad Ali was present at the Center to greet the mayors.

The following day, the Dalai Lama spoke for about 40 minutes to an estimated audience of about 15,000 at the KFC Yum! Center on Sunday afternoon, then took questions and heard responses from a panel of interfaith leaders.

At age 77, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, the Dalai Lama commanded immediate attention during what was the first visit to Louisville in nearly two decades, and as part of a multi-state tour of the United States.

His comments ranged between deep discussions of the crises of war and the environment to light-hearted remarks, often at his own expense, punctuated with an infectious laughter.

"We must make every effort to build compassionate century," he said at the arena. He said nonviolent revolutions in formerly communist Europe and other lands gave hope that humans can solve conflicts without mass bloodshed.

The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India since China crushed a 1959 Tibetan uprising, is heavily guarded by federal, state and local authorities because he is the most visible symbol and spokesperson for Tibetan autonomy and human rights.



**At left, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and event host Louisville with Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer.**



**Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer hosts panel discussion about Compassion in Governing, moderated by USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran with mayoral panelists Joplin (MO) Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean; Farah Pandith, Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the U.S. State Department, and Columbia (SC) Mayor Steve Benjamin.**



**Mayors tour the Muhammad Ali Center, left to right, Frankfort (KY) Mayor William May, Raleigh (NC) Mayor Nancy McFarlane, Westland (MI) Mayor William R. Wild, Des Moines (IA) Mayor Frank Cownie, Columbia (SC) Mayor Steve Benjamin, Jeffersonville (IN) Mayor Mike Moore, New Albany (IN) Mayor Jeff Gahan, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Louisville (KY) Mayor Greg Fischer, Muhammad Ali, and Joplin (MO) Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean.**



# Time to End the Internet's Tax-Free Ride

By U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran

Traditional retailers recently received a big and much-needed boost from the Senate as it voted to close a sales tax loophole that has left local merchants at a competitive disadvantage for nearly two decades. The bill, known as the Marketplace Fairness Act, would essentially put a stop to tax-free online shopping and recalibrate the marketplace so that all retailers – whether online or offline – are competing on equal footing.

The bipartisan momentum coming off of the Senate vote, however, has stalled considerably in the U.S. House of Representatives and the bill now faces an uncertain future. Lobbyists for the online retailers, who have enjoyed a tax exemption at the expense of their Main Street counterparts, are currently in the process of mischaracterizing the bill and spreading false information about its net effect.

First and foremost, critics wrongly contend that the legislation would impose a new tax. Nothing could be farther from the truth as the bill is neither a new tax nor a tax increase. It simply updates our tax-collection system to reflect the steady growth of online sales, which rose to \$225.5 billion in 2012 alone. As it stands now, online merchants only have to collect sales tax if they have a physical presence such as a storefront, office, warehouse or factory in the customer's state. This has given them a significant advantage as they can undercut prices by five to ten percent, a margin that brick and mortar retailers just cannot realistically beat.

Furthermore, the bill aims to collect a tax that is already owed. Most consumers do not realize that they are technically required to report their Internet purchases on their tax returns and remit the appropriate sales tax. Hardly anyone does this and the states have no reason-



**USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran**

able or efficient way to compel consumers to do so. The legislation would fix this problem and ensure that the taxes owed would be paid. In turn, this would give a shot in the arm to cash-strapped states, cities and counties, who would stand to collect \$23 billion in revenue each year from online sales.

Opponents also argue that the legislation will place an excessive burden on Internet businesses because they will now need to navigate the tangled web of different tax rates in cities, counties and states across the country. This, too, is completely inaccurate as they fail to mention that the bill will require states to provide computer software, for free, that would streamline the collection process by helping retailers calculate the sales tax on each purchase much like the systems online companies use now to determine shipping costs based on zip code.

Moreover, states will be compelled to set up a one-stop shop to receive the Internet sales tax revenue, so retailers don't have to keep track of multiple sites. And, last, but certainly not least, it's important to remember that online businesses with annual sales below \$1 million are exempt from the new sales tax legislation altogether.

The original purpose of this sales tax loophole was to encourage the commercial potential of the Internet. It is clear, though, that at this point, with sales skyrocketing, the subsidy is no longer necessary. So, why are some of our Congressional representatives fighting to keep in place a system that favors one category of business over another? Why would online retailers trump conventional stores and be allowed to squeeze them out of the marketplace?

By leveling the playing field, all businesses will be able to compete in a fair and equitable way. Brick and mortar stores will no longer be used as mere showrooms for merchandise that consumers end up purchasing online at a discount because of the absence of a sales tax. As a result, merchants of every stripe will fight for customers by competitively pricing their goods, increasing product variety and providing better service – all of which benefits American consumers and allows the free market to work the way in which it was intended. In the end, jobs will be created and the economy will be strengthened.

In a political climate of heated partisan divide, the Senate has shown the American public that they can set aside their differences and work together to push through a sensible solution to a decades-old problem. All eyes are on the House of Representatives now. We urge them to rise to the occasion and do what is right to close this sales tax loophole once and for all.



# Mayor Mallory Transforms Cincinnati Waterfront with Help of GRO1000 Grant

By Crystal Swann

The Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro officials were on hand in Cincinnati (OH) May 23 for the dedication of the Mill Creek Edible Forest, the fifth and final U.S. city to be honored with a Gro1000 greenspace grant in 2013. GRO1000 is a national program sponsored by the Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro, an initiative that recognizes mayors for the installation of innovative public gardens and green spaces designed to improve our nation's cities. As part of the award, each winning city receives a \$25,000 grant (a combination of cash and in-kind product from ScottsMiracle-Gro) to support the development of their green space. Through the GRO1000 program, Scotts aims to create more than 1,000 community gardens and green spaces in the U.S., Canada and Europe by 2018.

Once declared "the most endangered urban river in North America," plans call for Mill Creek to be transformed with a newly constructed greenway trail and garden. The edible forest garden will not only produce food for local residents, but provide a natural habitat for wildlife and create a green edge between Cincinnati's developed urban fabric and river as well. The Mill Creek Edible Forest Garden will be the first phase in a comprehensive Mill Creek Greenway development program



**Left to right, ScottsMiracle-Gro North Region President Mike Carbonara, ScottsMiracle-Gro President and Chief Operating Officer Barry Sanders, USCM Assistant Executive Director Crystal Swann, Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory; and Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek Executive Director Robin Corathers with the GRO1000 Check to support Cincinnati's Edible Forest Garden Project.**

that lays the foundation for the Healthy People/Healthy River Strategy, created by Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory and Groundwork Cincinnati/Mill Creek.

"The transformation of Mill Creek River is one of the focal points of our city's continued economic revitalization, as well as our efforts to enhance the livability of our city with better and more enjoyable green spaces," said Mallory in commenting on the award. "I want to thank ScottsMiracle-Gro and the Conference of Mayors for supporting us in this initiative. With their generous grant, and the support of other great partners like Groundwork Cincinnati, we'll transform Mill Creek into the most sustainable and interactive urban riverfront in the nation."

As part of the dedication ceremony, students from Pleasant

Ridge Montessori were presented with the ScottsMiracle-Gro Give Back to Gro Youth Gardener Award. (The award recognizes youth for their participation in gardening and greenspace revitalization

**See MILL CREEK on page 10**



**Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory with the new dedication sign for Mill Creek Edible Forest garden.**



**Cincinnati baseball mascot "Gapper" joins in the planting for the new Cincinnati Mill Creek edible forest garden.**



# Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Immigration Reform Bill

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

After five days of debate, the Senate Judiciary Committee reported out comprehensive immigration reform legislation (S. 744) on a 13-5 vote, with all of the Democratic members and three Republicans, Senators Orrin Hatch (UT), Lindsey Graham (SC), and Jeff Flake (AZ) voting for it. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said the bill will be considered by the full Senate in June, possibly shortly after the Memorial Day recess.

The bill would strengthen border security and make billions of dollars in investments to protect the nation's borders and ports of entry; make important strides in addressing the labor needs of American businesses, including the nation's agricultural industries; provide reasonable reforms to support refugees and asylees; promote family unification and reunification; and provide an earned path to

citizenship for millions of undocumented workers. A detailed description of the bill was included in the April 29 edition of *U.S. Mayor*.

While the Committee adopted 141 of the more than 300 amendments that were proposed to the original bill, the amended bill retained enough of the principles of the bipartisan compromise bill developed by the "Gang of Eight" to maintain bipartisan support for the bill. One of the amendments adopted that has received a lot of attention was offered by Hatch and New York Senator Charles Schumer, a member of the Gang of Eight, which would ease the bill's requirements that companies with few foreign workers recruit Americans before hiring immigrants. It would require employers to make "good-faith efforts" to find U.S. workers first but would impose a higher standard on

firms where 15 percent of skilled workers are visa recipients. Passage of the amendment is believed to have helped to gain Hatch's support for the bill.

## House Action Less Clear

House members are developing and considering immigration bills on two tracks. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Robert Goodlatte (VA) has said that he prefers to consider legislation that deal with individual aspects of the immigration system. Several such bills have been proposed and the Committee has held several hearings. At the same time, the House has its own bipartisan "Gang of Eight" that is developing a comprehensive immigration reform bill and hopes to be able to unveil the legislation in June. Goodlatte has signaled that his committee might support a comprehensive approach.

## MILL CREEK

from page 9

efforts in their communities.) And following the dedication, the schoolchildren joined GRO1000 national and local partners, as well as more than 100 ScottsMiracle-Gro volunteers, to prepare and plant garden beds along the greenway trail. In addition, area residents and youth were invited to participate in a variety of fun and engaging gardening and environmentally focused activities.

"We are proud to be a part of the sustainability planning and environmental reinvestment taking place in Cincinnati's Mill Creek community," said ScottsMir-

acle-Gro President and Chief Operating Officer Barry Sanders of the Mill Creek Edible Forest Garden project. "The new edible forest and greenway trail will provide area residents access to a healthy green space and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors."

In addition to the Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro, the national GRO1000 greenspace grant program across the country is made possible through the support of a host of national partners including Plant a Row for the Hungry, the National Gardening Association, the Garden Writers Association and Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. As previously noted,

# GRO1000

the Cincinnati GRO1000 project is one of five to receive GRO1000 grants in 2013; the other 2013 GRO1000 recipients were Bridgeport, Fort Worth, Sacramento, and Tuscaloosa.

For more information on the GRO1000 program, contact Crystal Swann on the Conference of Mayors staff at (202) 861-6707 by telephone, or send e-mail to [cswann@usmayors.org](mailto:cswann@usmayors.org).



By Elizabeth Renda

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx discussed his priorities during a Senate confirmation hearing, promising that if confirmed as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation he will focus on the safety of the nation's transportation system, improving the efficiency and performance of our existing transportation system, and building infrastructure to meet the needs of the next generation of Americans.

"The private sector cannot do this alone, and the federal government has a responsibility to help ensure our global competitiveness, by investing in a robust, multimodal transportation system, a stronger national freight network, and key innovations like NextGen and advanced roadway and rail technology. As a mayor who has delivered projects to my constituents, I know too well that future uncertainty at the Federal level makes it difficult to do smart, cost-effective long-term planning and project development," he said in explaining his views on infrastructure investment.

Initially speaking from a prepared statement at the May 22 hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Foxx said, "I truly believe, whether it is a bus route, a road, a train, a plane or a ship, our transportation system, at its best, connects our people to jobs and a better quality of life."

Introduced to the panel by his home-state Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Kay Hagan (D-NC), Foxx also talked about his experiences with transportation as a city resident and later an elected official, recounting how he took the Number 6 bus to his first job at Charlotte's Discovery Place Science Museum as a 12-year-old and noting his accomplishments as mayor in expanding Charlotte's transportation system.

## DOT Secretary-Designate Foxx Touts System Safety, Performance, Investment at Confirmation Hearing



**Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx testifies May 22 before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation at his confirmation hearing.**

Following his testimony, he responded to questions from a number of Senators, promising open and transparent communication with the committee and his intention to eliminate unnecessary rules and regulations and make timely, innovative, and efficient actions, if confirmed.

The next step in Foxx's confirmation is action by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation recommending Senate approval of his appointment. The Senate Committee is expected to act early this month. Once confirmed by the Senate, Foxx would be sworn in as the seventeenth Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.







By Laura DeKoven Waxman

# House Appropriation for Homeland Security Cut, FEMA Consolidation Plan Again Rejected

The House Appropriations Committee began its FY 2014 appropriations process with the Homeland Security funding bill, which was reported out of subcommittee on May 15 and full committee on May 22 – both by voice vote. For state and local homeland security grant programs, the bill would provide a bit more money next year than is available this year, and a bit more than the President proposed. It would provide about the same level for Firefighter Assistance Grants and Emergency Management Performance Grants.

As it did for the current fiscal year, the appropriation bills instructs FEMA not to use any of the funds provided through this bill or any other “to implement the National Preparedness Grant Program or any other successor grant programs unless explicitly authorized by Congress.” In both of the last two budget proposals, FEMA has proposed to consolidate all of the various homeland security grant programs into a new, state-centric National Preparedness Grant Program. The Conference of Mayors has helped to spearhead a joint effort challenging the proposal by 12 national groups representing local elected officials, emergency managers, major city police chiefs, sheriffs, and the major fire service organizations.

The full committee adopted several amendments to the subcommittee bill. Two of them, both of which were adopted by a voice vote, are of particular interest to cities:

- Representative John Culberson’s (TX) amendment, which prohibits DHS

from making reductions in programs unless the change is enacted into law or complies with existing reprogramming requirements. Committee documents say that “the intention of the amendment is to prevent the Department from making program funding changes to comply with the President’s budget request without Congressional approval;” and

- Representative Charles Dent (PA) and David Price’s (NC) amendment, which waives restrictions on SAFER firefighter grants to allow the retention of existing firefighter personnel.

Among the bill’s specific funding levels:

- \$350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants, about the same as is available this year and the same level requested by the President;
- \$675 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants to be divided in two with \$337.5 million for assistance to firefighter grants for equipment, training, vehicles, and related materials and \$337.5 for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants;
- \$1.5 billion for State and Local Programs, with \$1,264,825,000 distributed according to threat, vulnerability, and consequence at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security based on authorities. Included are State Homeland Security Grant

Program, Operation Stonegarden, Urban Area Security Initiative, private nonprofit organizations determined to be at high risk, Public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance, Port Security Grants, Over-the-Road Bus Security Assistance, Metropolitan Medical Response System, Citizens Corp, Driver’s License Security Grants, Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program, Emergency Operations Centers, Buffer Zone Protection Program, and National Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant. The state and local balance – \$235,174,000 – would sustain current operations for training, exercises, technical assistance, and other programs, \$157,991,000 of which would be used for training of state, local, and tribal emergency responders;

- \$22.5 million for the PreDisaster Mitigation Program (PDM), a rejection of the Administration’s proposal to eliminate the program;
- \$27.5 million for the Urban Search and Rescue Response System;
- \$6,220,908,000 for the Disaster Relief Fund, the level requested; and
- \$100 million from the National Flood Insurance Fund for flood mitigation actions.



By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano May 21 released the FY 2013 grant guidance for over \$1.5 billion in homeland security and emergency management programs. The funds, which are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, will go to states, urban areas, tribal and territorial governments, non-profit agencies, and the private sector and are intended to strengthen the nation's ability to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.

DHS's announcement highlights several of the guidance's provisions specified in the FY 2013 Appropriations Act:

- Continued focus on the nation's highest risk areas, including urban areas that face the most significant threats, although for the first time Congress directed DHS to fund only 25 urban areas under the UASI program;
- Continued dedicated funding for law enforcement and terrorism prevention activities;

New emphasis on a national campaign for preparedness to support citizen preparedness drills and exercises; and

- New emphasis on improving immediate emergency victim care at mass casualty events.

The guidance encourages grantees to utilize funding to maintain and sustain current critical core capabilities through investments in training and exercises, updates to current planning and pro-

# Homeland Security Releases FY 2013 Grant Guidance

cedures, and lifecycle replacement of equipment. It also specifies that new capabilities that are built using homeland security grant funding must be deployable if needed to support regional and national efforts.

Grants were subject to mandatory sequestration reductions, totaling \$74 million in cuts across the FY 2013 preparedness grants. Following is information on each of the programs covered by the guidance:

- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)—more than \$968 million are available for three programs intended to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats;
- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) – \$354 million to support implementation of risk-driven, capabilities-based State Homeland Security Strategies to address capability targets, with 25 percent of funds dedicated to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities;
- Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) – \$559 million to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities in 25 high-threat, high-density areas, with 25 percent of funds dedicated to law enforcement terrorism prevention activities; and
- Operation Stonegarden (OPSG) – \$55 million is available for which is intended to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along the United States land and water borders.

- Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program—more than \$332 million are available to assist local, tribal, territorial, and state governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities.
- Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)—\$93 million are available to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.
- Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)—\$83 million are available to owners and operators of transit systems to protect critical surface transportation and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

Other programs for which funds are available are the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (\$10 million), Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (\$10 million), Intercity Passenger Rail-Amtrak Program (\$9 million), and National Special Security Event Grant Program (\$4 million).

Additional information on each program is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/preparedness-non-disaster-grants>. Questions should be directed to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).



## Many Provisions of Concern to Mayors Included

By Judy Sheahan

The Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) May 15 by a bipartisan vote of 83-14. The bill, S. 601, authorizes \$12 billion for Army Corps of Engineering projects, which include levees, dams, locks, harbors, and beaches as well as provisions for Everglades and Gulf Coast restoration.

Of particular interest to mayors are provisions that would ensure that the taxes

## Senate Passes Army Corps Reauthorization Bill 83-14

collected for the Harbor Maintenance Fund would be used for its intended purpose. Also, in an era that does not allow for Congressional earmarks, the bill provides a mechanism for authorizing new Army Corps projects as long as certain criteria are met. This, however, does not solve the \$60 billion funding gap of projects that have already been approved but are still backlogged.

In addition, the bill shifts a larger cost share to the federal government for the rehabilitation of locks and dams and calls on the Army Corps to do a comprehensive review of national guidelines regarding levee vegetation in order to determine whether current policy is appropriate for all regions of the United States.

Despite staunch opposition, the bill also includes provisions that streamline

environmental review processes. However, an amendment was included that would sunset these provisions after ten years. That minor win, however, did not appease environmental groups. The White House has also expressed concern over the streamlining provisions, although they did not go so far as to threaten to veto the bill.

The House is still months away from introducing their bill, which is not expected until late summer. While the environmental streamlining provisions will most likely be supported by the majority of House members, the \$12 billion price tag could be a concern. Another concern is the way the Senate set up criteria for future projects to be approved, which, according to House sources, gives too much discretion to the Administration.

## Save the Date: July 10-11 • San Francisco Mayors Water Council Meeting

### TOPICS:

- **Water Supply Issues**
- **Financing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**
- **Flood Management**
- **Best Practices and Innovations**
- **Unfunded Mandates**



USCM Staff Contact: Rich Anderson, 202-861-6795, [randerson@usmayors.org](mailto:randerson@usmayors.org)





By Elizabeth Renda

# Interior Secretary Jewell Releases New Proposed Rules on Hydraulic Fracturing

The U.S. Department of Interior on May 16 released new proposed rules for hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands. The new rules update an initial draft proposal that was released in May 2012. "We are proposing some common-sense updates that increase safety while also providing flexibility and facilitating coordination with states and tribes," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is the process of drilling and injecting fluids and chemicals into the ground at a high pressure in order to create fractures in shale rocks that contain natural gas. Opposing groups are concerned about the potential effect that fracking may or may not have on the land and water the process is carried out in.

Under the proposed rules, operators are required to disclose all chemicals used in fracturing on public and tribal lands, to verify that the fluids used in the operation are not contaminating groundwater, and to maintain a water management plan for handling "flowback" water that comes to the surface as a result of the fracturing process.

Jewell said, "As we continue to offer millions of acres of America's public lands for oil and gas development, it is important that the public has full confidence that the right safety and environmental protections are in place."

According to the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, the key issues in the updated draft rules are "the use of an expanded set of cement evaluation tools to help ensure that usable water zones have been isolated and protected from contamination and more detailed guidance on how trade secrets claims will be handled..."

The new proposed rules will allow oil companies to use the controversial "FracFocus" database to meet chemical

disclosure requirements, providing more flexibility in how companies may meet their requirements. Environmental groups contend that FracFocus does not meet a high enough level of scrutiny since it is not created or run by the government and allows companies to withhold disclosure of certain chemicals claimed to be trade secrets. The oil and gas industry conversely points out that FracFocus offers a host of information on more than 45,000 wells that provided over 400 companies, and that on June 1 a major upgrade of FracFocus will be released, making the site more searchable and improving its coordination with state regulators.

## Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Holds Hearing on Fracking

In continuing efforts to address this issue, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a roundtable discussion on May 23 to discuss "best practices and environmental concerns" surrounding hydraulic fracturing. The hearing included participants from environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and the National Resource Defense Center, as well as groups like Noble Energy, Exxon Mobile, and Halliburton from the oil and gas industry.

Participants sparred over the contentious FracFocus database, how flaring should be minimized and monitored, and whether hydraulic fracturing should be subject to state or federal regulations.

Senator Wyden (OR) who chairs the committee said that "not all fracking is created equal," and encouraged participants to submit written

material to the committee for review, keeping the record open for one week.

Ranking Member Senator Murkowski (AK) closed the hearing by calling for strong, state-based "quality regulation doing what it's designed to do" rather than obfuscating productivity.

The comment period for the new proposed rules by the Department of Interior ends on June 24.

## Villaraigosa Talks Trade, Tourism with Chinese President in Beijing



**Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa met with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People on May 27.**

*Photo credit: LA Mayor's Office*



### Mayor Salinas Delivers Aid to West (TX)

Laredo Mayor Raul G. Salinas, Police Chief Ray Garner and Assistant Fire Chief Tony Garibay traveled to West (TX) to present a check of \$10,000 as part of the collections and donations from Laredo. Joining Salinas is West Mayor Tommy Muska and next to Mayor Salinas, West Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Vanek. Also part of the presentation are, left to right, Fire Chief George Nors and Police Chief Jaime Lawhorn.

Aside from presenting the check to the West city officials, the group also toured the devastation caused by the April 17 blast.

"I was shocked at the damage the explosion caused," said Salinas. "It looks like a war zone. So much damage, but still, the citizens are staying positive and smiling through the tears. I'm glad we were able to give a little something to help the City of West, and I encourage everyone who hasn't had a chance to make a donation to do so."

To follow the online link for photos of their tour, go to the website <http://www.ci.laredo.tx.us/citynews/WestTX/Min-WTX.html>

### Winston-Salem Celebrates Centennial

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines, right, and Mayor Pro Tem Vivian H. Burke unveiled a new historical marker at a ceremony May 9 celebrating the centennial of the merger of Salem and Winston in 1913. Looking on are U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx (in purple) and members of the Winston-Salem City Council. After the unveiling the marker was placed on the street



that marked the dividing line between the two towns. The North Carolina city celebrated its centennial with four days of activities May 9 – 12 that also included a parade, a luncheon for city centenarians, the world premiere of a festive piece for orchestra commissioned for the centennial, the premiere of a documentary that traced the origins of the towns and their path to consolidation, a gallery hop and community birthday toast in Winston-Salem's arts district, a centennial scavenger hunt and a multi-congregational worship service.

The marker text: "First Street marks the former boundary between the towns of

Salem and Winston. Salem was founded in 1766 as the central congregational town for the Moravian Church in North Carolina. When Forsyth County was formed, the Moravian Church sold 50¼ acres immediately north of Salem to serve as the county seat. The new town was named Winston in 1851. The two towns grew into one urban area and began to coordinate municipal services for their respective populations. On March 18, 1913, voters in Winston and Salem approved consolidation under a single municipal government. The union created the city of Winston-Salem and became effective May 9, 1913."



Photo credit: Jeffrey Toomer, City of Winston-Salem

# We Set the Standard for Cooperative Purchasing Solutions



U.S. Communities is a nonprofit purchasing cooperative that delivers cost savings for products and services, and reduces the administrative costs associated with competitive bids for government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofits nationwide. With a 20-year history and more than 55,000 participants, U.S. Communities is the established leader for delivering:

SAVINGS	EFFICIENCY	VALUE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Free—no cost or commitment to participate</li> <li>■ An impartial lead public agency competitively solicits, evaluates and awards all contracts</li> <li>■ Supplier commitment to provide the lowest overall public agency pricing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reduce time and resources for contract solicitation</li> <li>■ Contract validation documentation and analysis is handled by the supplier</li> <li>■ Transparent process to protect the ethical, legal and financial interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regional Program Manager is your dedicated support resource</li> <li>■ Independent audits and quarterly supplier reviews ensures compliance</li> <li>■ Webinars and training, green solutions, rebate programs, local purchasing options and more</li> </ul>

## Created by Public Agencies to Meet the Needs of Public Agencies

U.S. Communities was founded and is co-sponsored by these leading national governmental organizations plus more than 90 state and regional organizations.

### Founding Co-Sponsors



Our Advisory Board provides leadership and direction, and ensures adherence to our high standards.

### Advisory Board

Auburn University, AL  
Cape May County, NJ  
City and County of Denver, CO  
City of Houston, TX  
City of Kansas City, MO  
City of Los Angeles, CA  
City of San Antonio, TX  
City of Seattle, WA  
Cobb County, GA

Denver Public Schools, CO  
Emory University, GA  
Fairfax County, VA  
Fresno Unified School District, CA  
Great Valley School District, PA  
Harford County Public Schools, MD  
Hennepin County, MN  
Los Angeles County, CA  
Maricopa County, AZ

Miami-Dade County, FL  
North Carolina State University, NC  
Orange County, NY  
Port of Portland, OR  
Salem-Keizer School District, OR  
San Diego Unified School District, CA  
The School District of Collier County, FL

**Register for Free and Start Saving Today!**

[www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org)



# PLAN NOW TO ATTEND

## THE 81<sup>st</sup> CONFERENCE OF MAYORS LAS VEGAS • June 21-24



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT:  
***usmayors.org***



**CONFIRMED**  
Congressman Bill Shuster (R-PA)  
Chairman, House Transportation  
and Infrastructure Committee



USCM President  
Philadelphia Mayor  
Michael A. Nutter



USCM Vice President  
Mesa Mayor Scott  
Smith



USCM Second Vice  
President Sacramento  
Mayor Kevin Johnson



## Philadelphia: Lighting the Way to a Sustainable Future

*By USCM President Philadelphia  
Mayor Michael A. Nutter*

Philadelphia has come a long way since Ben Franklin introduced the first street lights in 1771. A recent news article called Philadelphia “America’s City of Light,” based in part on the city’s Avenue of the Arts programmed LED lighting installations and new streetlights.

New energy efficient lighting technologies have benefited Philadelphia in a number of ways. The city’s Office of Sustainability’s Greenworks program recently reported that Philadelphia successfully reduced its municipal energy use by five percent since the program’s inception. While the largest portion of that reduction was due to reduced vehicle fuel use, the next largest contributor was replacing 85,000 incandescent traffic signals with LED bulbs, funded in part through an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Department of Energy (DOE). Streets Commissioner Clarina Tolson recently noted, “Our costs have gone from \$100,000 a month to \$27,000 a month, real money that we pay out basically saving us 70 percent” in electricity costs.

Philadelphia also has witnessed firsthand how lighting can do so much more than save money and promote energy efficiency. Through lighting installations at Avenue of the Arts, Boathouse Row, and the Ben Franklin Bridge, lighting has helped beautify Philadelphia and promote economic development, drawing people to the city’s businesses and restaurants, and creating a welcome beacon for visitors and residents alike.

For example, the Avenue of the Arts, the city’s premier arts and entertainment district, is transformed each night by programmable LED lights. This energy efficient lighting design enhances the beauty of the buildings and provides safety and entertainment. The lighting celebrates

the Avenue of the Arts as a large performance space and has served as a catalyst for the development, growth, and sustainability of this urban center. This installation was done with Philadelphia’s Center City District, the business improvement district for downtown Philadelphia.

The city continuously looks for ways that energy efficient lighting can further its sustainability goals. Through a partnership with DOE, the city conducted an LED street light demonstration project, evaluating different models of LED street lights at three locations. The report from the DOE found that each of the LEDs tested not only delivered more lumens to the sidewalk and roadway areas targeted, but also used between 10 percent and 40 percent less power. The report noted that, although “energy cost savings are not currently possible for Philadelphia because they have yet to reach an agreement with the local utility for a new tariff for LED street lighting,” additional savings from reduced maintenance could make widespread luminaire replacement cost-effective.

In addition to these outdoor projects, the city has looked at ways to reduce energy usage in its buildings, which are its biggest source of energy use and carbon emissions. This issue is not unique to Philadelphia. Buildings account for more than half of the energy used in cities, and 75 percent of lighting in buildings is inefficient. In fact, only one percent of office lighting uses controls, occupancy sensors, or daylight harvesting.

Like many cities, Philadelphia has witnessed a trend of increased energy use in city buildings, and is taking steps to address the issue. These include:

- Requiring that all major city building construction and renovation projects achieve a minimum of LEED Silver certification. Using a state grant to help renovate six recreation centers with modern lighting and controls that will save the city more than \$100,000



**USCM President Philadelphia  
Mayor Michael A. Nutter**

annually in electricity costs and serve as models for replication across the recreation system.

- Establishing Energy Works, a program to help retrofit commercial buildings and residential homes.
- Using EPA’s Portfolio Manager tool to benchmark all city buildings of 10,000 square feet or larger (300 buildings in total).
- Passing an ordinance that requires the benchmarking and reporting of energy and water usage data in commercial buildings with indoor floor space of 50,000 square feet or more, or in the commercial portion of mixed use buildings where at least 50,000 square feet of indoor floor space is devoted to commercial use. This is designed to provide an important tool for the city to use real energy data to not only help lower costs, but improve efficiency, sustainability and quality of life for its residents.
- Transitioning to a sophisticated energy management system and providing customized energy use reports to city departments and staff on a monthly basis so they can track their usage and improve energy efficiency.

**See PHILADELPHIA on page 20**

# Best Practices

## PHILADELPHIA

from page 19

- Implementing a large-scale energy efficiency project at four of Philadelphia's largest downtown office buildings where the guaranteed energy savings will cover the cost of the upgrades. Many of the energy conservation measures involve upgrading lighting and controls.

Philadelphia clearly has taken a leadership role in sustainability, and lighting has played a significant role in helping to meet the city's goals. Through Nutter's leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, resources such as the new Mayors' Lighting Partnership are available to help mayors across the nation learn more about the many ways energy efficient lighting technology can benefit their city. To learn more, visit the website [www.usmayors.org/MayorsLightingPartnership](http://www.usmayors.org/MayorsLightingPartnership).

For more information on all of Philadelphia's sustainability efforts, visit the website <http://www.phila.gov/green/greenworks/>.

Mayors are invited to submit the "Best Practices" of their cities to U.S. MAYOR. Contact Public Affairs at 202-293-7330 or send e-mail to [usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org)



## Calendar of Events

(Updated 05/30/13)



### June 21-24

**81st Annual Conference of Mayors**, Las Vegas. 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

### July 10-11

**Mayors Water Council Meeting**, San Francisco. Contact: Rich Anderson [randerson@usmayors.org](mailto:randerson@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6795. Registration Available Soon

### August 1-3

**Summer Leadership Officers Meeting** (USCM Executive Committee, Advisory Board and Chairs Only), Park City. 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

### September 12-13

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

## 2014

### January 22-24

**82nd Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting**, Washington, DC. 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 Available Fall 2013

### June 20-23

**82nd Annual Conference of Mayors**, Dallas. 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 Available Spring 2014

For updates or changes, visit our website at **[usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)**

## USCM LOCAL EVENTS

### BENEFITS BEST PRACTICES

- Sun, June 23rd: USCM Annual Meeting, Las Vegas

### U.S. COMMUNITIES PURCHASING SUMMITS

- Friday, June 21: Rochester Hills, MI
- Thursday, October 17: Naperville, IL

**RSVP: Jeannie Fanning, [jfanning@usmayors.org](mailto:jfanning@usmayors.org)**

