



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## *The United States Conference of Mayors Mission to Rome*

### **Conference of Mayors President, Mayor James A. Garner of Hempstead, NY Attends International Glocalization Conference**

#### *Mayor Garner to Meet with Cardinal Francis Arinze at the Vatican on Tuesday, May 18*

**Rome, Italy** – The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) President and Hempstead, New York Mayor James A. Garner and Conference Executive Director Tom Cochran participated in the third annual Glocalization Conference, May 16 and 17 in Rome, Italy. The two-day conference brought together more than 50 mayors from around the world, including Washington, D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Baltimore, Maryland Mayor Martin O'Malley, and former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, as well as heads of state, foreign ministers, municipal leaders, and individuals from all sectors.

The Glocalization Conference, which is an outcome of the collaboration between the Glocal Forum and the Municipality of Rome, focused on the needs of children in conflict areas and stressed the importance of city-to-city participation in improving the living conditions of children around the world.

"We are pleased to be a part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Glocalization Conference. We recognize that when mayors come together from around the world to share best practices and learn from each other, we can make a difference in the lives of children and citizens everywhere," said Conference President Garner.

Other participants in the conference included top leaders from international organizations such as the World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn and many United Nations organizations who came together to discuss taking a decentralized approach to assisting children in need.

A highlight of this year's conference was the "We Are the Future" world-wide televised concert organized by Quincy Jones. The concert, which featured an international line-up of performers, launched the "We Are the Future" project.

#### **Tuesday, May 18, 2004: Mayor Garner Meets with His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze at the Vatican**

- Conference President Mayor Garner and Executive Director Tom Cochran will have a private meeting with **His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze at the Vatican** to report on the Conference of Mayors four-nation mission to Africa last year to address the devastation of HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- Mayor Garner meets with **U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican**: Ambassador R. James “Jim” Nicholson.

### **Wednesday, May 19, 2004: Mayor Garner Meets with His Holiness Pope John Paul II at the Vatican**

Mayor Garner and Executive Director Tom Cochran will meet **His Holiness Pope John Paul II at the Vatican**

The United States Conference of Mayors *Mission to Africa*, which was the largest mission undertaken in the history of Conference, allowed U.S.A. 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 U.S.A. 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.

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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. For more information about The United States Conference of Mayors, visit [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).