



The United States Conference of Mayors

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The United States Conference of Mayors Mission to Rome

Conference President, Hempstead, New York Mayor James A. Garner Visits the Vatican and Attends International Glocalization Conference

May 16 – May 19, 2004

Washington, D.C. – The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) President and Hempstead, New York Mayor James A. Garner and Conference Executive Director Tom Cochran will be in Rome, Italy, next week for a meeting at the Vatican to report to His Holiness Pope John Paul II and His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze on the Conference of Mayors four-nation mission to Africa last year.

The Mission to Africa, which was the largest mission undertaken in the history of The United States Conference of Mayors, allowed U.S. mayors to share their experiences with African mayors and build collaborative partnerships between U.S. cities and African cities in response to the devastating impact of the AIDS pandemic in Africa. The Conference of Mayors delegation traveled to four African nations: South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda.

While in Windhoek, Namibia African mayors along with USA Mayors agreed that USCM President Garner should officially thank the Vatican and representatives of the Catholic Church for the tremendous help it has played in alleviating pain and suffering of Africans as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the nations of Africa.

“As the AIDS pandemic continues to devastate nations of Africa, our goal is to further sustainable efforts in sharing and learning this issue between U.S. mayors and African mayors. We have come to the Vatican to convey our commitment to this cause and our partnership with African mayors,” USCM President Garner said.

Also, while in Rome, USCM President Garner and Executive Director Cochran will also attend the 3rd Annual Glocalization Conference, May 16 and 17. The purpose of this international conference, hosted by Rome Mayor Walter Veltroni, is to discuss the needs of children in conflict areas and stress city-to-city efforts and seek ways to meet those needs.

Subsequent sessions include forums on peace-building jointly moderated by mayors from the Israeli and Palestinian cities of Rishon Le’Zion and Nablus, panel discussions led by mayors from the “We Are the Future” Pilot cities, and round table meetings on the development needs of local children.

Young people from 60 cities worldwide will also be represented with members of the Glocal Youth Parliament and other youth representatives participating and presenting at the conference.

More than 50 mayors from around the world, including Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Baltimore, Maryland Mayor Martin O'Malley, as well as heads of state, ministers, municipal Leaders, heads of corporations, and individuals from all sectors will participate in the conference.

“For over 30 years, U.S. mayors, through our organization, have been involved in establishing dialogue and sharing best practices with mayors and public officials from around the world. Our organization is very proud of this history,” said Conference Executive Director Tom Cochran.

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About The U.S. Conference of Mayors:

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official - the mayor. Founded in 1932, the organization established its headquarters in Washington, D.C. and has remained there as an advocate for U.S. cities. The primary roles of the Conference are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. In addition to its mission within the United States, the Conference of Mayors has created a network of mayors from across the world called the International Conference of Mayors.