



U.S. MAYOR

Mayors, Chiefs Meet with DOJ on Murder Spikes Page 13

EPA Issues Final Ozone Rule Page 16

"Sanctuary Cities" Bill Headed to Senate Floor. Page 17

Fall Leadership Meeting - Baltimore

Mayors Call on 2016 Candidates to End Gridlock, Focus on City Priorities

By Paul Leroux and Conference of Mayors Staff

Their sights set on the upcoming election for President and Congress, nearly thirty mayors from the leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors gathered in Baltimore on October 2-4. Convened by Conference President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, the mayors spent much of their Fall Leadership Meeting developing language for a new priorities document, The Mayors' Compact for a Better America: A 2016 Call to Action. Further, Rawlings-Blake led sessions on pending legislative activity, community policing, and food policy; announced the creation of two new USCM task forces; and asked mayors to help give back to Baltimore as part of a community service event.

see FALL LEADERSHIP on page 7



USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and leadership mayors call on Presidential and Congressional candidates to address the priorities of those who live in cities and their metro areas.

Conference President Rawlings-Blake Addresses National Press Club

see story on page 6



USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake presents *The Mayors' Compact for a Better America: A 2016 Call to Action* during her October 7 address to the National Press Club.

President Obama Convenes Key Players on Trans Pacific Trade Deal

see story on page 4



On October 6 President Barack Obama convened key supporters of the Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement at the Department of Agriculture to discuss the outlines of the TPP.



October 9, 2015

Baltimore Leadership Meeting

Conference President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake brought The U.S. Conference of Mayors to Baltimore this past weekend for the purpose of developing a mayors' agenda to be presented to the 2016 Presidential candidates. There was broad consensus among Democratic and Republican mayors on the issues contained in the draft that was presented. No doubt, all called for a shorter document. As expected, in an organization like ours with a vast array of issues, every mayor in the room wants us to boil the ten issues down to a bumper sticker or button with one or maybe two words. So, we do have work ahead of us. But our President, Mayor Rawlings-Blake, and other leadership mayors were pleased that they are afforded the opportunity to sit down, without experts, and "thrash" out common issues. The Baltimore meeting was our first step as we head toward the 2016 Presidential season.

In addition to the development of our 2016 priorities, mayors also discussed how we should get out of Washington, D.C. and into the primary process that starts in Iowa in February. We are in a position this year with a new group of active Democratic and Republican mayors who definitely want to be involved in influencing the issues that will be discussed by the candidates in the national conversation that will take place in 2016 on the road to the swearing in of our next President, January 2017.

One overall conclusion from Baltimore, from the formal discussion and informal discussions during the leadership meeting, two issues resonated: infrastructure investment and public safety, from crime on our streets, in our neighborhoods, and from the international terrorists who are trying to kill us.

As we head to our Washington, D.C. Winter Meeting in January, we will establish a process to provide consensus on our document. Confer-

ence President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will announce to the national our priorities for the Presidential Candidates as well as our plan of action for the primaries that start with the Iowa Caucuses.

Attorney General's Summit on Violence, Crime, Murder Spikes, Prisoner Release and Federal Courts

Following our San Francisco Annual Meeting, Conference President Rawlings-Blake held a conference call with mayors who are experiencing in 2015 high rates of homicide. I was asked to contact Jerry Abramson, White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, asking for a meeting with top federal law enforcement officials. Mayors had asked for the meeting so they could bring their chiefs. As it turned out, the Justice Department held the meeting October 7 and added local U.S. Attorneys to the discussion. It was a multifaceted meeting covering a variety of issues and it was facilitate and run by PERF, the Police Executive Research Forum. Chuck Wexler worked hard and did a great job covering a myriad of public safety issues.

The day the meeting convened, *The Washington Post* led with a story that 6,000 inmates were about to be released from our prisons. Today, prisoners in America due to drug offenses make up almost half the federal prison population—91,134 for drug offenses of the total 205,792. Recently, the mass incarceration issue is of concern to both sides of the aisle in Congress and from both conservative and progressive leaders in the business community.

Concern was expressed about the release of prisoners without a comprehensive approach for reentry of prisoners back into our cities. Mayors and chiefs called for an across the board, multi-agency system to be developed within the federal departments to alleviate fear and provide for the support needed as persons are released to return to already overburdened and challenged city budgets.

Another concern is that any federal funds that are sent from Washington must come directly to local governments and not to states. Our local police departments are the ones that are protecting us and it was argued that we don't need a "middle man" - state government - when funds are sent



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
Proofreader: Kevin McCarty

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

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

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

from D.C. to help our police departments fight crime.

Concern was also expressed that since the Ferguson disturbances last summer and many others since then, we have allowed our police departments to get "fetal"—indicating that police have pulled back from the "ability to interdict due to the fact that their careers could end. There was general consensus, of course, that we should back up

see COCHRAN on Page 3

COCHRAN from page 2

our police who are responsible in doing the jobs they were hired to do.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch came to offer her support, expressing an understanding of all concerns expressed during the Justice Department-sponsored daylong event.

Conference President Rawlings-Blake has indicated that we will follow up on the action items coming out of the Justice Department meeting.

American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

Following the Baltimore meeting last week, I flew immediately to San Francisco for the American Public Transportation Association's Annual Meeting, made up of 1,500 public and private transit organizations. I was most pleased to be there at the invitation of the incoming chair, Valarie McCall of Cleveland. She has been a mainstay and point person for all of us in the City of Cleveland since Mayor Jackson's election. She has been more than just an intergovernmental staff person in Cleveland and as a result of her outstanding leadership as a big player in APTA, the members and board of that strong organization of 1,500 organizations have chosen her to be their Chair.

After attending Chair McCall's inauguration in San Francisco, I was asked to give remarks preceding the mayors panel in the afternoon. Chair McCall announced that her main thrust as chair will be to have a stronger collaboration with mayors. She speaks forcibly about our public transit needs and challenges, and her organization, APTA, and our organization has had long solidarity on the issue of smarter public transportation across all modes in our nation's cities. Congratulations Valarie McCall! We look forward to uniting APTA and USCM to support common goals as we move together to provide safe, clean, and punctual public transit for the overwhelming majority of people who now live in our cities and the metropolitan areas of our nation.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Meeting with President Obama

In San Francisco this week I received a call to meet with President Obama, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, and U.S. Trade Representative

see COCHRAN on page 5



USCM CALENDAR

2015

Monday, October 12 - Wednesday, October 14
Municipal Waste Management Association Summit
(USCM's Environmental Affiliate)

Evanston, IL

Contact: Jubi Headley jheadley@usmayors.org / 202-861-6798

Thursday, October 15 - Friday, October 16
USCM Mayors Water Council Summit

Los Angeles, CA

Contact: Rich Anderson randerson@usmayors.org / 202-861-6795

2016

Wednesday, January 20 - Friday, January 22
USCM 84th Winter Meeting

Washington, DC

Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330

Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774

Registration Opens Soon

Wednesday, January 20 - Thursday, January 21
USCM Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board/Winter Meeting

Washington, DC

Contact: Ida Mukendi imukendi@usmayors.org / 202-861-6724

Registration Opens Soon

Friday, June 24 - Monday, June 27
USCM 84th Annual Conference of Mayors

Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330

Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774

Registration Opens Spring 2016

Friday, June 24 - Saturday, June 25
USCM Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board/Annual Conference

Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Ida Mukendi imukendi@usmayors.org / 202-861-6724

Registration Opens Spring 2016

Trans Pacific Trade Agreement Reached in Atlanta

Mayor Reed Leads USCM Press Conference on Eve of Historic Deal

By Dave Gatton

Twelve nations including the United States, Canada, Mexico and Japan, reached agreement on a Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal last week that would set the rules of international trade for nearly 40% of the global economy.

The TPP trade agreement includes enforceable labor and environmental provisions, establishes a uniform tariff system, and protects intellectual property rights--all high standard provisions that the U.S. Conference of Mayors called for in policy adopted at its 83rd Conference of Mayors in June of this year. That policy supported both the passage of Trade Promotion Authority, which establishes the rules for Congressional debate on major trade deals, and the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement.

In a statement congratulating the Obama Administration and Trade Ambassador Michael Froman, in reaching the trade deal, U.S. Conference of Mayors President, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake said, "Increased exports have driven nearly one-third of our economic recovery and will continue to be instrumental to our future economic growth. The nation's city and metro economies generate 88% of the nation's exports and 92% of overall growth. Our businesses and local economies need a level playing field to sell U.S. made products around the world."

The TPP trade agreement will now begin a process of winding its way through the Congress. After a 90 day period to allow the public and Congress to review the final language of the measure, and an opportunity for economic impact analysis to occur, Congress will have the opportunity to vote up or down on the agreement without the opportunity for amendment. That vote is likely to occur in the Spring of 2016.

Mayor Reed Hosts Atlanta Press Conference

As the trade agreement was being ironed

out in tense negotiations in Atlanta, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, led by host Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, held a press conference on Thursday, October 1, to call on the trade ministers of the twelve nations to reach agreement. Touring a small manufacturing facility, Colgate Mattress, near downtown, the mayors called on the negotiators to keep working until their final differences could be resolved.

The mayors were joined by U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman, who departed the negotiations in the Atlanta



U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Michael Froman speaks at a U.S. Conference of Mayors press conference during final negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement in Atlanta.



Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed leads press conference in support of the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal, with from left, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, Colgate Mattress CEO Alan Wolkin, Columbia, SC, Mayor Steve Benjamin and USCM Exports and Ports Task Force Chair Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola.

Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, to demonstrate how the TPP could assist small and medium sized U.S. businesses. "Through TPP and our other trade agreements, we want to make it more possible to open markets and support good jobs," said Ambassador Froman. "TPP is the first trade agreement ever to have a particular focus on small and medium-sized businesses, to make sure TPP is working for companies like Colgate," he said.

Mayor Reed encouraged the negotiators to bring home a deal that would benefit Atlanta and all U.S. city metros. "The metropolitan

Atlanta area is already the thirteenth largest exporter in the United States, but our region has a tremendous opportunity to further grow exports, grow the economy and create jobs with the Trans-Pacific Partnership," he said.

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Chair of the USCM Exports and Ports Task Force, told the reporters, "The Trans-Pacific Partnership presents an unprecedented opportunity to access vital markets across the world. It will not only raise labor and environmental

see TRANS PACIFIC on page 5

TRANS PACIFIC

from page 4

standards, but make us more competitive in the global economy.” Mayor Stodola said that the TPP deal would be a first of its kind by incorporating enforceable standards, along with a uniform tariff system that would benefit many U.S. companies. “The reality is the Asian middle class will explode over the coming decades and is desirous of U.S. made products. We need a level playing field to make sure U.S. companies can compete,” he said.

The mayors toured Colgatekids.com, a third generation, family-owned manufacturer of high quality crib mattresses, pads and ac-

cessories. “Expanding our distribution internationally will not only increase our need for additional employees, but also the volume of raw goods sourced here in the U.S.,” said Colgate Mattress President Alan Wolkin.

Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, home to Florida’s largest port, said, “Cities need to be able to do business with the world. Last year, \$5.8 billion in local merchandise was exported from the Tampa area. Our top trade partners, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico all have one thing in common – we have trade agreements with these countries. Florida’s economy depends on trade. The TPP will continue to foster the innovation and economic growth needed to support our workforce,” he said.

Columbia, SC, Mayor Steve Benjamin concluded the press conference by pointing to the global role cities play in trade. “U.S. city metros are major players in the global economy. In fact, thirty-six of the world’s largest economies are U.S. Metros. A Trans Pacific trade agreement will further advance our standing in the global economy by creating even more U.S. jobs,” said Mayor Benjamin.

The Conference of Mayors will play a key role in Congressional passage of the TPP, as it did with TPA earlier in the year. Mayor Stodola said his Task Force would lead the way in a campaign to articulate the benefits of TPP to the U.S. small and medium-sized businesses and their workers.



On October 6 President Barack Obama convened key supporters of the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement at the Department of Agriculture to discuss the outlines of the TPP. Attending the meeting representing the U.S. Conference of Mayors were Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed (second from the President’s left) and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran (fifth from the President left). Cochran said, “This is an historic trade agreement that will increase the global competitiveness of our city/metro economies and help U.S. businesses and workers sell our products to a growing Asian middle class.”

COCHRAN

from page 3

Froman to discuss the TPP agreement that was agreed to amongst 12 countries. Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and I represented the mayors at this roundtable discussion. It was a closed working strategy session, recognizing that to get approval from this Congress will require hard work and total focus. The process requires time for public comment and Congressional comment and the discussion led to the decision to bring TPP to the Congress in the Spring of 2016.

President Obama is most appreciative of the support that TPP and TPA have received from The Conference of Mayors. The top business leaders of America appreciate how our mayors have

stepped up to the plate with our support all year.

The vote in Congress will be a tough, hard fought, and a close vote. It will require a simple majority with no amendments—an up or down vote.

Since the meeting on Tuesday, Secretary Clinton has come out against the trade agreement. Senator Sanders and Governor O’Malley, two other declared candidates for the Democratic nomination, have already come out against the agreement.

A large majority of our mayors are supporting this historic and mammoth trade agreement. And it will take our strong stand with fierce bipartisan political action as we go forward. Conference President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and I will

need your help on this issue as we head to the showdown next spring. President Rawlings-Blake has informed me we must use the strength of our organization to reach out to our business and governmental partners to get the votes needed to pass this historic trade agreement.

National League of Cities —Nashville, November 4-7

I plan on seeing many of you at The National League of Cities annual meeting next month in the Music City—Nashville. Come by our Conference of Mayors Center on the exhibit floor. I look forward to seeing you there!

National Press Club Address Rawlings-Blake: 2016 Candidates Must Commit to Ending Gridlock

by Elena Temple-Webb

In recent remarks to the National Press Club, Conference of Mayors President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake called on Presidential and Congressional candidates to speak to city/metro priorities as they campaign across the nation.

Bolstered by lengthy discussions held at the Conference's Leadership Meeting in Baltimore, Rawlings-Blake unveiled the broad outlines of *The Mayors' Compact for a Better America: A 2016 Call to Action*. The plan reflects major issues that mayors contend are important to people in their daily lives.

The Mayors' Compact targets these priorities:

- Rebuild our Nation's Transportation and Water Infrastructure, Investing in Strategic Expansions and Targeting More Resources to Cities and Metro Areas
- Educate and Train a 21st Century Competitive Workforce
- Strengthen the Federal-Local Partnership on Homeland Security and Public Safety, and Reform our Broken Immigration System
- Craft Collaborative Water, Wastewater and Environmental Policies to Maximize Health, Safety and Affordability
- Expand Clean Energy Use to Grow the Economy and Protect the Climate and Environment, Using Cities as the Deployment Platform
- Spark Equitable and Sustainable Growth, Community Development and Affordable Housing Investments
- Encourage Pathways for Access, Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Innovation in Cities
- Spur Innovation for Improved Access to Healthcare, Particularly Mental Health Services
- Re-Direct Tax Policy to Promote Investment in Cities, Advance Middle

Class Growth, and Reduce Income Inequality

- Increase the Economic Strength of Metro Economies Through the Promotion of Trade and Exports, and Attraction of International Tourism

Though final wording of the Mayors' Compact is still under development, Rawlings-Blake said the document "speaks to what [mayors] are hoping to see from the 2016 Presidential Campaign – a substantive conversation among candidates that recognizes the issues facing our cities and speaks to solutions."

tinually emphasize the theme that the economic strength of the nation is tied to the economic strength of its cities and their metropolitan areas, the areas that brought the nation back from recession.

By addressing the mayors' priorities for cities, big and small, she noted, it would also respond to citizens who lack opportunity and feel disconnected from the broader community and the economy. The Mayors' Compact, she explained, is about expanding opportunity. "Mayors intend to use their bully pulpits to get our message across and address the broaden-



From left, USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, National Press Club President John Hughes, USCM Past President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, C-SPAN Executive Chairman Brian Lamb.

In her October 7 remarks, Rawlings-Blake talked about 2016 election and the inattention to issues that matter. "It is clear that people across the country are frustrated that this campaign has not been wholly focused on issues that matter to working families. Mayors see residents who are in need everyday, so we want a real target on the things that matter most to the people who live in our cities and metro areas." She then added, "Underneath each one of these ideas lies the future of our country." Rawlings-Blake used her address to con-

ing gap between the wealthy and the not so wealthy ... Cities are at the center of every major issue that we currently face in American public life, so cities must also be center of the solution," she said.

For issues like infrastructure investment, she observed, "These are jobs that cannot be exported overseas. How can you be patriotic and refuse to fund infrastructure investment?...Those are jobs that could

see RAWLINGS-BLAKE on page 15

FALL LEADERSHIP

from page 1

The Mayors' Compact for a Better America

On October 3, mayors took part in extensive deliberations on *The Mayors' Compact for a Better America*, the document that will shape the actions of mayors as they engage with 2016 candidates for President and Congress.

Reflecting on her inaugural address as USCM President, Rawlings-Blake reminded mayors that the priorities would all come from existing USCM policies, and focus on the federal actions needed to ensure the continued growth and success of America's cities. "This morning we discussed both our priorities and our strategy to ensure that those who wish to lead our nation during the next administration fully understand that cities are the engines of our national economy and are at the center of every major issue in American public life," said Rawlings-Blake during a press conference following the mayors' session.



Rockefeller Foundation Managing Director Michael Myers discusses ways mayors can help foster greater economic opportunity in cities.

Rockefeller Foundation Managing Director Michael Myers helped frame some of these discussions, providing an overview of his work on the key questions mayors should be asking to help ensure that city policies contribute to inclusive economies. Both Myers and Rawlings-Blake emphasized that opportunity was a critical goal of most policy actions, ranging from pre-K education to broadband deployment to transportation infrastructure. Myers also encouraged mayors to ask themselves hard questions about their policy objectives in order to make sure opportunity remained in focus.

After the private deliberations had concluded, the assembled mayors were able to present the Compact and its top-line goals to the media. These ten issue areas are:

- I. Rebuild our Nation's Transportation and Water Infrastructure, Investing in Strategic Expansions and Targeting More Resources to Cities and Metro Areas
- II. Educate and Train a 21st Century Competitive Workforce
- III. Strengthen the Federal-Local Partnership on Homeland Security and Public Safety, and Reform our Broken Immigration System
- IV. Craft Collaborative Water, Wastewater and Environmental Policies to Maximize Health, Safety and Affordability
- V. Expand Clean Energy Use to Grow the Economy and Protect the Climate and Environment, Using Cities as the Deployment Platform
- VI. Spark Equitable and Sustainable Growth, Community Development and Affordable Housing Investments
- VII. Encourage Pathways for Access, Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Innovation in Cities
- VIII. Spur Innovation for Improved Access to Healthcare, Particularly Mental Health Services
- IX. Re-Direct Tax Policy to Promote Investment in Cities, Advance Middle Class Growth, and Reduce Income Inequality
- X. Increase the Economic Strength of Metro Economies Through the Promotion of Trade and Exports, and Attraction of International Tourism

In remarks on *The Mayors' Compact*, Rawlings-Blake addressed the question of consensus and the purpose of defining these priorities in an election year. "I know that there won't be total consensus on all of the issues in this document. But I know that we will find issues that Democratic mayors will be willing to take to Democratic candidates, that Republican mayors will be willing to take to Republican candidates, and that we all can commit to work on regardless of who gets elected President or whatever the makeup of the next Congress will be," said Rawlings-Blake.

Conference Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, the organization's leading Republican, echoed this bipartisan commitment to action. "We look at this as an



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, at podium.

opportunity. We don't elect presidents very often in this country, but it's clear that going forward America's cities have needs and we have issues, and we need these issues addressed."

In his remarks, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio promised, "We're going to use the weight of all of our cities and towns to have an impact on this national discussion...None of the presidential candidates can afford to ignore the cities because of what we mean



White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jerry E. Abramson, at right, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

politically and what we mean economically. So we are united in bringing these issues to the fore, state by state."

White House IGA Director Abramson

While the prime topic of conversation at the Fall Leadership Meeting was indeed the 2016 election, the mayors also devoted significant time to making progress in the current Washington environment. Rawlings-Blake

see FALL LEADERSHIP on page 8

FALL LEADERSHIP

from page 7

led a discussion with Jerry Abramson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House, about how mayors can interface with the Administration during the remainder of the President's term. In his remarks, Abramson, who previously served as Mayor of Louisville and Conference of Mayors President, discussed a variety of issues, including mandates, community policing, infrastructure, and trade.

Freeman-Wilson and COPS Director Davis: Responding to Homicide Spikes

Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chair of the Conference's Criminal and Social



COPS Office Director Ronald L. Davis discusses the spike in crime taking place in many cities.

Justice Committee, briefed the mayors and COPS Office Director Ron Davis on the Conference's recommendations for federal help to cities experiencing spikes in homicides and other violent crimes. Among those she highlighted were those calling on the FBI to notify local authorities immediately when an individual trying to purchase a gun fails a background check and on the Justice Department to improve pre-trial practices so that persons charged with gun-related and other violent crimes are not inappropriately released to the streets and assuring that those that are released are closely monitored.

Freeman-Wilson also discussed needed Congressional action, including increased funding for COPS hiring grants, reentry programs, and technology grants. Finally, she called for a comprehensive federal approach which includes the Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Education if there is to be a sustained impact on violent crime.

"Mayors around the country have created and implemented best practices on each of the issues we put forward in our Compact. So mayors are not asking the candidates to do anything that we're not willing to do ourselves."

-USCM President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Davis acknowledged that mayors are at the center when it comes both to spikes in violent crime and building police-community trust. He described mayors and police chiefs as "co-producers of public safety" and encouraged them to deal with the two issues together. He suggested that the spike provides a unique opportunity to define policing in this country and suggested that focusing on those who are at risk for violence should be seen as part of the effort to build police-community trust.

Reed: Action Needed on Transportation Reauthorization

The Conference's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed reported on continuing efforts in the House of Representatives to reach agreement on a long-term renewal of the nation's surface transportation law, noting that the Senate passed their renewal legislation ("DRIVE Act"/H.R. 22) in late August. He told his colleagues that House leaders have pledged to complete action on their renewal legislation in October.

"The big challenge is how we pay for the renewal," Reed said, pointing out that the federal Transportation Trust Fund needs an infusion of about \$90+ billion just to maintain current spending commitments. "This (raising new revenue) has been the main struggle in Congress."

Reed also noted that the Senate bill had only raised about half of the revenues needed to 'pay for' their 6-year legislation, adding that House leaders have said available revenues will determine the renewal period in their bill.

Praising Conference President Rawlings-Blake for her leadership on this legislation, Reed said that the Conference and its

members continue to press for a "long-term renewal, with growing federal funding commitments" and also want to see "Congress 'localize' more of the available highway funding." Reed pledged to keep Conference leaders apprised on what they can continue to do to move this important legislation forward, seeking direction from House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA).

Berger: Congressional Relief Needed on Water Mandates

Lima Mayor Dave Berger, who serves as the Vice-Chair on Water for the Conference's Environmental Committee, discussed legislation that has been drafted by mayors that addresses concerns of mayors on water and wastewater mandates. The Conference has had success working with U.S. EPA officials, who have issued several memorandums to the regions on the use of green infrastructure, integrated planning, and determining a community's financial capability. According to Berger, however, the issue is that none of these memoranda have been codified and, as a result, U.S. EPA Regions are not fully cooperating. The Conference of Mayors has drafted legislation that would do the following: Codifies EPA's Integrated Planning Process; Establishes Affordability Criteria Triggers; and Defines Attainable Water Quality Standards.

Berger urged all mayors to educate their Members of Congress on the tremendous costs of these unfunded mandates and to urge them to sponsor our legislation.

Positive Train Control

Berger also briefed the mayors on the need

see FALL LEADERSHIP on page 9

FALL LEADERSHIP

from page 8

for an extension to the deadline for Positive Train Control (PTC). Under the "Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008," freight railroad lines carrying certain toxic materials, passenger railroads, and commuter railroads must implement PTC technology by December 31, 2015.

While the mayors agreed that rail safety is extremely important, there is a concern that after December 31, railroads will refuse shipments of chemicals that are used for treating drinking water and wastewater. Besides the increased risk of long hauling these chemicals by truck, there is also a risk if these chemicals are delayed in arriving at drinking water and wastewater facilities, which could increase the risk of illnesses and potential deaths.

Representative Bill Shuster (PA), Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure

Block Grant and COPS funds from jurisdictions with sanctuary city policies, as they are defined in the bill. While that bill is expected to go straight to the floor, he said, its passage by the Senate is seen as unlikely. Segarra suggested a better approach would be passage of comprehensive immigration reform, as the Senate did in bipartisan fashion in the last Congress.

Kautz: USCM Climate Center Continues Progress

Conference Past President Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, who also chairs the Conference's Finance and Audit Committee, discussed the role of U.S. mayors as leaders globally on climate protection and ongoing and planned efforts by the Conference's Mayors Climate Protection Center to support mayors in curbing emissions and making cities more resilient.

"A decade ago, mayors through this Con-



From left, Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

ference led this early campaign, an effort that attracted more than 1,060 mayors as signatories. She recognized Conference Past President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson who "refreshed the earlier Agreement to address concerns about resiliency" last June at the Dallas Annual Meeting.

Kautz cited the work of the Center, which ranges from reports and surveys to assembling "best practices" to help mayors learn from other successful city efforts. She also reminded mayors that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program was created by the Conference of Mayors to support and accelerate mayoral energy and climate initiatives, stating, "These funds were crucial to many of us as we worked to expand our climate efforts."

Going forward, Kautz talked about various initiatives in the coming months, including changes and additional activities related to the 10th Anniversary of the Mayors' Cli-

"We don't elect presidents very often in this country, but it's clear that going forward America's cities have needs and we have issues, and we need these issues addressed."

-USCM Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett

Committee, recently introduced bipartisan legislation, the "Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015" that extends the deadline to fully implement the technology until the end of 2018, and it also provides limited authority for the U.S. Transportation Secretary to extend the deadline beyond 2018. The leadership mayors agreed to send a letter supporting his legislation.

Segarra: Mayors Oppose "Sanctuary City" Penalties

Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, Chair of the Conference's Task Force on Immigration Reform, updated the mayors on so-called "sanctuary cities" legislation pending in Congress. He described two bills that have already passed the House, and announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee is now not expected to consider a bill which would have withheld both Community Development

ference came together and joined as signatories to the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement," she said, explaining how she and others joined with former Conference President and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels



Mayors and staff volunteer to help create emergency food and supply packages for vulnerable individuals and families.

see FALL LEADERSHIP on page 10

FALL LEADERSHIP

from page 9

mate Protection Awards, to be celebrated at the June Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. She also told the leaders that the Conference would release new energy and climate report at COP-21 in Paris and during the Winter Meeting in Washington.

During this discussion, Energy Independence and Climate Protection Task Force Co-Chair Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch was recognized by his colleagues for his leadership as a Conference leader on climate protection. In his remarks, Finch explained that the Conference's work on these issues was the "best example of bipartisan action," warning that "spin doctors have divided us" and that the organization's work "must continue to be bipartisan."

Finch then challenged his colleagues by urging that the organization "reclaim the higher ground" and work to continue to "be the number one organization fighting for climate." In his remarks, he also reminded the leaders that "this work related to the survival of the planet." Appearing at his last leadership meeting, Finch will leave office in December.

Rawlings-Blake: Baltimore Innovating on Food Policy

Mayor Rawlings-Blake opened the food access discussion with an overview of her Bal-

to achieve its goals including: a food desert retail strategy to expand and retain supermarkets as well as improves food environment in non-traditional grocery settings; virtual supermarkets and healthy stores to improve healthy food options in non-traditional settings; employee wellness incentives to encourage employees to lead healthier lifestyles; farmers markets strategies to in-

food access during the critical summer months. "The DC Free Summer Meals Program currently serves the highest percentage of eligible low-income children in the country at 59 percent. This success can be attributed to strong partnerships established between District agencies, community partners, and local advocacy groups," she said.

New Task Forces on Aging, Substance

"None of the Presidential candidates can afford to ignore the cities because of what we mean politically and what we mean economically."

-New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio

crease citizens' ability to purchase fruits and vegetables; urban agriculture programs to increase the availability of fresh foods in both in-school and out of school settings; and tax incentives and zoning changes to encourage more supermarkets and urban farming in food desert areas.

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley joined the conversation by reiterating the importance of food equity and discussed the work her city is doing to convert abandoned and blighted areas into community gardens and urban agriculture. The City of Dayton has partnered with Ohio State Extension Center to promote Urban Agriculture in the city. "We use va-

Abuse

During the Fall Leadership Meeting, Rawlings-Blake announced the creation of two new Conference of Mayors Task Forces.

The first, the Conference of Mayors' Task Force on Aging, will be chaired by Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis. The Task Force will address health, community development, and other needs that arise in America's cities as a result of over 65,000 Americans turning 65 each day. The Aging Task Force will cut across many issues areas affecting the aging population including housing, transportation, health, and workforce.

The second task force, the Conference of Mayors' Task Force on Substance Abuse and Recovery Services, will be chaired by Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. This Task Force is intended to address the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction that are negatively affecting cities and towns across the country. The task force will examine effective recovery services strategies and approaches.

Service Event

On the final day of the Leadership Meeting, mayors and staff visited the operations of Flight 1 Carriers, a Baltimore nonprofit that distributes emergency food and supply packs to families in need. Founder and President Bryant Smith emphasized Flight 1's approach

"The time has come to take the handcuffs off of cities' productivity by causing us to go through states for the resources that we need."

-Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed

timore Food Policy Initiative. The initiative is meant to be "a catalyst to address health, economic, and environmental disparities in Baltimore." The Baltimore Food Policy Initiative is an interagency collaboration between the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, Department of Planning, Health Department and Baltimore Development Corporation, focused on improving the health outcomes of Baltimore City residents by increasing access to healthy, affordable food in the city's food deserts. The initiative uses a multi-pronged approach

cant sites throughout the city to work with marginalized communities like our immigrant and homeless populations. We also test the ground with our parks to make sure the land is safe to plant. If not, we use raised beds," Whaley said.

Other mayors including District of Columbia Mayor and new Food Policy Task Force Vice-Chair Muriel Bowser discussed her city's newly formed Food Policy Council and the extensive work her city is doing to increase

see FALL LEADERSHIP on page 11

The United States Conference of Mayors Fall 2015 Leadership Meeting Sponsors



Left to right: Sponsor Rockefeller Foundation Associate Director Emily Garr Pacetti, Sponsor Comcast Government Affairs Executive Director Ron Orlando, USCM Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Sponsor Enterprise Holdings Inc. Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs Alonzo Byrd, Sponsor Rockefeller Foundation Managing Director Michael Myers, Business Council Steering Committee Co-Chair CapSpan Urban Development & Government Affairs Director Doug Palmer, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

FALL LEADERSHIP

from page 10

to viewing poverty as a disaster, underscoring why emergency kits were so essential.

During their time with Flight 1 Carriers, the mayors helped to assemble emergency kits to be distributed around Baltimore. Rawlings-Blake thanked the mayors for their efforts to give back to their community, and tied the work of Flight 1 Carriers to her administration's goal of improving access to healthy food.

Attending Mayors

The following mayors were in attendance for the Conference of Mayors Fall Leadership Meeting:

USCM President,
Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
USCM Vice President,
Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett
USCM Past President,
Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz
Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis
Lima Mayor David Berger
Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero
Johns Creek Mayor Mike Bodker
District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch
Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer
Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson
Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales
Kansas City Mayor Sly James
Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere
Frisco Mayor Maher Maso
Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan
New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell
Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis
Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings
Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed
Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra
Madison Mayor Paul Soglin
Piscataway Mayor Brian C. Wahler
Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley

Thank You

**In appreciation for your support of
The United States Conference of Mayors
2015 Fall Leadership Meeting**

Funded by:



The
**ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION**



Rawlings-Blake Urges Attorney General, Other Top Federal Officials to Take Immediate Action to Help Cities with Homicide Spikes

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Conference President and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was among 11 mayors who participated in the Attorney General's Summit on Violent Crime October 7 in Washington, DC. Rawlings-Blake briefed top Justice Department officials and the mayors, police chiefs, and U.S. Attorneys present on the current spike in homicides which her city is experiencing and actions being taken there to respond to it.



Photo by Police Executive Research Forum.

Conference President and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake with Interim Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, at right, during the Summit.

"We're talking about loss of life in our cities, so this is an urgent issue for mayors whose cities are experiencing a surge in violence," Rawlings-Blake commented. "Mayors are looking to their federal partners for immediate help. We have had such help in Baltimore and want to see the assistance we are receiving increase and become available to other cities that need it."

"Today Attorney General Loretta Lynch demonstrated her recognition of the problems we are facing and her commitment to helping us address them," she continued. "Through the Conference of Mayors we will continue to work with her and other top officials of the Justice Department to get the support we need to reduce the violence that is surging in our cities."

Other mayors participating in the summit were Tom Barrett, Milwaukee; Muriel Bowser, Washington, DC; Rahm Emanuel, Chicago; Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary; Michael Hancock, Denver; Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans;



Photo by Police Executive Research Forum.

Conference Criminal and Social Justice Committee Chair Gary Mayor Karen Freeman Wilson with Gary Police Chief Larry McKinley during the Summit.

Mike Rawlings, Dallas; Pedro Segarra, Hartford; Francis Slay, St. Louis; and Martin Walsh, Boston.

Mayors' Call For Immediate Federal Actions To Stem Violence In Cities

Rawlings-Blake also presented the Attorney General with a paper calling for immediate federal action that was developed during and after an August conference call she convened of a small group of mayors whose cities are experiencing homicide spikes. That paper spells out specific actions that the federal government should take immediately, both administratively and in Congress, to help cities experiencing these spikes respond to them:

Administrative Actions:

1. Guns: The FBI should notify local authorities immediately when an individual trying to purchase a gun fails a background check.
2. Personnel: Local police departments



Photo by Police Executive Research Forum.

U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, at right, at the Summit.

should be able to supplement their personnel with federal agents (FBI, DEA, ATF, Secret Service, Marshall's Service) for cases involving high value targets.

3. Prosecution: U.S. Attorneys should work in partnership with local prosecutors to strengthen prosecutions when suspects can be charged with federal crimes. The Justice Department should establish minimum expectations for US Attorneys' prosecutions, particularly relating to illegal gun possession and illegal gun trafficking in the secondary gun market.
4. Pre-trial Practices: The Justice Department should provide guidance to improve pre-trial practices so that persons charged with gun-related and other violent crimes are not inappropriately released to the streets. When such suspects are released to the streets they should be closely monitored, potentially through the use of ankle bracelets or other practices.
5. Drugs: Federal authorities should provide up-to-date field tests for synthetic drugs currently being developed and used.



Photo by Police Executive Research Forum.

Conference Second Vice President New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu at the Summit.

Those on probation or parole should be regularly tested for these drugs.

6. Evidence: Police departments should be able to request the assistance of federal crime labs in evidence analysis so that they are able to clear major cases more quickly.

see **HOMICIDES** on page 16

Interagency Panel Unveils Agenda of Federal Actions to Accelerate Broadband Deployment in U.S.

By Kevin McCarty

The President's "Broadband Opportunity Council" reported to the nation September 21 on how various federal departments and agencies can and will do more to help promote better broadband access and faster broadband speeds in cities and other local areas throughout the U.S.

The Council, first established by President Barack Obama in March and comprised of 25 separate departments/agencies, was tasked with identifying potential administrative actions to improve broadband access and adoption, with an emphasis on identifying regulatory and policy barriers, ways for incentivizing investment in broadband, and strategies to align funding policies and decision-making.

Based on this evaluation, which included soliciting comments from the public, the Council released its package of recommendations, detailing actions to be taken by a host of federal agencies over the next 18 months to further broadband deployment. To view the full 40-page report and its recommendations, go to: [Broadband Opportunity Council Report](#).

Acknowledging the substantial role of cities and other local governments operating on the front lines of this deployment, the report states, "While sound national policies and programs are important, most decisions on broadband investment are made by local governments in partnership with the private sector, guided by State law."

Council's Work, Oversight Continues into 2016

This multi-agency effort, which was chaired by U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, called attention to these four broad recommendations to guide the federal government's work in the coming months:

1. Modernize federal programs to expand program support for broadband

investments.

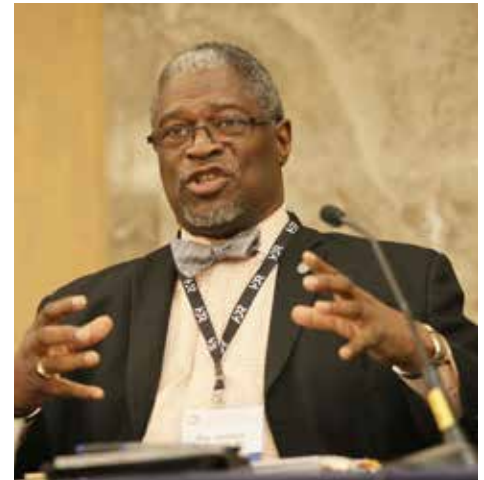
2. Empower communities with tools and resources to attract broadband investment and promote meaningful use.
3. Promote increased broadband deployment and competition through expanded access to federal assets.
4. Improve data collection, analysis and research on broadband.

The report also identifies specific commitments by federal agencies to further these deployment efforts, including:

- Modernizing federal programs – valued at approximately \$10 billion – to include broadband as an eligible program expenditure;
- Creating an online inventory of data on federal assets that can help support faster and more economical broadband deployments to remote areas of the country;
- Streamline applications for programs and broadband permitting processes to support broadband deployment and foster competition; and
- Create a portal for information on federal broadband funding and loan programs to help communities easily identify resources as they seek to expand access to broadband.

According to the report, officials at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for example, have pledged to initiate a series of rulemakings in the first quarter of 2016 to further broadband connectivity. These proposed rules will include new standards for housing construction, amendments to Consolidated Plan rules to include broadband, and expanded funding eligibility for broadband-related improvements under various community development and housing programs, including the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

Over the next 18 months, the Council will



In June, Kansas City (MO) Mayor Sly James discusses his city's broadband deployment efforts during a special forum at the Conference's Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

continue to propose and monitor actions by federal agencies to ensure progress in implementing the initial recommendations set forth in its report and will explore additional actions to further the goals set forth by the President in his March statement.

In addition to the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, the Council includes the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Science Foundation, the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, the Council of Economic Advisers, the Domestic Policy Council, the National Economic Council, and the National Security Council.

USCM, APTA Together on Funding Needs for Public Transportation



At right, Incoming American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Chairman Valerie J. McCall, Chief of Government & International Affairs of Cleveland's Office of the Mayor, with Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran during the APTA's October 4-7 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Cochran joined with the nation's transit leaders to affirm the strong and continuing commitment of the nation's mayors to growing public transit throughout the U.S.



From left, Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, American Public Transportation Association Chair and Greater Cleveland Regional Transportation Authority Board Member Valerie McCall, Antioch Mayor Wade Harper, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson.

RAWLINGS-BLAKE

from page 6

help bring people out of poverty today."

Rawlings-Blake also talked about events in Baltimore, including the tragic death of Freddie Gray and its aftermath. "Baltimore was not as prepared as it should have been," she said. She said that many mayors around the country recognize that "what happened in Baltimore could happen anywhere."

She discussed her ongoing work to improve community-police relations and pointed to significant reforms with policing as inevitable. "While we know that the vast majority of our officers serve our residents with distinction, there is a wave in our country that is unrelenting and will hold officers accountable for wrong-doing ... change is coming," she said. "If you can't see that, you are blind."

Notably, Rawlings-Blake called for a stronger federal-local partnership to respond to these challenges before cities and local

areas. "Mayors cannot and have not waited for Washington to act," she said. "But strengthening the federal-city partnership is critical because, while we have taken the

"Mayors know how to work together to get things done. ... We are a bipartisan group that knows how to put ideology aside to focus on the things that matter most to our

"Gridlock strangles Washington, and the consequences of that gridlock are passed on to cities to the detriment of Americans who not being served."

-USCM President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

lead, we are clear that we cannot solve our nation's biggest challenges alone."

She stressed that the persistent dysfunction in Washington hinders that partnership. "Gridlock strangles Washington, and the consequences of that gridlock are passed on to cities to the detriment of Americans who not being served.

No serious candidate for President or Congress can or should allow this to continue," she said. Indicating that Washington could learn something from mayors, she said,

residents because our jobs demand results."

"Mayors are uniquely positioned to influence the national dialogue, and we intend to hold Washington – and those who aspire to the White House – accountable to put the issues of urban America front and center," said Rawlings-Blake. "The next President needs a national agenda for our cities."

EPA Issues Final Rule Lowering Ozone Levels

Cities May Be Impacted

By Judy Sheahan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy issued a final rule lowering ozone standards from the current 2008 standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb. EPA was under a court order to review the standards and release a final rule by an October 1 deadline. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review the ozone standards every five years to determine whether they should be revised in light of the latest science.

EPA put out a Federal Register notice soliciting comments for what the level should be, within a range of 65 to 70 parts per billion (ppb), as well as seeking comment on levels for the health standard as low as 60 ppb. The proposed rule had many organizations advocating on this issue. The Conference of

Mayors and other local government organizations submitted comments asking for more time to implement the 2008 standards before lowering the standards even further due to the potential for promoting sprawl, potentially losing transportation funding, and the economic development constraints that a lower standard would impose.

According to EPA, ground level or "bad" ozone, a key component of smog, is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources of NOx and VOC. Smog has been

linked to such public health issues as asthma.

"Our job is to set science-backed standards that protect the health of the American people. Today's action is one of the most important measures we can take for improving public health, reducing the costs of illness and protecting our children's health," said McCarthy.

According to EPA, the States will have time to meet the standards (between 2020 and 2037), depending on the severity of their ozone problem. The States will need to submit State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to EPA for their approval. The Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors to work with their State agencies to craft a SIP that would not detrimentally impact urban and suburban areas.

HOMICIDES

from page 13

Congressional Actions:

1. Personnel: Congress should provide continued and increased funding for COPS hiring grants and other federal programs that enhance the ability of local police departments to do their jobs.
2. Reentry: Congress should provide continued and increased funding for Second Chance programs so that when prisoners are released to the community they have a
3. Sentencing Reform: Congress should revise federal sentencing laws to reduce the incarceration rates among low level drug offenders and increase them for persons who have committed repeated violent crimes, particularly those involving guns.
4. Guns: Congress should strengthen the background check system, including its coverage of potentially dangerous men-
5. Technology: Congress should provide support for the development and use of technology that will assist police in solving cases, including cameras – real-time surveillance and body-worn cameras – license plate readers, and facial recognition software.



SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS WITH US!

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

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

etemple@usmayors.org

Long Beach Receives 2015 National Education Pathways with a Purpose Grant

By Megan Cardiff

On Tuesday, October 6, Stephanie Nellons-Paige, Senior Director for Metro Engagement and Relations, Philanthropy & National Engagement at USA Funds, presented Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia with the \$15,000 First Place award for The U.S. Conference of Mayors/USA Funds inaugural 2015 National Education Pathways with a Purpose grants program, at a ceremony held during a city council meeting at the Long Beach Civic Center.

The grant will support and expand the work of the Long Beach Promise, an initiative that offers ways for Long Beach Unified School District students to prepare for, enter and complete college. The Promise provides high school students with a free semester at Long Beach City College followed by guaranteed admission into California State University if the students meet minimum requirements.

In addition to the Promise, Mayor Garcia has championed the development of internship

and career pathway activities through Linked Learning collaborations. The Linked Learning Pathways program aligns coursework, business engagement, and curriculum development to contextualize education and make it relevant to students.

Mayor Garcia provides leadership in the development of learning pathways for the Long Beach's youth, students, and workers through numerous programs. The Promise is just one way Mayor Garcia demonstrates his commitment to education and college and career success in the City of Long Beach.

The 2016 USCM/USA Funds National Education Pathways with a Purpose grant awards will be announced at the U.S. Conference of Mayors 84th Annual Winter Meeting from January 20-22, 2016 in Washington, D.C. Grant awards for the second year of the program have been increased to \$100,000 for the Large City winner, \$35,000 for the Me-



From left, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Stephanie Nellons-Paige, USA Funds Senior Director for Metro Engagement and Relations, Philanthropy & National Engagement and USCM Staff Megan Cardiff.

dium City Winner, and \$15,000 for the Small City Winner. For more information on the 2016 grant awards, please contact Megan Cardiff at mcardiff@usmayors.org.

Senate Judiciary Committee Again Cancels Consideration of Sanctuary Cities Bill; Floor Action Planned

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

For the fourth time, the Senate Judiciary Committee postponed a markup of legislation that would penalize so-called "sanctuary cities." That markup had been scheduled for October 8. Now the bill will go straight to the floor on October 20, when the Senate will vote on a cloture motion filed October 8 by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY). Passage is considered uncertain in the face of partisan disagreements over key provisions in the bill.

On October 6 the bill's chief sponsor, Senator David Vitter (LA), introduced a new version of the bill, now S. 2146 and called the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act. The new bill continues to deny Community Development Block Grant, COPS, and State Criminal Alien Assistance funding to jurisdictions meeting the bill's definition of a sanctuary city. It defines a sanctuary jurisdiction

as a state or locality that prohibits its law enforcement officers from cooperating with federal immigration officials.

The bill also would:

- Require the Department of Homeland Security to publicly list which jurisdictions are deemed sanctuary jurisdictions;
- Require that funds withheld from sanctuary jurisdictions be re-allocated and made available to other state and local jurisdictions that allow their local law enforcement to cooperate with federal officials;
- Confirm that local law enforcement has the legal authority to cooperate with federal immigration officials if they wish, while protecting individuals' civil rights and preserving individuals' ability to sue for violations of civil and constitutional rights.
- Establish a mandatory minimum sentence of five

years for illegal immigrants who are convicted of re-entering the U.S. after being convicted of an aggravated felony or being convicted of having illegally re-entered the U.S. twice before.

The Conference of Mayors has vigorously opposed the previous versions of the bill and will continue to oppose this version since it threatens critical funding for cities and preempts local decisions governing how law enforcement agencies prioritize their resources, direct their workforce, and define the duties of their employees. The Conference further believes that the bill would shift federal responsibility for enforcing civil immigration law to local governments, divert critical resources from local law enforcement agencies, compromise public safety, and hinder local police department efforts to work with immigrant communities in preventing and solving crimes.

Dickert Supports Great Lakes Initiative at House Hearing Urges Authorization of the Program

By Judy Sheahan

Racine Mayor John Dickert recently testified on the importance of protecting the Great Lakes and the need to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at a House subcommittee hearing.

The September 30 session, conducted by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, focused on the GLRI, a program that brings together 16 different federal agencies to work together on various Great Lakes issues, including cleaning up toxics and "Areas of Concern," combating invasive species, protecting watersheds, and restoring wetlands.

Dickert emphasized the importance of officially authorizing the GLRI. "I cannot emphasize enough that we all must be fully engaged and fully committed to water issues if we are to succeed," Dickert said. "You cannot do this half way because we need to remain vigilant about protecting this natural resource and, unfortunately, it only takes a short time for our waters to become impaired."

Opening the hearing was Water Resources Subcommittee Chairman Bob Gibbs (OH) who emphasized the importance of the Great Lakes to the nation. "The Great Lakes constitute the largest inland water transportation system in the world, and have played an important role in the economic development of both the United States and Canada," Gibbs said. "According to some estimates, the Great Lakes help support more than \$200 billion a year in economic activity in the region, and contribute nearly a quarter of the nation's exports and 27 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product."

Dickert echoed similar themes in his testimony. "The importance of water to our cities on the Great Lakes cannot be overstated. It is essential to the overall quality of life and economic well-being of our communities," he said, adding that the Great Lakes represent "20 percent of the fresh water supply in the world."

Citing a Conference of Mayors Water Council



House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources Subcommittee Chair Bob Gibbs talks to Racine Mayor John Dickert, at right, on the issue of protecting the Great Lakes.

study, National City Water Survey 2005, he noted that 35 percent of the cities surveyed did not know where their drinking water supplies would come from in 2020. "It doesn't take that statistic or a four-year drought in the West to recognize how important it is to protect such a valuable natural resource," he said

Dickert also praised the work of the GLRI, which was funded in 2010 but never authorized. "The Conference of Mayors is always supportive when agencies break down their silos and coordinate their efforts towards a more effective and efficient use of the taxpayers money ... and the GLRI has some notable achievements," he said.

The GLRI has implemented nearly 2,700 projects including cleaning up Areas of Concern (AOCs), which are designated areas around the Great Lakes where the contamination is especially serious. While there has been work on the cleanup of 31 of these AOCs for more than 20 years, Dickert explained, only one had been cleaned up and removed from the list of AOCs before there was funding for GLRI. In the five years since GLRI was established, three additional AOCs have been removed from the list and all of the cleanup

work needed to remove three more has been completed.

"For the six cities where this GLRI funded work has taken place, it will make a world of difference because being an AOC carries a stigma that is very difficult to overcome," Dickert said.

In discussing Racine's experience with the GLRI where they received funding to build green infrastructure and restore Samuel Meyers Park, he said, "We have utilized GLRI and multiple other partners including state and federal agencies to clean up a contaminated beach, rebuild our marina and harbor and providing access for the largest inland fishing tournament in the world."

He also discussed the importance of coordinating projects. "Mayors do this because we are good at blending projects like these three into one project for peak efficiency and cost savings," Dickert said. "It's difficult in this limited time to discuss all the advantages, but let me be clear on one - The GLRI has been consistently used to leverage multiple partners and funding to develop and redevelop areas that would never be completed without your support."

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind Celebrate 2015 CommunityWINS Award

By Jocelyn Bogen and Eugene Lowe

Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and Wells Fargo today joined in an event on September 17th to celebrate a 2015 First Place CommunityWINS (Working/Investing in Neighborhood Stabilization) Grant Award for medium-sized cities.

An award in the amount of \$150,000 was presented to the Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind for the Employment for the Individuals Who Are Blind – Inclement Weather Outer Layer (IWOL) Project– which offers employment for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and provides funding for training and machinery accommodations. The award is part of a nationwide CommunityWINS Program made possible by a grant from a USCM and Wells Fargo Housing Foundation collaboration.

The 2015 CommunityWINS awards include monetary grants to city-based nonprofit organizations and recognize mayors for exemplary leadership in developing local programs that promote long-term economic prosperity and improve the quality of life for residents in three categories: neighborhood stabilization, economic development, and job creation. An independent panel of judges, selected by The U.S. Conference of Mayors, determined the six winning cities from a pool of 162 applicants in three populations groups -- small, medium and large.

"Our City has as one of its goals to improve the quality of life for all of its citizens. This grant to Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind will do just that by creating additional opportunities for employment while boosting our local economy through this project," Stodola said. "We are honored that the U.S. Conference of Mayors selected Little Rock to be one of the recipients of a CommunityWINS award."

Arkansas has the second largest blind/visually impaired population per capita in the United States. The primary goal of Employment for Individuals Who Are Blind program is to provide full-time employment for 25 in-

dividuals, including at least 10 of those who are blind or visually impaired.

"We believe that every American deserves economic opportunity and independence," said Jay Swindle, director of operations at the Lighthouse. "Support for Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind – whether it comes in the form of corporate philanthropy, memorial or celebration gifts, or annual fund donations – allows us to continue to provide employment opportunities for Arkansans who are blind or visually impaired. The number of employees who are blind or visually impaired has been steadily increasing to meet the needs of new product lines. Moreover, National Industries for the Blind has consistently recognized us for employment retention, growth and upward mobility."

Through the Inclement Weather Outer Layer (IWOL) project, their new product line – the IWOL jacket – to be used by the U.S. Army will be brought to Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind (ALB) diversifying its current product mix and ensuring sustainable operations. Not only will ALB sustain the current levels of employment by supporting jobs at existing production lines, but it will also create additional employment for 25 Arkansans thus contributing to the area's economic development and bringing federal contract revenue to the city.

The new product line will bring \$5,184,000 annually in federal contracts to Little Rock. Individuals who are blind will produce 14,400 units of the Inclement Weather Outer Layer jacket for the military per year.

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors commented, "Our 2015 CommunityWINS Grant Program gives the Conference an opportunity to showcase positive change happening now in our cities to make a difference in the lives of residents. We are grateful to Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation for their support of the CommunityWINS Program, which also highlights the talent and commitment of mayors and city governments."



Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola announces the 2015 First Place CommunityWINS (Working/Investing in Neighborhood Stabilization) Grant Award for medium-sized cities at the Arkansas Lighthouse for the Blind.

"Wells Fargo is delighted to collaborate with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to make these grants available for nonprofits and enable them to make vital improvements in their cities," said Martin Sundquist, executive director, Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. "Wells Fargo cares about the communities we serve and we're inspired by the tremendous interest in the inaugural CommunityWINS grant program that will add up to make a big difference in helping revitalize neighborhoods." For more information on the 2015 CommunityWINS Grant Awards recipients go to www.usmayors.org/communitywins





SAVE THE DATE:

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS 84th WINTER MEETING

January 20-22, 2016

Washington, DC

Registration Opens Soon



Contact:
Carol Edwards
cedwards@usmayors.org
202-293-7330

Sponsorship:
Geri Powell
gpowell@usmayors.org
202-861-6774