



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

For Immediate Release:
Friday, January 8, 2016

Contact:

Elena Temple 202-286-1100 | etemple@usmayors.org
Sara Durr 202-215-1811 | sara@durrcommunications.com

THE NATION'S MAYORS TO BRING URBAN AGENDA TO IOWA

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors will bring their urban agenda – [The 2016 Compact for a Better America: A Call to Action](#) – to Des Moines, Iowa for The Brown & Black Presidential Forum on Monday, January 11, 2016. The [Compact](#) calls on the Presidential candidates and Congress to INVEST in and PROTECT America's cities and metro areas (www.usmayors.org).

Under the leadership of USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, a bipartisan group of mayors from cities large and small will attend the Brown & Black Presidential Forum to stress to Presidential Candidates how important city/metropolitan issues are to the country and a growing number of Americans.

With more than 85% of people in the United States living in our nation's cities and metro areas, mayors clearly understand how urban issues impact everyday Americans and are calling on candidates to focus on these issues. Mayors are convinced that despite their geographic location, cities large and small across over the country are plagued by the same challenges including access to healthcare, job creation, affordable housing, immigration, crime and illegal guns, failing public schools and climate protection.

Billed as the oldest Forum addressing minority issues, The Iowa Brown & Black Presidential Forum is an element of Urban Dreams' non-partisan Project V.O.T.E. (Voting Opportunities Through Education). It is the nation's only presidential forum in which all candidates have the opportunity to answer essential concerns of African-Americans and Latinos. The non-partisan event began in 1984 and has figured prominently in the Iowa caucuses. It is recognized as the oldest continuous minority forum for presidential candidates in America and one of the longest-running presidential forums in the nation. For questions related to the Brown & Black Forum, please contact Brianne Pins: Brianne@CashmereAgency.com

"The issues of Des Moines and of cities around Iowa are the same issues that face mayors around the country each and every day. We support The Brown & Black Forum in its mission to present to the next President of the United States the challenges and opportunities before us and we believe it is critical that mayors participate," said Tom Cochran, USCM CEO & Executive Director.

WHO:

Baltimore, MD Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, USCM President
Columbia, SC Mayor Steven Benjamin, USCM Trustee
Des Moines, IA Mayor Frank Cownie, USCM Trustee
Santa Fe, NM Mayor Javier Gonzales, USCM Member
Tom Cochran, USCM CEO & Executive Director

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE – MAYORS WILL REACT TO CANDIDATES AND SPEAK TO URBAN ISSUES IMPACTING AMERICA'S CITIES + Attend The Brown & Black Forum

WHEN: Monday, January 11, 2016 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST (Prior to Brown & Black Forum)

WHERE: Drake University | Turner Jazz Center (directly behind the Sheslow Auditorium) | 2507 University Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311

###

About The United States Conference of Mayors -- The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are nearly 1,400 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/usmayors, or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.