



U.S. MAYOR

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Joblessness Leads to More Hungry, Homeless Families in U.S. Cities

Mayors Issue Annual Report; Highlight Local Responses

In the midst of a struggling economy and continuing high levels of unemployment, U.S. cities are feeling the pressure from increased numbers of hungry and homeless families according to a U.S. Conference of Mayors report on the status of Hunger and Homelessness in 29 cities in America that was released on December 15 by The U.S. Conference of

Mayors on a news conference call.

For nearly three decades, the Conference of Mayors has documented the magnitude of the issues of hunger and homelessness in the nation's cities, examining key indicators of the problems and describing efforts cities are making to address these challenges.

"Mayors have always grappled with social issues and their economic consequences, but now these issues are more pronounced than ever because of the weak national economy. As mayors, we are responsible for caring for our residents who are struggling to make ends meet and will continue to do so, even as resources for local programs are slashed

in Congress," said Asheville (NC) Mayor Terry Bellamy who co-chairs the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness.

Requests for Food Assistance

According to report findings, all but four of the survey cities noted that requests for emergency food assistance increased over the past year by an average of 15 percent. And among those requesting food assistance, cities noted that even those with jobs are going hungry – 51 percent of those requesting assistance were families, 26 percent were employed, 19 percent were elderly and 11 percent were homeless.



With joblessness in many cities reaching double-digits, unemployment was cited by the survey cities as the main

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Villaraigosa Signs Agreement with China Association of Mayors

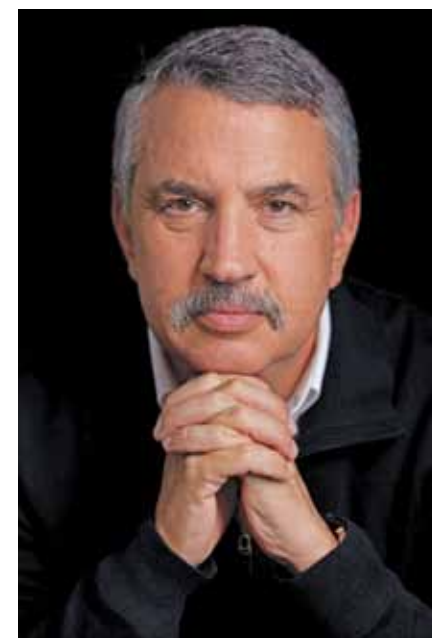


USCM President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa meets with Beijing Mayor GUO Jinlong, China Association of Mayors President, at right, after signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the two associations. See Story on Page 7.

Thomas L. Friedman Confirmed for 80th Winter Meeting of the Conference of Mayors

January 18-20, 2012
Washington, DC

Registration online
at usmayors.org



Friedman will address the mayors on Thursday, January 19.

TO THE MAYOR FROM THE CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Washington, DC
December 15, 2011

JFK School

Since 1973, The United States Conference of Mayors has been a partner with the John F. Kennedy Institute of Politics at Harvard providing transition sessions for new mayors. A lot of change has occurred in our cities over the past four decades but there are some basic issues for a new mayor in 2011 that are the same. A mayor loses his or her name; everyone calls the mayor "Mayor." Personal lives are touched; families of mayors are affected. And there are basic necessities that the citizens look to the mayor to provide, such as fire, police, garbage collection, filling the potholes and repairing the buildings and roads. To some cities, snow removal is an issue and to others, floods are a threat. Illegal guns are in our cities and gangs; the mentally ill and criminals terrorize our downtowns and our neighborhoods. And when that major disaster hits you like the 300 mile an hour winds that hit Joplin, Missouri, and another tornado wipes out Tuscaloosa, Alabama, it is the mayor who must rise to the occasion.

Over the years at the JFK School, I have seen new mayors enter our world and many mayors refer back to the transition sessions they attended as most helpful for the political and governing ahead of them. Tom McClimon and I have been the Conference staff for this ongoing partnership. Working with Institute of Politics Director Trey Grayson, Cathy McLaughlin, and Christian Flynn on this 2011 session was most produc-

tive. We had a strong group of mayors and we focused on new issues never touched at the JFK School before.

We spent a considerable amount of time on pension reform. Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake gave the new mayors insight and advice on budgetary challenges.

Another issue was social media. This issue is quite personal for so many mayors. Friending on Facebook, replies to emails and using tweets to communicate with your constituents were among many issues discussed during our social media session.

Maggie Daley – A Gift for Chicago

Conference Vice President Mayor Michael Nutter and I, along with Arts Assistant Director Tom McClimon, represented our organization at the public wake and funeral mass for our friend Maggie Daley, who fought so hard against cancer. For nine years, she continued to be strong for the children of Chicago. Years ago, she started an initiative called "Gallery 37" that brought children of all ages and incomes together on a vacant lot in downtown Chicago to use their talents in a most productive way of creating subjects of art in all forms and media.

Mayors went there to see it, and afterwards, Tom McClimon and I worked with Maggie to share the initiative so that other mayors could come and take what Maggie was doing in Chicago back to their own cities. The initiative was replicated in many cities, and even some cities in other nations are now providing more creative opportunities for young people worldwide.

I asked her one day how it happened. She said she was frustrated because there were no creative opportunities being offered to her own children in Chicago. She said all I could take them to was a rock concert and she said

she wanted more. And she went to work and got more for the youth.

Gallery 37 has now grown into the initiative "After School Matters" that is much larger and more comprehensive.

The priest said that she was a gift from the city of Pittsburgh. Her contributions were many. But none exceeded the gift of love and example she gave us through her own children. Mayor Daley and Maggie's life were an example for all Chicagoans and all Americans.

The last thing I must mention is that she respected our United States Conference of Mayors and was most generous in expressing her gratitude for what our organization does for mayors. She also respected my staff, and it was a pleasure to work with her. Her standards were high, as were her goals. It was straight business with her and it was such a joy to get things done with her as she brought together all the players in Chicago to make it better for a generation that will be better off because of Maggie Daley's gift.

The spirit of Maggie Daley continues with us and we will continue her work within the Conference of Mayors for the

creative future of the young people of our nation.

Our hearts are with Mayor Daley this Christmas. May the outpouring of love for his Maggie and three children give him the strength he needs as he continues his life here on earth without her. Our thoughts are of him and with him.

80th Winter Meeting

As we end 2011, on behalf of our officers and staff we wish all of you a great holiday season and new year. January comes and we want to see you at the Conference of Mayors 80th Winter Meeting.

Conference President Antonio Villaraigosa is working hard to produce for you a Winter Meeting that you don't want to miss! So register now and be with all of the nations mayors as we come together to make our voices heard and to learn from one another as we face 2012 with optimism because of what the mayors are doing at the local level to strengthen our cities, our people and our nation.

I look forward to seeing all of you January 18 – 20, 2012 in Washington (DC).



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Calendar of Events

(Updated 12/16/11)



2012

January 18-20
80th Winter Conference of Mayors, Washington, DC. Contact: Carol Edwards (202-293-7330)

For updates or changes, check our web site at usmayors.org

May 3-4
World Cultural Economic Forum (WCEF), New Orleans. Contact: Tom McClimon (202-861-6729)

NEW: June 13-16
80th Annual Conference of Mayors, Orlando. Contact: Carol Edwards (202-293-7330)

Future of Water on Display at San Diego's Water Purification Demonstration Project

By San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders

This past summer, San Diego launched a one-year test of advanced water purification treatment on recycled water. Located in northern San Diego, the Advanced Water Purification (AWP) Facility is a small-scale testing ground that purifies one million gallons of recycled water every day to a level similar to distilled water quality.

The facility is one component of the city's Water Purification Demonstration Project that is examining the safety and cost of purifying recycled water. If this project is approved to go full-scale, the purified water would blend with the city's imported supplies at San Vicente Reservoir and would become part of the city's future drinking water supply. Another component of the Demonstration Project is the study of San Vicente Reservoir and the potential effects of adding purified water to it. During the test phase, purified water will not be sent to the reservoir or the city's drinking water system; instead, the purified water will be added to the city's existing recycled water system.

San Diego is examining water purification as a means to develop a locally controlled, drought-proof, supplemental water supply. San Diego is a semi-arid region in which the annual average of rainfall makes up only about ten to 15 percent of the city's water supply. As such, 85 percent of the local drinking supply on average is imported from hundreds of miles away.

Our city has been both creative and aggressive in trying to diversify our water supply. The less we rely on importing water from outside San Diego County, the more we control our own destiny. A locally produced supply of water could be an important option for us.

All wastewater in San Diego undergoes treatment to remove harmful contaminants, making it safe enough to be discharged into the ocean. Some wastewater is diverted to the city's recycled water facilities, where it is further treated and then used for irrigation and industrial purposes. A portion of the recycled water produced at the North City Water Reclamation Plant is sent to the Advanced Water Purification Facility.

To arrive at a pristine state, the recycled water undergoes the multi-barrier purification process, which includes membrane filtration, reverse osmosis,



San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders

and advanced oxidation with ultraviolet disinfection and high-strength hydrogen peroxide. The multi-barrier approach of consecutive treatment steps work together to remove or destroy all unwanted materials in the water and produces one of the purest supplies of water available anywhere. Each step in the process also includes continuous water quality monitoring. The city thoroughly examines the safety of the water through laboratory tests and computer analysis to ensure it meets public health standards.

Following the year-long collection of scientific data, the results will determine the safety and cost of a full-scale water purification and reservoir augmentation project. After the test phase is complete, the decision whether to implement a full-scale project will be left to the policy makers.

Recognizing that public acceptance is key to successful water purification implementation, the city's Public Utilities Department has implemented an outreach strategy that encourages public involvement and fosters active dialogue. One of the elements of the outreach program is encouraging visitors to tour the Advanced Water Purification Facility. Guests who participate in the tour gain a better understanding of the Demonstration Project and what role the facility plays in this testing phase. Following an introductory presentation, tour participants walk through the facility to view the water purification technology equipment up close. At the end of the tour,

Esquire Magazine Names USCM Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Nutter "American of the Year"

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MICHAEL NUTTER
MAYOR
PHILADELPHIA

In August, Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter told the black teenagers involved in recent mob attacks that "you damaged your own race." He admonished their parents: "You need to get hold of your kids before we have to." The speech brought Nutter national attention, but his reputation as a no-nonsense truth teller was long established in Philly, where he became mayor in January 2008, a month into the Great Recession.

Nutter immediately made tough choices: payroll cuts. Increases in taxes. Cuts in services. Shifting police veterans from desk work to

patrol. But the city didn't fall apart: Since he took office, the murder rate has dropped 20 percent, a new 311 system has markedly improved public assistance, the redevelopment of the Philadelphia Navy Yard has brought in hundreds of millions of dollars in investments, and for the first time in decades, Philadelphia's population actually increased. These gains have not translated into massive popularity, but Nutter is philosophical: "If you have a deep-seated need to be loved and admired every day, you shouldn't be in politics. You should go work at a pet store."

—T.H.

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guests view the purified water produced at the facility and have a chance to visually compare it to drinking water and recycled water samples.

Since the Advanced Water Purification Facility opened in summer 2011, city staff has hosted more than 100 tours for approximately 1,400 people. Residents from throughout the San Diego region have visited, bringing along their family, friends and co-workers. Various groups from graduate school classes to the Audubon Society to senior citizen organizations to a fifth grade science class have toured the facility. It's not just local residents who visit, though. Because many countries around the globe are

interested in water purification technology as a potential solution to water supply issues, international visitors have come from Mexico, Vietnam, Australia, the United Kingdom, and a number of Eurasian countries.

For more information about San Diego's Water Purification Demonstration Project, visit the website www.purewatersd.org, send e-mail to purewatersd@sandiego.gov, follow us on Twitter @PureWaterSD, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SanDiegoWPDP, or call 619-533-7572. For those interested in touring the facility, visit the website www.purewatersd.org/tours.shtml.

New Mayors Gather at Harvard, Learn from Experienced Mayors

By Tom McClimon

"It's the best job in the world," was the message repeated often to new and newly elected mayors at a seminar for new mayors held at Harvard University. Twenty-three incoming mayors-elect or new mayors from larger cities gathered at the John F. Kennedy School of Government for a three-day seminar on exercising leadership and promoting effective public policy.

The 19th biennial Seminar on Transition and Leadership, co-sponsored by the Conference of Mayors and the Institute of Politics, was held November 30 through December 2. The newly elected mayors participated in a number of sessions, led by current and former mayors, academicians, and practitioners. Focusing on training for new city leaders, topics included transitioning from the campaign to city hall, budgeting and finance, jobs and economic development, public education, and the rise of social media.

Participating new and newly-elected mayors were: Portland (ME) Mayor Michael Brennan, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Ogden (UT) Mayor Mike Caldwell, Spokane Mayor David Condon, Parma (OH) Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Old Bridge Township (NJ) Mayor Owen Henry, Kansas City (MO) Mayor Sly James, Clarksville (TN) Mayor Kim McMillan, Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, Lorain (OH) Mayor Chase M. Ritenauer, Revere (MA) Mayor Dan

Rizzo, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, Reading (PA) Mayor Vaughn Spencer, Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, Columbus (GA) Mayor Teresa Pike Tomlinson, Muncie (IN) Mayor Dennis Tyler, Fontana (CA) Mayor Aqcuanetta Warren, Thornton (CO) Mayor Heidi Williams, Arvada (CO) Mayor Marc Williams, and Surprise (AZ) Mayor Sharon Wolcott.

Conference of Mayors Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter led the list of current and former mayors who participated as faculty members for the program. In the opening dinner remarks, Nutter challenged the new mayors to be leaders and do what they believe is the right thing to do. The mayor also encouraged the new mayors to learn from other mayors' best practices.

In addition, the Nutter, three other past Conference of Mayors presidents served as faculty members- Boston Mayor Tom Menino, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and former Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe. Menino and Webb both participated on the panel on "Jobs and Economic Development. Ashe helped lead the discussion on transitioning from the campaign to city hall.

Other mayors who served as faculty members were: Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer who participated in the transitioning session; Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone who was a panelist on the finance and administration session and former Washington (DC) mayor Anthony Williams who also participated on the finance and administration ses-



Left to right, Trey Grayson, Institute of Politics Director; Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; USCM Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter; Denver Mayor Michael Hancock; and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer.

Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Education



Left to right, front row: Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Arvada (CO) Mayor Marc Williams, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Columbus (GA) Mayor Teresa Pike Tomlinson, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Clarksville (TN) Mayor Kim McMillan, Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, and South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Middle row: Ogden (UT) Mayor Mike Caldwell, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Institute of Politics Director Trey Grayson, Parma (OH) Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Providence Mayor Angel Taveras, Spokane Mayor David Condon, Old Bridge Township (NJ) Mayor Owen Henry, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, and Portland (ME) Mayor Michael Brennan. Back: Kansas City (MO) Sly James, Thornton (CO) Mayor Heidi Williams, Revere (MA) Mayor Dan Rizzo, Lorain (OH) Mayor Chase M. Ritenauer, Fontana (CA) Mayor Aqcuanetta Warren, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, Surprise (AZ) Mayor Sharon Wolcott, and Reading (PA) Mayor Vaughn Spencer.

sion. Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was a presenter on pensions and health care; Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and Providence Mayor Angel Taveras participated on the public education session; Newton Mayor Setti Warren was a panelist on the public safety session; and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox, who help lead the discussion on crisis management. Other presenters included former Providence Mayor Congressman David Cicilline and David Lieberth, Deputy Mayor of Akron (OH), both who participated in the intergovernmental affairs session.

A new session was held this year on the rise of social media and how mayors can take advantage of it. Discussed were both the pros – using it to better communicate with constituents and the cons – the rise of bloggers who can misrepresent the truth, as witnessed by several recent mayoral recall attempts. The discussion was lead by Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, and Trey Grayson, Director of the Institute of Politics. Panelists included Christina Bellantoni, Associate Politics Editor of Roll Call; and Nicco Mele, Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy

at the Kennedy School and former webmaster for the Howard Dean for President Campaign.

Nutter was joined by Rawlings-Blake, Hancock, and Fischer in a public forum for students and faculty on challenges faced by cities such as the Occupied Wall Street movement, flash mobs and gun violence.



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of the **U.S. Conference of Mayors**

Washington (DC) • January 18-20, 2012

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USCM President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa



USCM Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter



USCM 2nd Vice President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith



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Racine Meeting Addresses Municipal Challenges in Achieving Clean Water Goals

By Rich Anderson

Racine Mayor John Dickert hosted a meeting of the Mayors Water Council at the renowned Wingspread facility in conjunction with the Johnson Foundation. Mayors Water Council Co-Chairs Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard led the discussions held December 1-2. The meeting title was "Municipal Challenges in Achieving Clean Water Goals." In addition to discussing challenges, several of the panel discussions focused on innovative solutions.

Integrated Municipal Stormwater, Wastewater Plans

Ellen Gilinsky, Senior Advisor to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water, commented on the EPA's plans to develop a practical framework to implement the recently issued Integrated Planning policy, and that the agency is seeking input from municipalities, states, utilities and NGOs. Gilinsky emphasized that the policy framework is intended to provide flexibility to municipalities, and can help them balance competing clean water needs. The EPA, she stated, views the policy framework as providing principles and is not intended to be prescriptive.

Gilinsky said the policy must preserve the critical role of the states with delegated authority, and must not allow relaxation of existing water quality standards. Given those conditions, she stated that the EPA is considering how permits can be a useful tool in achieving clean water goals and sequencing requirements to match the ability of municipalities to invest to achieve the goals. She raised



Photo by Gregory Shaver © The Journal Times

At left, Indianapolis (IN) Mayor Greg Ballard with Racine (WI) Mayor John Dickert.

the possibility and potential of watershed permits as a way to deal with flow volumes that municipalities deal with downstream. Mayors often criticize EPA consent agreements because they often require cities to be responsible for non-jurisdictional flows.

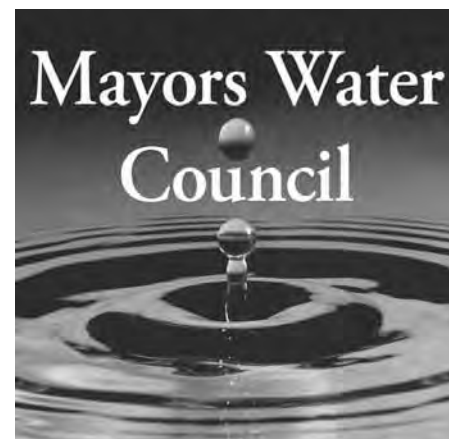
The EPA, stated Gilinsky, plans to produce a draft implementation framework this month (December 2011) and distribute it for public comment. EPA will also hold a series of listening sessions to get feedback on the draft from multiple stakeholders.

Alfred Foxx, Baltimore Director of Public Works, stated on behalf of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake that the city has a \$4 billion plus set of water and wastewater related investments over the next six years to rehab its wastewater systems and comply with Clean Water

Act requirements (including the Chesapeake Bay Clean-up). He mentioned there is significant concern over how to pay for the investments since 25 percent of the city's population is below the poverty rate and many are losing their homes or dealing with property liens. He stated the mayor is a strong advocate for clean water, and the current economic climate is forcing the question of choosing between the quality of life for its citizens or incremental environmental benefits.

Regarding the Integrated Planning policy, Foxx reiterated that Rawlings-Blake is very appreciative that the EPA has chosen to find ways to exercise flexibility and recognize the unprecedented cost impact their policies have on cities. Foxx said that when the EPA implements the policy he advises that the EPA should not provide flexibility in a "straight jacket," but truly provide local government with the ability to direct scarce public dollars to identify and address the most environmentally beneficial investments in their jurisdictions. He further stated that "affordability" assessments include operating and maintenance costs, not just capital costs. Foxx argued that the new policy should allow cities to include drinking water regulations in addition to clean water regulations. Finally, he stated that the intentions and good will of EPA headquarters on this policy should be boldly pushed down to the EPA Regional offices where the permits and consent agreements are decided.

Similar comments were made by Indianapolis Public Works Director Davis Sherman and Lima (OH) Director Gary Sheely. Sherman emphasized that the EPA regional staff can improve how they deal with cities when they negotiate a consent agreement. Sheely explained that financing and flexibility are critical to



future success in mitigating sewer overflow problems. Both agreed that the new policy has great potential, but it will have to face the test of time and application.

Ballard stated that the Conference of Mayors is collecting input from other mayors to assemble a set of recommendations to submit to EPA on the subject. He informed Gilinsky that the Conference of Mayors would submit formal comments, and continue to pursue a dialogue with the agency in 2012.

Technical Solutions to Remove Nutrients, Reduce Energy Costs

Several panels addressed potential solutions that cities can consider to help them in achieving clean water goals. Karen Hobbs provided an update on green infrastructure strategies with new information from a November 2011 report "Rooftops to Rivers II" (see NRDC.org). The report provides 20 cities from geographically diverse cities across North America on how they are incorporating green infrastructure solutions to manage stormwater runoff. It outlines six key actions that cities should take to maximize green infrastructure investment while benefiting human, environmental and economic health.

Dr. Mark LeChevallier, Director of Innovation and Environmental Stewardship at American Water, presented information on emerging technology to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater. Several commercial scale demonstrations have been proven to be effective in removing the nutrients. He stated that nitrogen removal can be improved by substituting alternative biological treatment media, and that it can be accomplished at a 50 percent reduction in energy costs.

Betty-Ann Curtis of Siemens Industry, a wastewater treatment expert, provided information on how cities can gain efficiencies and better manage their wastewater treatment facilities. Curtis stated that typical facilities have eight or more distinct operating units. Each of the units is separately controlled, and they do not "communicate" with each other. One of the inefficiencies associated with this arrangement is that the separate units perform their functions on schedule, but the



Photo by Mark Hertzberg © The Journal Times

Right to left, Mike Martin, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District; Edwin Newell, Schneider-Electric; Kurt Hellerman, CH2M HILL; Ed Clerico, Natural Systems Solutions; and Fox Grove, (IL) Mayor Robert J. Nunamaker.

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Conference President Villaraigosa Signs MOU with China Association of Mayors President Beijing Mayor Guo

By Kay Scrimger

During the first half of December, Conference of Mayors President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa led an eleven-day trade delegation to China, Japan, and South Korea.

The goal of this, his second trade mission to Asia, was to "continue to strengthen important relationships while working to increase investment, trade and tourism in L.A."

One of Villaraigosa's primary goals was to meet with the China Association of Mayors, with whom the Conference of Mayors has built a strong cooperative relationship since 1999 in order to bring U.S. and Chinese mayors closer together.

In his first stop, Beijing, the mayor signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Conference of Mayors and the China Association of Mayors (CAM). Villaraigosa's counterpart in China is Beijing Mayor GUO Jinlong, President of CAM.

To date, six summits in both nations have brought together U.S. mayors and Chinese mayors to exchange information and share best practices on key urban issues. Dialogue at these meetings has highlighted common challenges and a variety of ways of meeting those challenges.

Signed December 5th, the MOU calls for the Conference of Mayors and CAM to continue to work together on building ties through striving for a better investment environment and creating more job opportunities in Chinese and U.S. cities.

The Seventh Sino-U.S. Mayors Summit will be held in Los Angeles. Exact dates have not been set but the plan calls for it to occur by June, 2012.

A major goal of the summit will be to explore ways to improve the investment environment, streamline investment opportunities, and provide general support for and to stimulate more investment in Chinese and U.S. cities.

Participants in the summit will include not only mayors but also business representatives.

The Chinese Center for International Economic Exchange and the Paulson Institute have also expressed interest and support for increasing investment opportunities in each nation.

In addition to the signing ceremony, Villaraigosa met separately with Mayor Guo of Beijing. Traditionally the mayor of Beijing is the CAM President. The two emphasized the importance of past cooperation between U.S. and Chinese mayors and looked forward to the investment and job creation aims of the next summit.



While in China, USCM President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa discusses the importance of U.S.-Chinese mayors relationship and the importance of encouraging more investment between the cities of the two nations.

In addition to Beijing, Villaraigosa visited Beijing, Chongqing, and Shanghai; Tokyo and Sendai in Japan; and Seoul in South Korea. His visit to Sendai focused on learning about how the region responded to the earthquake and tsunami.

Throughout his trip, the mayor spoke

to business and trade groups, hosted receptions for customers of Los Angeles' port and airports, and met with business and political leaders.

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schedules are not synchronized to take advantage of non-peak energy rates. Siemens is providing "Totally Integrated Water," an umbrella operations platform that synchronizes the separate operating units to reduce energy costs. This is especially critical in energy deregulated states.

Mike Martin, Director of Technical Services at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), remarked on how MMSD is integrating renewable fuels into their operations. MMSD has entered into a 20-year contract to purchase landfill gas from a nearby landfill. The landfill generated methane will replace natural gas at a cheaper price over the contract period. The renewable methane replaces natural gas as a fuel source to energize parts of the plant operations.

Edwin Newell of Schneider Electric presented information on energy performance contracting that utilize detailed energy audits of public water

and sewer accounts that account for 50 to 67 percent of all the electrical energy consumed by local government. Newell stated that industry experience suggests that up to a 30 percent reduction is normally possible to achieve. He outlined how this can happen using an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC). This is an agreement with an energy efficiency expert that identifies and evalu-

ates savings opportunities within your water and sewer operations through an energy audit, and then recommends a number of energy equipment retrofits, such as replacement or redesign of older inefficient treatment processes, complete pumping optimization, demand monitoring, load shedding and cogeneration which will save energy through more efficient operations. The savings

generated on utility bills from the newly installed, more efficient equipment ultimately reverts toward paying for the cost of the capital equipment over a specified number of years, thus minimizing the financial risk to the public entity.

Ed Clerico of Natural Systems Solutions made an essentially "contrarian" case concerning wastewater management. He stated that most public sector managers consider wastewater an undesirable residual that is costly to treat and manage. Clerico suggested that wastewater is comprised primarily of water; water that is growing scarce as population increases. He also suggested that the metals in wastewater are also a commodity with value. Clerico contends that rather than view wastewater as a problem, managers can view it as a resource. Water reuse, for example, can play an important role in replacing high quality drinking water for non-drinking water applications. Clerico has been involved in some significant projects demonstrating this principle.

EPA should not provide flexibility in a "straight jacket," but truly provide local government with the ability to direct scarce public dollars to identify and address the most environmentally beneficial investments in their jurisdictions.

**- Baltimore Public Works Director
Alfred Foxx**

HOMELESSNESS from page 1

cause of hunger, followed by poverty, low wages and high housing costs.

Increasing demand and decreasing resources were most frequently found as the biggest challenge to addressing hunger. In an attempt to meet the need, emergency kitchens had to reduce the quantity of food people could receive or the amount of food offered per meal in 86 percent of the survey cities; and food pantries had to limit the number of times people could visit each month in 68 percent of the survey cities. Even with such efforts, 82 percent of the cities reported having to turn people away because of lack of resources.

cent of the cities reported an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness by an average of seven percent. Among families, the number experiencing homelessness increased by an average of 15 percent with 58 percent of the survey cities reporting an increase.

Once again, unemployment led the list of causes of homeless families. This was followed by lack of affordable housing and by poverty. Unemployment also led the list of causes of homelessness among individuals, followed by lack of affordable housing, mental illness and lack of needed services, and substance abuse and lack of needed services.

When asked for suggestions to combat homelessness, respondents called for providing more mainstream assisted

once lived in middle class homes, now find themselves without a roof over their heads. Young and old, black and white, educated, and not all are finding themselves in cold lines at missions, many for the first time in their lives. At the municipal level, as they are nationally, our needs are increasing while our resources continue to decrease. In our community, we have instituted a Homelessness Task Force that works across state and county lines in both Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri to find collaborative and broad-based solutions to this complex problem. We are focused on a "housing first" solution, because all of our social services stem from finding a place to live. I hope this report can serve as a call to once again remember our duty to serve those who have nothing, feed the hungry, and shelter the poor."

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran explained why the organization conducts the survey annually: "This report brings national attention to the issues of hunger and homelessness in this country and helps to direct resources where they are needed. As local governments are struggling with lower tax bases and dwindling budgets, the Conference of Mayors will continue to document the need for emergency services in cities across America as a service to our membership and the families in their communities."

Speaking of the diminishing resources, Anthony Love, Deputy Director for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness added, "Despite limited resources and a stubborn unemployment rate, cities are finding more innovative and collaborative ways to deal with the homelessness problem."

Prepared by City Policy Associates, the report contains individual profiles for each city in the survey including the median household income, the metro unemployment rate, the monthly foreclosure rate, the percentage of people in the city who fall below the poverty line and contact information for specific service providers. The report is based on data collected from The U.S. Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Information Questionnaire, completed by the cities generally for the one-year period from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011. A copy of the report, which contains the survey questionnaire can be downloaded from the Conference of Mayors website at www.usmayors.org. An audio file of the press conference call will be available at www.usmayors.org on December 16.

The 29 cities in this survey whose mayors are members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness are:

Asheville, NC

Boston, MA
Charleston, SC
Charlotte, NC
Chicago, IL
Cleveland, OH
Dallas, TX
Denver, CO
Des Moines, IA
Detroit, MI
Gastonia, NC
Kansas City, MO
Los Angeles, CA
Louisville, KY
Minneapolis, MN
Nashville, TN
Norfolk, VA
Philadelphia, PA
Phoenix, AZ
Portland, OR
Providence, RI
St. Paul, MN
Sacramento, CA
Salt Lake City, UT
San Antonio, TX
San Francisco, CA
Seattle, WA
Trenton, NJ
Washington, DC

"As mayors, we are responsible for caring for our residents who are struggling to make ends meet and will continue to do so, even as resources for local programs are slashed in Congress."

- Asheville (NC) Mayor Terry Bellamy

When asked for suggestions to reduce hunger in America's cities, respondents said that providing more affordable housing, increasing food stamp benefits and expanding employment-training programs would be viable solutions.

Cities also highlighted several programs currently in place to feed those in need. Some best practices include an urban gardening project in Kansas City, which serves as a source for fruits and vegetables for children and focuses on the ten most requested items such as: non-sweet cereal, vegetables, canned tuna, and fruit; a program in Asheville that specifically serves hungry and homeless veterans through a community ministry; a partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services and the local food bank's Cal-Fresh program that shares information to identify potential clients and helps them through the application process; and a partnership between the SHARE Food Program and the Horticultural Society in Philadelphia to match food cupboards with local gardeners to help them provide locally-grown fresh produce at significantly reduced rates. The report contains a full listing of best practices.

Requests for Homeless Services

In the area of homelessness, 42 per-

centage of the cities reported an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness by an average of seven percent. Among families, the number experiencing homelessness increased by an average of 15 percent with 58 percent of the survey cities reporting an increase.

As with hunger, the lack of resources is a critical problem. Because no beds were available, emergency shelters in two-thirds of the survey cities reported turning away homeless families with children; shelters in 70 percent of the cities reported turning away unaccompanied individuals. In considering the outlook for next year, officials were not optimistic: those in 64 percent of the surveyed cities expect the number of homeless families to increase, and those in 55 percent of the cities expect the number of homeless individuals to increase. And while officials expect number of homeless people to grow, no survey city expects the resources to provide emergency shelter to increase over the next year.

Kansas City (MO) Mayor Sly James, who also co-chairs the Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Task Force and participated in the press conference call said, "This long, deep recession has profoundly affected our citizens that have the very least. In this season of giving, our report once again shows how very great the need is in cities across the nation. Families, who

Hunger and Homelessness 2011 Report

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of a survey of 29 of the cities, which comprise The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. Respondents were asked to provide information on emergency food assistance and homeless services provided between September 1, 2010 and August 31, 2011.

Among the survey's key findings:

Hunger

- All but four (86 percent) of the survey cities reported that requests for emergency food assistance increased over the past year; two cities said requests remained at the same level and two said they decreased. Across the survey cities, emergency food assistance requests increased by an average of 15.5 percent.
- Among those requesting emergency food assistance, 51 percent were persons in families, 26 percent were elderly, and 11 percent were homeless.
- Unemployment led the list of causes of hunger cited by the survey cities, followed by poverty, low wages, and high housing costs.

See HOMELESSNESS on page 9

HOMELESSNESS from page 8

- The cities reported a ten percent average increase in the number of pounds of food distributed during the last year. Just over two-thirds of the cities (68 percent) saw an increase in the number of pounds of food distributed and 11 percent said the pounds distributed remained the same. Just over one-fifth (21 percent) of the cities reported a decrease.
- Seventy-one percent of the cities reported that their total budget for emergency food purchases increased over the last year; 18 percent (five) of the cities said it remained the same; 11 percent (three) of the cities said it decreased. Across the responding cities, the average increase in the budget for emergency food purchases was 13 percent.
- Across the survey cities, 27 percent of the people needing emergency food assistance did not receive it.
- In 86 percent of the survey cities, emergency kitchens and food pantries had to reduce the quantity of food people can receive at each food pantry visit or the amount of food offered per meal at emergency kitchens. In 82 percent (23) of the cities they had to turn people away because of lack of resources. In 68 percent (19) of the cities they had to reduce the number of times a person or family can visit a food pantry each month.
- Providing more affordable housing led the city officials' list of actions needed to reduce hunger. This was followed by increasing food stamp benefits and providing more employment training programs.
- No survey city expects requests for emergency food assistance to decline over the next year, and all but two of the cities (93 percent) expect these requests to increase, with that increase expected to be substantial in 34 percent of the cities and moderate in 59 percent. The other two cities expect requests to remain at the same level.
- Three-fourths of the cities expect that resources to provide emergency food assistance will decrease over the next year, and 41 percent of these cities expect that decrease to be substantial. Thirty-four percent expect resources to decrease moderately and 21 percent expect they will continue at about the same level. One city anticipates a moderate increase in resources.
- The combination of increasing demand and decreasing resources was cited most frequently by survey city officials as the biggest challenge

"This long, deep recession has profoundly affected our citizens that have the very least."

- Kansas City (MO) Mayor Sly James

they will face in addressing hunger in the coming year. Of particular concern for many cities are cuts in federal commodities and funding, declining food donations, and the negative impact of the economy and unemployment.

Homelessness

- Over the past year, the number of persons experiencing homelessness increased across the survey cities by an average of six percent, with 42 percent of the cities reporting an increase and 19 percent saying the number stayed the same. Thirty-eight percent of the cities said the number decreased.
- Among families, the number experiencing homelessness increased across the survey cities by an average of 16 percent, with six in 10 of the cities reporting an increase, 16 percent saying the number stayed the same, and 24 percent reporting a decrease.
- Among unaccompanied individuals, the number experiencing homelessness over the past year increased across the survey cities by an average of less than one percent, with four in 10 reporting an increase and eight percent saying it stayed the same. Fifty-two percent reported a decrease.
- Among households with children, unemployment led the list of causes of homelessness cited by city officials. This was followed by lack of affordable housing and by poverty. Unemployment also led the list of causes of homelessness among unaccompanied individuals, followed by lack of affordable housing, mental illness and lack of needed services, and substance abuse and lack of needed services.
- The survey cities reported that, on average, 26 percent of homeless adults were severely mentally ill, 16 percent were physically disabled, 15 percent were employed, 13 percent were victims of domestic violence, 13 percent were veterans, and four percent were HIV Positive.
- Across the survey cities over the last

year, an average of 18 percent of homeless persons needing assistance did not receive it. Because no beds are available for them, emergency shelters in two-thirds of the survey cities must turn away homeless families with children; shelters in 70 percent of the cities must turn away unaccompanied individuals.

- Fifty-nine percent of the survey cities have adopted policies and/or implemented programs aimed at preventing homelessness among households that have lost, or may lose, their homes to foreclosure.
- Providing more mainstream assisted housing led the list of actions needed to reduce homelessness in the survey cities. This was followed by providing more permanent supportive housing

for people with disabilities, and having more or better-paying employment opportunities.

- Officials in 64 percent of the survey cities expect the number of homeless families to increase over the next year, and 11 percent of these expect the increase will be substantial. The increase is expected to be moderate in over 53 percent of the cities. Eighteen percent expect the number will remain at about the same level. A moderate decrease is expected in 14 percent of the cities, and one city anticipates a substantial decrease.
- Officials in 55 percent of the cities expect the number of homeless unaccompanied individuals to increase over the next year, with one city expecting a substantial increase. More than half (52 percent) are expecting a moderate increase and 24 percent expect the number will remain at about the same level. A moderate decrease is expected in 21 percent of the cities.
- No survey city expects resources to provide emergency shelter to increase over the next year. Officials in 64 percent of the survey cities expect resources to decrease, and the balance is expecting that they will continue at about the same level.

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Waste Management, Inc.

Waste Management, Inc. is the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environment services in North America. The company is strongly committed to a foundation of financial strength, operating excellence and superior customer service. Waste Management, is North America's largest recycler handling 7.6 millions tons of commodities each year saving more than 41 million trees and enough energy to power 1.3 million households. The company's over 100 renewable energy projects produce enough electricity to power more than 400,000 homes and save the equivalent of 2 million tons of coal per year.

Waste Management tailors its services to meet the needs of each customer group and to ensure consistent, exemplary service at the local level. Headquartered in Houston, the company's network of operations include 367 collection operations, 355 transfer stations, 273 active landfill disposal sites, 16 waste-to-energy plants, 104 recycling facilities and 6 independent power producing plants. These assets enable Waste Management to offer a full range of environmental services to nearly 20 million residential, industrial, medical waste, public sector and commercial customers.

Special Interests: City Livability, Energy, Environment, Public Works, Resource Recovery, Tax Legislation, Toxic Waste/Hazardous Materials, Transportation, Waste Disposal

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the Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org/buscouncil

Mayor Plusquellic Describes Akron's Innovative Strategies at Smart Cities World Congress in Barcelona

By Kay Scrimger

Conference of Mayors Past President Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic addressed a major global conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, November 29 through December 2.

The Smart Cities World Congress and Expo brought together 6,160 professionals, 118 companies, and 290 speakers to discuss cities of the future. The meeting drew representatives of 51 cities on five continents.

Policy areas covered during the Congress included energy and sustainability, mobility and transport, the environment and recycling, urban planning, research, governance and funding, city case studies, and others.

In the Governance and Funding part of the agenda, Plusquellic spoke at a session entitled "Local Policies in Times of Crisis."

"Akron has been engaged in using Smart City strategies for a long time," he said. "We are proud of the ways in which we have developed innovative initiatives to do things the smart way. Innovation is key to growing and surviving."

He described some of the many initiatives in Akron that demonstrate innovation and creativity and result in improved services to citizens. These include:

- Innovative pact-sharing between the city and nine contiguous areas to build regionalism, a sense of mutual investment and benefit, and community. In the early 1990s, the city proposed an innovation designed to benefit, rather than antagonize, suburban interests. Called JEDDS for "Joint Economic Development Districts," these are relationships designed to protect nearby townships' sovereignty while expanding their business property tax base. Of utmost importance to the city, JEDDS provide land or business expansions and new enterprise and expand Akron's income tax base for the redevelopment of older areas. Agreements with adjacent townships were negotiated in which Akron provides water and sewerage infrastructure for new or expanding economic enterprises locating on developable land in the townships. The townships

benefit from the expanding tax base and the city through municipal tax revenues from the provision of water and sewerage.

- Investment in an incubator in Netanya, Israel: Netanya is located in northern Israel and is about the same size as Akron. The cooperative agreement between the two cities stipulates that businesses developed there have to come to Akron. This much-studied and acclaimed undertaking won Plusquellic the U.S.-International Chamber of Commerce Award in 2010.
- A bio-digestive system developed in Switzerland, which Plusquellic brought to his city after learning of it and studying its record and level of efficiency. Akron owns part of the company.
- Passage of an income tax in Akron that provides funds for local schools to rebuild. The city has one-half ownership and thus can use the schools for community learning centers after school hours.

"Creative thinking, observing innovation in other nations, imagination, and



USCM Past President Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic describes Akron's innovative initiatives at the Smart Cities World Congress in Barcelona.

a can-do attitude are essential qualities for a mayor to cultivate, especially now," Plusquellic emphasized.

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By New Bedford (MA) Mayor Scott W. Lang

Energy efficiency is becoming an increasingly popular way for mayors, other local leaders, and their local governments to find innovative solutions to deal with the impacts of global warming, rising energy costs and dwindling resources.

But localities cannot do this on their own. Teaming up with partners in the private sector enables localities to access expertise and financing they do not have in order to implement programs that lower energy costs.

That is what we are doing in New Bedford. Located on the southern coast of the state, we owe our existence to the last great global warming event in earth's history: the ice age. The retreat of the glaciers 12,000 years ago helped create the deepwater port and plentiful supplies of water that provide the basis for our city's economy today.

Due to these incredible natural resources, New Bedford in the 1800s became the home of the country's whaling industry and today we remain the number one commercial fishing port in the United States. Our dependence on water and our dynamic port makes us extra sensitive to the impact our city has on the environment every day.

That is why New Bedford is embarking on an ambitious initiative to reduce our carbon footprint while increasing sustainability—steps that could easily be undertaken in municipalities across the country. Through these aggressive measures, we hope to reduce our government's energy usage by 20 percent within the next five years.

Sustainability Plan Pivotal

Our road map is a plan developed by a Sustainability Task Force we created five years ago. This energy blueprint will enable us to reduce our use of fossil fuels, lower costs and help make our city and our planet a better place for our children and grandchildren. Our plan includes building solar systems on city-owned sites, buying fuel efficient vehicles for our municipal fleet, installing electric charging stations for fishing vessels docked at our wharfs, encouraging private businesses to install solar systems, converting oil-heated buildings to natural gas, promoting business and residential weatherization, and installing super-efficient light-emitting diodes (LED) lighting throughout the city.

Our energy sustainability program

Using Public/Private Partnerships to Reduce Our Carbon Footprint

has four clear goals: lower energy costs for government, residents and local businesses; create jobs; reduce carbon emissions; and help build our community.

To implement this plan, we are partnering with the private sector. In October, we announced that, in cooperation with Consolidated Edison Solutions Inc. and BlueWave Capital LLC, we would construct solar panels on city-owned sites with the goal of producing ten megawatts of clean and renewable energy. That is enough to power 1,500 homes.

EECBG Funds Provided Catalyst

The program was made possible, in part, by \$80,000 in energy block grant funds authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

This program will add value to city facilities, turn underutilized space into profitable resources and, we hope, encourage local businesses to follow our lead and install solar panels on their properties.



New Bedford (MA) Mayor Scott W. Lang

“Teaming up with partners in the private sector enables localities to access expertise and financing they do not have in order to implement programs that lower energy costs.”

The rooftop and ground-based photovoltaic units will be installed on buildings, schools and other municipal land parcels and will be operational by 2013. By reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, these solar panels could produce up to 25 percent of the electricity consumed by city-owned facilities and could potentially generate savings as high as \$10 million by 2033.

This is a classic “win-win” public/private partnership. New Bedford provides the facilities while our private partners provide the financing and the expertise. Together, we will be implementing our strategic energy plan and reducing our energy footprint for generations to come.

ConEdison Solutions will own the solar installations and enter into long-term power purchase agreements with

New Bedford. The firm will also provide the financing and be responsible for installation, ongoing operations and maintenance.

Our solar initiative will also provide a boost to the local economy. BlueWave will work with us to bring solar energy to local businesses and residences, creating job and apprenticeship opportunities. And ConEdison Solutions has agreed to maximize its use of local construction contractors as it builds its solar installations.

Our public/private solar initiative is only one piece of our much larger energy efficiency program—one reason why our energy initiatives have made New Bedford a national leader in sustainability and renewable energy. Our complete energy program targets municipal, commercial, residential, transportation and

port-related end-users.

At New Bedford's Harbor's Wharves, we have created a program, funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to lower emissions along the waterfront. We are installing 42 dock-side electric pedestals—each with four outlets—to be used by boats using our port. These boats will be able to replace their fossil fuel with electricity. That means our port will use 310,000 fewer gallons of diesel fuel each year. This effort is crucial to maintaining the port as a vital ingredient of our local economy. The port now generates more than \$1 billion a year in economic activity and is used by some 500 fishing boats.

We are also working to make our government operations more efficient. In addition to installing solar panels at government-owned sites, we will switch five percent of our municipal vehicle fleet to highly efficient vehicles within five years, convert our oil-heated buildings to natural gas, and investigate the feasibility of biomass conversion for one of our oil-heated buildings.

Other facets of our energy sustainability program include installing highly efficient LED lighting at our commercial fishing piers and other public places and encouraging commercial businesses to implement a variety of energy-saving techniques.

We are also starting a community retrofit program to encourage businesses and residents to weatherize their property, which could be a key source of energy savings given our sometimes harsh winters. In partnership with local energy nonprofit organizations, we are reaching out to businesses and residents and hope to weatherize 5,000 homes and businesses by 2015.

Energy efficiency starts at home and that means mayors must take the initiative to promote energy savings in their local governments, in the private sector and in our daily lives. We in New Bedford are creating a platform that will help reduce our carbon footprint for future generations. It is a legacy for which we all are proud.



Mayors Tackle Prescription Drug Abuse Through Policy Initiatives

Prescription drug abuse is a growing problem in the United States, and mayors have taken a leadership role in addressing the issue. For example, through the "Safeguard My Meds" national public awareness campaign (a partnership between The United States Conference of Mayors and pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma LP) more than 150 mayors have recorded television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. In addition, mayors have hosted town hall meetings and taken other important steps to raise awareness of this critical public health concern.

But mayors understand all too well that public awareness is only one component of a comprehensive response to the issue. In addition to public awareness efforts, and support for education and treatment programs and initiative, mayors and cities are increasingly focusing on addressing prescription drug abuse through policy initiatives.

New York City

New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced on December 13 the launch of a multi-agency task force to combat the growing prescription drug abuse epidemic in his city. Over the past twenty years, there has been a tenfold increase in New York City in the use of prescription opioids to manage pain, and between 2004 and 2009, the number of emergency room visits related to opioid misuse/abuse doubled. (An "opioid," generally speaking, is any synthetic narcotic that has opiate-like activities but is not derived from opium.)

In addition, prescription opioid use is spreading among the city's youth. In 2008 and 2009, four percent of New Yorkers who were 12 years old or older – 263,000 people – reported misuse of opioid prescriptions. And ten percent of students in grades 7 to 12 said in a 2008 survey that they had used a prescription opioid recreationally at least once in their lives.

Bloomberg's Task Force will focus on prevention and response efforts by reviewing information on the marketing, distribution, prescription, diversion, and use of these drugs. Among its duties, the Task Force plans to analyze data on opioid use to identify suspicious prescription patterns. This information will allow law enforcement to target their efforts accordingly.

Ultimately, the group will make recommendations on pharmaceutical industry practices, provider and patient

education and responsibility, and enforcement approaches for curbing irresponsible distribution of opioids. The Task Force is due to deliver its first round of recommendations to Bloomberg by the end of January 2012.



This week, the New York City Health Department also released guidelines that for the first time give doctors guidance on how to safely prescribe opioids. The guidelines are available online at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi30-4.pdf>

Orlando

Orlando city leaders voted December 5 to extend a moratorium the opening of new "pill mills," as they are commonly known – pain management clinics that sell prescription drugs to people who don't necessarily need them. "Abuse of prescription medicine being used illegally has become an epidemic," said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer in a recent media interview. Across Florida, there are more than 900 of these pain management clinics – just within Orlando city limits, there are 23. According to officials, there are more "pill mills" than Burger King outlets in Orlando.

The moratorium, originally enacted earlier this year, prevents new pain clinics from opening under city jurisdiction. It also prohibits existing pain clinics from relocating or expanding. Furthermore, pain management may only operate between the hours 8:00am to 8:00pm, and clinics are no longer allowed to accept cash payments for medications.

The moratorium is meant to serve as a temporary fix until appropriate new legislation can be crafted – which the city is in the process of developing. Once the Moratorium Ordinance is repealed, a new Pain Management Clinic Ordinance is expected to be passed to institute new requirements for new pain management clinics.

This summer, Dyer and other city and county leaders – as has happened in New York – convened a task force to

study the issue and to develop recommendations. The Task Force presented its findings to city leaders in November. Among its recommendations contain provisions of the new ordinance that include new zoning and location requirements for pain clinics, as well as, use of the State's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which was recently implemented. The Prescription Drug Database is expected to serve as an effective tool in reducing successful doctor shopping, multiple prescriptions or multiple pharmacy filling of prescriptions, as the new ordinance makes it a requirement for physicians, physician's assistants and pharmacists' agents to check the database within 24 hours prior to prescribing any dangerous drugs to a patient.

Among the Healthcare and Pharmacy Subcommittee recommendations are:

- Zoning: new pain management clinics will only be allowed in the city's I-4 Industrial Zone and will be prohibited as a home occupation; building and use permits will be required; pain management clinics will not be allowed to co-locate on the same property as a pre-existing pharmacy; and cannot operate within 1,000 feet of any pre-existing pharmacy, school, daycare center, or home.
- Pharmacy Regulation: prior to filling or dispensing any prescription for a dangerous drug a pharmacist or pharmacist's agent shall require and record government issued identification; pharmacies must keep records of all prescriptions filled for no less than two years, and provide records of dangerous drug prescriptions to law enforcement or code enforce-

ment within seventy-two (72) hours of the request; it will be unlawful to pay any pharmacist a bonus, incentive compensation or reward solely for filling a prescription for specific dangerous drug.

- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP): within 24 hours prior to prescribing dangerous drugs, prescribing physicians or agent must access and review patient information in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Created by state legislation, the PDMP includes a database of specific controlled substance prescriptions in the state, requires pain management clinics to register with the state, and prohibits dispensing of prescriptions in pain management clinics, among other regulations. However, Florida local leaders and advocates have complained that under state law doctors and pharmacists are not required to check the PDMP before prescribing or dispensing drugs to a patient. The city's ordinance aims to close that loops for the residents and citizens of Orlando.

Nationwide

A number of other local jurisdictions in Florida, including Hallandale Beach, Tampa, Sarasota, and Miami-Dade, as well as Broward and Pinellas counties, have enacted a variety of measure to regulate pain management clinics and the dispensing of opioids, ranging from placing moratoria on new pain management clinics to requiring pain management clinics to obtain permits and adhere to strict regulations. Outside Florida, such policy initiatives are not as widespread – though New York's movement on the issue is likely to create a nationwide visibility and may signal the beginning of a trend.

Mayors Congratulate NBA, Players Association on Lockout Conclusion

Encourage Support for Impacted Families

Mayors who host NBA Teams sent a letter on December 6 to the National Basketball Association and the NBA Players Union from America's mayors to congratulate them on the tentative agreement between the National Basketball Association and the Players Association to end the lock out.

In early October, the mayors sent a letter to the National Basketball Association and the NBA Players Union from America's mayors out of concern for their cities during this very difficult economic time indicating the toll the lockout has taken on their communities. The mayors encouraged both the NBA and NBPA to please consider working with their local charitable organizations to provide relief to workers and families impacted by the lockout.

To view the letter online go to the website www.usmayors.org



Mayors Urged Confirmation of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director

By Ed Somers

U.S. Conference of Mayors President Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa and 60 other mayors sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) on November 7 urging confirmation of Richard Cordray as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Villaraigosa said, "Too much is at stake for this nomination to fall prey to politics as usual in Washington. We urge you to end this gridlock and confirm Richard Cordray as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau."

The Senate rejected the nomination by a vote of 53-45, seven votes short of the number needed to stop a filibuster.

It is unclear if President Obama will now make a recess appointment of Cordray.

Listing of Additional Signing Mayors:

Mark A. Stodola, Little Rock, AR
 Patrick H. Hays, North Little Rock, AR
 Satish I. Hiremath, Oro Valley, AZ
 Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson, AZ
 Josue Barrios, Cudahy, CA
 Bob Foster, Long Beach, CA
 Bill Bogaard, Pasadena, CA
 Gina K. Belforte, Rohnert Park, CA
 Stephen H. Cassidy, San Leandro, CA
 Ryan Coonerty, Santa Cruz, CA

Bill Finch, Bridgeport, CT
 Vincent C. Gray, Washington, DC
 James M. Baker, Wilmington, DE
 James C. Cason, Coral Gables, FL
 Frank Carmen Ortis, Pembroke Pines, FL
 John R. Marks, Tallahassee, FL
 Kasim Reed, Atlanta, GA
 Linda K. Jackson, Glendale Heights, IL
 Chris Koos, Normal, IL
 John A. Spring, Quincy, IL
 Richard P. Reinbold, Richton Park, IL
 Thomas C. Henry, Fort Wayne, IN
 Stephen J. Luecke, South Bend, IN
 Gregory E. Fischer, Louisville, KY
 Mitchell J. Landrieu, New Orleans, LA
 Thomas M. Menino, Boston, MA
 Michael D. Bissonnette, Chicopee, MA
 Scott W. Lang, New Bedford, MA
 Daniel M. Knapik, Westfield, MA
 Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore, MD
 William R. Wild, Westland, MI
 Ardell F. Brede, Rochester, MN
 Jimmy M. Odom, Belton, MO
 Harvey Johnson, Jr., Jackson, MS
 William V. Bell, Durham, NC
 Wayne Smith, Irvington, NJ
 David Coss, Santa Fe, NM
 Gerald D. Jennings, Albany, NY
 Shawn D. Hogan, Hornell, NY
 William J. Healy, Canton, OH
 Mark Mallory, Cincinnati, OH
 Frank G. Jackson, Cleveland, OH
 Edward J. Kelley, Cleveland Heights, OH
 Michael B. Coleman, Columbus, OH
 David J. Berger, Lima, OH
 Michael J. O'Brien, Warren, OH
 Dennis M. Clough, Westlake, OH
 Nathan Bates, Stillwater, OK
 Denny Doyle, Beaverton, OR
 Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, PA
 Thomas M. Leighton, Wilkes-Barre, PA
 Joseph T. McElveen, Sumter, SC
 Daniel T. Brown, Knoxville, TN



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December 7, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
 Majority Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
 Republican Leader
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

We write as mayors from across the country to urge the swift confirmation of Richard Cordray as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Mr. Cordray is an honorable, committed, and highly-qualified public servant. In his current role as Director of Enforcement at the CFPB, he has demonstrated that he has the necessary expertise and sound judgment to lead the CFPB to affect real change in our communities – change that is urgently needed.

As you know, in the wake of the financial crisis, the CFPB is intended to help the marketplace operate more effectively by ensuring that consumers have the information they need to understand the terms of their agreements with financial companies, many of which are currently unregulated. Without a Director, the new CFPB is hamstrung in its ability to hold these firms accountable and to rein in some of the financial practices that contributed to the economic downturn, hurting communities across America. Besides being unable to use its authority to regulate mortgage brokers and financial firms outside the conventional banking industry, the agency is not able to use its authority to prohibit unfair, deceptive or abusive acts or practices or to issue rules requiring better disclosures of the terms of financial products. As long as these largely unregulated sectors of the financial services industry are allowed to operate without accountability, we will continue to see empty homes and shuttered stores in needlessly impoverished neighborhoods.

A strong, independent CFPB will help restore the economy by promoting a fair, transparent financial market. It will ensure that consumers are fully informed when they undertake significant financial obligations, like taking out a mortgage or student loan. The CFPB will also ensure that particularly vulnerable populations such as servicemembers, students, older Americans, and low-income consumers are treated fairly and that there is strong, sensible oversight of the financial services industry.

Too much is at stake for this nomination to fall prey to politics as usual in Washington. We urge you to end this gridlock and confirm Richard Cordray as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Respectfully,

Antonio R. Villaraigosa
 Mayor of Los Angeles
 President

Michael A. Nutter
 Mayor of Philadelphia
 Vice President

Robert N. Cluck, M.D., Arlington, TX
 Raul G. Salinas, Laredo, TX
 Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City, UT

Russ Wall, Taylorsville, UT
 Robert S. Kiss, Burlington, VT
 Michael McGinn, Seattle, WA

Federal Board Extends Comment Period on Proposal Affecting Pedestrian Facilities in Local Right-of-Way

By Kevin McCarty

Responding to a formal request from leaders of the three elected official organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Access Board extended the comment period on proposed accessibility rules for pedestrian facilities, an action that will support further public review of the potentially significant costs and facility impacts for cities, towns and counties.

In a November 23 letter, the execu-

tive directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC) and Conference of Mayors wrote, "We respectfully request this action [extension] to ensure that the final guidelines, and the subsequent standards to be established, are subject to a more thorough review of the issues posed by this far-reaching proposal. After all, these guidelines will influence the design and even the reengineering of sidewalks, curbs, crossings, signals and other elements of the nation's most

valuable and ubiquitous public asset – the local public right-of-way."

In extending the comment period until February 2, 2012, Access Board Executive David M. Capozzi cited the local government organizations' letter as a basis for the action. The Access Board's full proposal, Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way, can be viewed at: <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/nprm.htm>. An overview of the proposal can be found at: <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/nprm-guide.htm>.

www.access-board.gov/prowac/nprm-guide.htm.

NACo, NLC and the Conference of Mayors are using the extension period to encourage cities and counties to review the proposed guidelines and provide comments by the February 2 deadline. To view specific requirements for filing comments by the new deadline and related information, please go to: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-05/html/2011-31089.htm>.



By Larry Jones

During a November 30 hearing on constitutional limitations on states' authority to collect sales taxes on e-commerce, government and business representatives told members of the House Judiciary Committee that the time has come to level the playing field so merchants not physically located in a state (those who sell exclusively over the Internet or through mail-order sales) are subjected to the same tax collection requirements as merchants on Main Street.

In a joint letter to the Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (TX) and Ranking Member John Conyers (MI), the Conference of Mayors and other local groups urged support for a Senate proposal, the Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 1832), as a way of leveling the playing field. Recently introduced, this bipartisan legislation would authorize state and local governments to require Internet and

Support Builds for Legislation That Would Require Internet, Mail-Order Sales Companies to Collect State, Local Taxes

mail-order companies to collect their sales taxes once they adopt the uniform simplifications standards outlined in the bill. The groups also expressed support for a House proposal introduced by Conyers, the Main Street Fairness Act (H.R. 20701). But they expressed strong reservations about another House bill, the Marketplace Equity Act (H.R. 3179). The reason is this proposal does not preserve local authority to collect sales taxes at their current rates. Instead, it could eliminate local sales tax rates altogether or allow states to set up a blended state-local rate.

Since the *Bellas Hess* decision in 1967 and the *Quill* decision in 1992, the Supreme Court has ruled that state and local governments only have authority to force companies that are physically located within their boundaries to collect their sales taxes. At the time of these decisions, the Supreme Court concluded it would be too complicated for out-of-state companies to collect all state and local taxes because they would have to become familiar with 7,000 different

tax systems. But these decisions predate today's Internet and high tech environment, where software exists that would make all state and local taxes available to Internet and mail-order companies at the click of a mouse.

In the *Quill* ruling, the Supreme Court made clear that Congress had authority under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution to regulate commerce between the states and before any state can require an out-of-state company to collect its taxes, it must be granted authority to do so by Congress. Testifying on behalf of the Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board (a group of 24 states that have worked with local government and business representatives to develop a uniform and simple way for Internet and mail-order sales companies to collect sales taxes), Indiana State Senator Howard Kenley III, said "I come before you today to ask you to exercise that authority."

Dan Marshall told members of the hearing panel that Marshall Music has been selling band and orchestra instruments since 1948 primarily through

seven brick and mortar stores located throughout Michigan. The company had \$18.5 million in sales last year, and five years ago it started selling items on eBay, which has reached \$125,000 in annual sales. Marshall said customers come to his store to check out the music equipment "only to go home to purchase the item from an online retailer that does not collect the state sales tax."

He went on to say "Back home in Michigan, we have a state sales tax of six percent that is tacked onto every purchase. These funds that states use to keep our schools running and to make sure our communities stay safe. As a small business owner I would be happy if there was not a sales tax in the state, but I know that is not necessarily practical. But if we are going to pay for essential services with a sales tax, I want everybody to play by the same rules. Regardless of whether a sale occurs in a store or online, the sales tax should be the same. In a free market, government should not be giving one type of business an advantage over everyone else."

House Votes to Reallocate D Block to Public Safety

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

The House voted December 13 to reallocate the D Block of the 700 MHz spectrum to public safety as part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011. That bill, which would extend the Social Security payroll tax cut for another year, passed on a 234-193 vote, with 14 Republicans voting against passage and ten Democrats voting for it. The bill is not expected to pass the Senate in its current form, and the White House has threatened a veto because of provisions relating to the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline construction. The Conference of Mayors, along with all of the other major organizations, which represent state and local government and public safety, strongly supports reallocation of the D Block to public safety.

The bill includes the Jumpstarting Opportunity with Broadband Spectrum Act, which was reported out of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee December 1, pretty much on a party line vote. In a dramatic reversal,

the Subcommittee's Chairman, Oregon Representative Greg Walden, included in the bill the reallocation of the D Block to public safety while authorizing the auction of a number of other parts of the spectrum. Walden and full Committee Chairman Fred Upton of Michigan had previously opposed reallocation of the D Block to public safety.

In a November 30 letter to Upton, Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran thanked him for including reallocation of the D Block in the legislation, calling it "absolutely necessary if we are to ensure that our nation's first responders are able to access a broadband network capable of providing reliable high speed data and voice applications so that they can meet current and future public safety needs."

In return for reallocation of the D Block, however, the bill requires that the 700 MHz narrowband channels of spectrum currently used for public safety narrowband communications be given back and auctioned for private purposes. Cochran's letter expressed concern

with this requirement, which poses a considerable problem for a number of cities which have invested heavily in these narrowband communications.

For example, Houston is currently in the implementation stage of building a \$125+ million public safety land mobile radio system on 700 MHz narrowband channels. This system, which is not projected to be completed until August 2013, is expected to have a useful life of at least 15-20 years. Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker, Chair of the Conference of Mayors Criminal and Social Justice Committee, wrote to Walden expressing her concern with the provision. "While I recognize the need to create revenue to off-set the funding of the nationwide system, we do not believe it should be at the expense of local and state taxpayers or this valuable capability used mostly by state and local first responders," she said. "I strongly encourage the elimination of the give back provision and instead suggest a timeline tied to the standard that would have the FCC report back to Congress on the feasibility and timing of a possible future reallocation of the narrowband spectrum."

Other provisions in the bill of concern to mayors include the governance model

which it establishes for the planning, development, and implementation of the network; a provision which preempts local zoning decisions regarding certain modifications to local cell towers, and the funding level for the development of the network, which is considerably less than that provided in other bills.

Regardless of what bill the public safety communication provisions are attached to, those provisions will have to be reconciled with the version of the legislation moving through the Senate. In July the Senate Commerce, Science and Technology Committee reported out S. 911, bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by its Chairman, West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller, and Ranking Member Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Their bill, the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act, which is strongly supported by the Conference of Mayors, would reallocate the D Block to public safety, protect narrowband communications, set up a workable governance structure with strong involvement of local and state governments and public safety, and provide up to \$12 billion for the development and operation of the network. Unfortunately, it does contain the same provision as the House bill regarding modification of cell towers.



**Express
“Cautious
Optimism”
Over EPA’s New
Approach**

By Judy Sheahan

Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle, testifying on behalf of the Conference of Mayors, and Kansas City (KS) Mayor Joe Reardon, testifying on behalf of the National League and Cities, joined other local government officials in discussing the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) new approach to achieving Clean Water Goals at a December 14 hearing of the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. EPA’s approach, entitled “Achieving Water Quality through Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans” was the result of a two year effort by the Conference of Mayors Water Council asking EPA for flexibility in how they worked with cities on negotiating Combined and Sanitary Sewer Overflow Consent Decrees. Both Suttle and Reardon have actively participated in those discussions and expressed “cautious optimism” that this memorandum would achieve the goals that the mayors wanted.

Suttle called the memorandum a “landmark departure from EPA’s normal approach” that had great potential. “We need to be true partners with the EPA and Congress to ensure that Combined Sewer Overflow plans across the country achieve what the mayors have asked for, which is a flexible, cost effi-

Mayors Suttle, Reardon Testify on Integrated Planning to Achieve Clean Water Goals

cient way to meet our Clean Water Goals,” he said.

“Right now [the memorandum] is a statement of policy intention, and will only provide the requested flexibility if EPA carefully develops and adopts the right policy implementation framework,” Suttle told the subcommittee and its chairman, Congressman Bob Gibbs (OH).

Reardon said, “I know I speak for city leaders across the country when I say we are encouraged by EPA’s steps to establish a new policy framework whereby local governments can collaborate with their state and federal counterparts on an approach to regulatory prioritization based on principles of affordability and financial capability, while maximizing environmental benefit, to meet the requirements and objectives of the Clean Water Act.”

Suttle summarized the major issues surrounding mayoral concerns with CSO/SSO enforcement including: affordability, green solutions, new technology, grant funding and replacing enforcement with a permitting process.

Suttle discussed the tremendous financial burden that unfunded mandates can have on citizens. “EPA and Congress can no longer ignore the regressive financial impacts caused by unfunded mandates on low and moderate income households,” he said. Suttle outlined how a household that is making \$25,000 and paying \$1000 for water and sewer is allocating four percent of their income to that bill. If that rate increases by \$250, they are spending 5 percent of their income and if their rate goes up to \$500, it is six percent of their annual income.

Reardon echoed Suttle’s concern regarding the regressive nature of the costs versus the benefits for his citizens. Twenty-five percent of Kansas City’s population is below the poverty line and the



Kansas Senator Jerry Moran, center, visits Kansas City (KS) Mayor Joe Reardon, left, and Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle, right, prior to their testimony on Clean Water issues before the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

city has had to increase its sewer fees by 40 percent over the past three years. To meet the consent decree requirements, Reardon said that the sewer fees would have to increase 400 percent in the next five years.

“So, when I consider the terms of the pending consent decree, I ask myself, ‘Are regulations which are so costly to comply with really reasonable? Are the economic hardships these forced regulations will create really in the best interest of the public?’ I think the answer is ‘No,’” Reardon said.

Gibbs agreed, saying, “Regulators need to realize that their unfunded mandates do not just force local governments to pay more. Local small businesses, schools, hospitals, and citizens struggling economically also face increased user rates or taxes that they can ill afford. In our current economic climate, this is unacceptable.”

Suttle also focused on achieving water quality goals through a permitting process rather than enforcement via the consent decree process. Suttle described that because of EPA’s enforcement strategy, mayors and other local officials wake up as “criminals” as defined by EPA.

“It doesn’t matter if the mayor was elected ten years ago or took office yesterday; they are by definition ‘criminals’ because their wastewater systems have sewer overflows, primarily as a result of a significant rainstorm,” Suttle said. “I can think of no other federal administrative policy that has done so much dam-

age to the intergovernmental partnership between federal and local elected officials and it should end immediately.”

Gibbs spoke favorably regarding the idea of using permits to regulate water quality as opposed to the consent decree process.

“I am hopeful that today’s hearing will start moving us away from a ‘one size fits all’ mandate and enforcement approach to an integrated regulatory planning and permitting approach to help EPA regional officials and state and local governments better prioritize Clean Water Act regulatory requirements while protecting the environment in a cost efficient manner.”

Other panelists who testified included Todd Portune, Commissioner of Hamilton County (OH); Walt Baker, Director, Division of Water Quality - Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Testifying on behalf of the Association of Clean Water Administrators; Carter H. Strickland, Jr., Commissioner - New York City Environmental Protection; David Williams, Director of Wastewater - East Bay Municipal Utility District, Testifying on behalf of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; and Katherine Baer, Senior Director, Clean Water Program - American Rivers. Testifying on behalf of EPA were Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water and Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

“We need to be true partners with the EPA and Congress to ensure that Combined Sewer Overflow plans across the country achieve what the mayors have asked for, which is a flexible, cost efficient way to meet our Clean Water Goals.”

- Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle



By Conference Staff

By a vote of 296 to 121 on December 16, the House approved a final compromise on a Fiscal Year 2012 spending bill that will fund most federal agencies and programs through September 30 of next year. With spending under current law scheduled to run out at midnight on December 16, the Senate was expected to approve the measure and the President was expected to sign the measure into law to avoid a partial government shutdown.

The bipartisan agreement worked out between House and Senate leaders on December 16 provides \$915 billion to fund nine of the twelve regular spending bills including Homeland Security, and Labor/Health and Human Services/Education, which provide funds for a number of local priorities. Unfortunately, the final agreement calls for significant cuts in a number of key programs including a \$1.35 billion cut in First Responder Grants, a \$179.8 million reduction in Workforce Investment programs, and a \$1.2 billion decrease in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program. The following is a summary of how some of the key city priorities were affected:

Home Land Security

- First Responder Grants – the bill cuts state and local first responder grant programs by 40 percent below last year's level to \$1.35 billion. Within this amount, \$50 million is reserved for Operation Stonegarden and \$231 million for training, exercises, and technical assistance. That leaves \$1.068 billion for the primary state and local programs. In a change from previous years, the bill does not allocate funds among the first responder grant programs, instead it provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with the discretion to allocate the funds among the various programs, including the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, Public Transport Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance, Port Security Grants, Interoperable Emergency Communications Grants, and Metropolitan Medical Response.
- Other State and Local Programs – the bill cuts firefighter assistance grants

Final FY 2012 Spending Bill Cuts Many Local Priority Programs

16.5 percent to \$675 million (split equally between SAFER and Fire Grants) and increases Emergency Management Performance Grants ten percent above last year's level to \$350 million.

Labor

The bill provides \$14.5 billion for the Department of Labor, which is \$145.4 million above the FY 2011 level and \$251.2 million below the President's request. The increase above FY 2011 is due to a provision that fully funds Job Corps in FY 2012 – but the bill eliminates advance appropriations for Job Corps and directs the Secretary of Labor to submit future budgets for Job Corps without advance appropriations. Absent this provision, the agreement reduces the Department of Labor's budget by \$545.6 million below FY 2011 and \$942.2 million below the request.

- Employment and Training Administration (ETA) – the ETA is funded at \$10.7 billion - \$68 million below the FY 2011 funding level and \$118.9 million below the President's request.
- Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Grants to States – the program is funded at \$2.6 billion, which is \$179.8 million below FY 2011 funding.
- Veterans Employment and Training – the bill provides a total of \$265 million for Veterans Employment and Training Services - \$9.3 million above FY 2011 funding and \$4 million above the President's budget request.

Department of Education

The conference agreement provides \$71.3 billion in discretionary funding for Education, \$153 million below last year's level and \$9.3 billion below the President's request.

- Title I Grants – Title I Grants to local school districts are funded at \$14.5 billion, which is \$60 million above FY 2011.
- Pell Grants – the maximum award is maintained at \$5,550 (\$4,860 through discretionary appropriations and \$690 provided through mandatory funds). The bill makes reforms to the program that include: limiting grants per student to a maximum of six years/12 semesters; requiring a high school diploma, GED or completion of a homeschooling program to receive a Pell grant; slightly adjusting the minimum Pell grant; and reducing the income level below

which a student will automatically receive the maximum Pell grant from \$30,000 to \$23,000. These reforms are estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to save more than \$11 billion over the next ten years.

- Race to the Top – the bill cuts funding for the Obama Administration's initiative by more than 20 percent, from \$698 million to \$550 million.

Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services (HHS) - the conference agreement funds the Department of Health and Human Services at \$69.7 billion, nearly \$700 million below last year and \$3.4 billion below the President's budget request.

- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – the bill funds HRSA at a program level of \$6.5 billion, which is \$41 million below last year's level and \$848 million below the budget request. Within this total, Community Health Centers are funded at \$1.6 billion – the same as last year's level and Ryan White HIV/AIDS program is funded at \$2.33 billion.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – the legislation includes a program level of \$6.1 billion for the CDC – an increase of \$38 million above last year's level and \$269 million below the President's budget request.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) – the bill funds SAMHSA at a program level of \$3.5 billion – \$27 million below last year's level and \$73 million below the President's budget request. Within this total, the Substance Abuse Block Grant program receives \$1.8 billion, an increase of \$21 million over last year, and the Mental Health Block Grant receives \$461 million, an increase of \$41 million over last year.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block – the LIHEAP program is funded at \$3.5 billion—a decrease of \$1.2 billion below last year and an increase of \$909 million above the President's budget request, and maintains the funding ratio between "cold weather" and "warm weather" states;
- Child Care Development Block Grant and Head Start – the program is funded at \$2.3 billion, \$60 million above last year's level;
- Head Start – funded at \$8 billion, which is \$424 million above last

year's level, and \$714 million for the Community Services Block Grant – an increase of \$12 million above last year and \$349 million above the President's budget request;

- Abstinence Education – the bill includes \$5 million for abstinence education programs. No funding was included for this program last year, nor was it included in the President's budget request; and
- Ban on Syringe/Needle Exchange Program – the bill imposes a ban on funding for needle exchange programs – a provision that had been included in the bill until FY 2010.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The conference agreement funds EPA at \$8.4 billion, which is a \$233 million reduction below the FY 2011 enacted level and \$524 million below the President's request. Overall, funding for EPA has been reduced by \$1.8 billion (-18.4 percent) in calendar year 2011.

The conference agreement cuts \$14 million (-6 percent) in clean air and climate research programs; \$12 million (-9.5 percent) in EPA's regulatory development office; and \$14 million (-5 percent) to air regulatory programs. In addition, the bill includes:

- a 33 percent reduction to the EPA Administrator's immediate office;
- a \$101 million reduction for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds;
- a \$78 million reduction for EPA operations/administration, which includes \$41 million (-5 percent) in cuts to EPA's regulatory programs;
- a \$14 million (-6.2 percent) reduction for uncoordinated climate and other air research; and
- the elimination of \$4 million in funding that EPA has used to delay the processing of Appalachian mining permits.





Mayors Advocate for Job Training Funding

The U.S. Conference of Mayors sent on December 9 a bi-partisan Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) Appropriations Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding support letter with the signatures of 122 Conference of Mayors members to Appropriation leadership in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The letter urges legislators to retain the Senate committee-reported provisions that level-fund key workforce development programs, including WIA adult, youth, and dislocated worker training programs, WIA national programs, adult basic education, and career and technical education as they finalize the FY12 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill.

With more than 14 million U.S. workers currently unemployed, and more than six million out of work for six months or more, it is critically important that Congress invest in the programs that put people back to work. While there has never been a more critical time to invest in the American worker, the House Majority's FY12 draft Labor-HHS appropriations bill would eliminate \$2.2 billion - almost 75 percent - in funding for WIA programs. These cuts would decimate local workforce systems - eliminating

virtually all opportunities for dislocated workers and those needing new skills to access the training they need to find stable employment and depriving businesses of a valuable tool for finding the talent that meets their hiring needs.

There has been a great deal of recent activity surrounding WIA reauthorization on the Hill. On December 8, members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce introduced two proposals to reform the nation's workforce investment system. Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, Virginia Foxx (NC), introduced the Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act of 2011 (H.R. 3610), which aims to consolidate and streamline "redundant and ineffective federal workforce development programs to increase accountability, reduce administrative bureaucracies and put Americans back to work." Foxx's legislation consolidates 33 programs into four funding streams or "Workforce Investment Funds":

- The bill authorizes \$4.3 billion in formula funding annually to states for FY 2013-2018 for a Workforce Investment Fund to provide job training services to adults, unemployed workers and youth;
- The bill authorizes \$1.9 billion in formula funding annually to states for FY 2013-2018 for a State Youth Workforce Investment Fund to provide services to disadvantaged youth,

with an emphasis on completing school;

- \$218 million in formula funding is provided annually to states for FY 2013-2018 to support a Veterans Workforce Investment Fund to serve veterans' employment and training services; and
- The bill authorizes \$581 million annually in formula funding to states for FY 2013-2018 for a Targeted Populations Workforce Investment Fund to assist special populations including Native Americans and migrant and seasonal farm workers.

The bill gives governors greater power to designate workforce areas, and requires state and local officials to establish common performance measures for all employment and training programs. It also permits states to submit single workforce development plans for all job training and related programs, including TANF and Perkins. It also repeals authorization for a number of current job training programs including Jobs Corp, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Wagner-Peyser programs and others.

That same week, Senators Susan Collins (ME) and Claire McCaskill (MO) announced agreement on a common-sense jobs bill, the Bi-Partisan Jobs Creation Act. The legislation aims to create jobs by cutting taxes on business and investing in the nation's critical transportation infrastructure; and it is paid-

for with a surtax on taxpayers earning more than \$1 million annually and an end to tax giveaways to big oil companies. The proposal includes an extension of the payroll tax cut.

The plan, which the Senators' said can earn broad bi-partisan support, aims to put Americans back to work by extending the tax cuts for small businesses and American workers; providing an infusion of tens of billions of dollars to rebuild and repair roads and bridges and help ensure a safe water supply; cutting federal red tape for manufacturers and employers; and consolidating and strengthening federal job training programs.

The bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to reduce the number of job training programs and administrative costs at the federal, state, and local level. All remaining programs would be consolidated under one federal agency, with half the resulting savings going to Individual Training Accounts and the other half going to deficit reduction.

With the unemployment rate at an alarmingly high level, the number one priority of the American people and America's mayors is saving and creating jobs in our country. Through this letter, the Conference of Mayors members draw attention to the vital importance of building upon the locally-based business-led workforce system originally established in WIA.

Westland Healthy City Passport

By Westland Mayor William R. Wild

It is with much enthusiasm that I announce my new "Passport to a Healthy City" campaign and invite every Westland business to participate and help Westland become one of the healthiest cities in America, and help your bottom line, as well.

The "Passport to a Healthy City" campaign is a partnership between Westland and St. Mary Mercy Hospital that promotes healthy, active lifestyles for all of Westland's residents through the development of fun, convenient programs created through strong public/private partnerships between the city, local businesses and its residents.

The overall health of a community plays a major role in the viability of cities as healthier people statistically live longer, less stressful and happier lives. With that said, I am putting forth a challenge



Westland Mayor William R. Wild

to Westland businesses to sign up as a participating business in the "Passport to a Healthy City" campaign by offering a program, event, or participating in any way that promotes a healthy lifestyle while benefitting your business as well.

Residents obtain a passport and receive stamps for attending a campaign approved or sponsored event, participating in an eligible activity, or making a health conscious purchase at a one of the participating businesses, which are listed at www.cityofwestland.com/healthycity. Participants who complete a passport (sixteen stamps) can then register to earn prizes, coupons and discounts from local businesses and retailers.

Current partnerships vary from Best Buy stamping passports for shoppers who make purchases from their Health and Wellness Department, several restaurants are stamping passports for diners who select offerings from the Healthy Options on their menu, Henry Ford Opti-



mEyes will be stamping for eye exams, Planet Fitness for memberships or the Vitamin Shoppe for qualifying purchases.

If you are interested in participating or have questions about this FREE program, contact my office.

ABOUT THE MAYOR

Governing Magazine Names Atlanta Mayor Reed "Public Official of the Year"

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GOVERNING
PUBLIC
OFFICIALS
of the
YEAR 2011

The Futurist

KASIM REED
Mayor, City of Atlanta

Kasim Reed spends a lot of time thinking about the next guy. Not that the Atlanta mayor has plans to leave office anytime soon—he was elected to his first term just two years ago. Nonetheless, Reed puts considerable energy into planning for his successor. It was that mindset that compelled Reed to address Atlanta's looming pension crisis head-on. The city's retirement plan had plummeted from 99 percent funded in 2001 to 51 percent funded by 2009—a \$1.5 billion problem. "This was going to blow up at some time, either while I was in office or shortly after I got out," Reed says. "I could have duct-taped it and escaped. But it was going to explode on a new mayor."

Reed engineered a major overhaul of the city's pension plan for new hires as well as existing employees, shifting to a defined-contribution plan and increasing workers' contributions by 5 percent across the board. Under intense pressure from Reed, the City Council approved the new plan 15-0 in June. The overhaul—along with other fiscal reforms the mayor has achieved—puts the city on its soundest fiscal footing in a generation. Reed has reopened community centers and pools, added 180 new police officers to city streets and even instituted a modest pay raise for police and firefighters. At the same time, the city's reserves have grown from \$74 million to more than \$70 million by the end of this year.

Reed is a Democrat, but his pragmatic, bipartisan approach—which he attributes to his 11 years in the state Legislature—has earned accolades from leaders on both sides of the aisle. Reed "genuinely puts what's in the best interest of the city or the state ahead of politics," Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, a Republican, told *Roll Call* earlier this year. "I think that's really the defining attribute of a statesman."

His successes in Atlanta have garnered national attention, but Reed says he's turning his focus to "quieter achievements," like instituting a 311 customer service system and increasing on-time trash pickup. And, of course, thinking about his successor. "I believe a lot of the work I'm doing is really for the next mayor," he says. "At some point, there's going to be a mayor in this office when our economy gets back to the 2008 level. And when it does, the mayor will have a government that is leaner, more efficient and built for the future."

—Zach Patton

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STUDIO CITY, CA



MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Crabtree + Company, Inc.

Crabtree + Company (C+C) is a premier marketing communications firm located in the Washington, DC area. The firm has more than 25 years of experience communicating the special needs and messages of public sector, private, and non-profit clients. Whether in strategy, branding, web, video, or print, C+C specializes in translating complex ideas into forms readily accessible and understandable by the general public.

When launching public awareness campaigns or promoting new initiatives, C+C matches the key messages to an engaging and memorable presentation. With experience in public art programs, event management, and museum-style exhibits, C+C is the communications company of choice.

Clients include NASA, the Smithsonian museums, the World Wildlife Fund, the National Institutes of Health, the Brookings Institution, Honda, YWCA, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, among many others.

During 2008, the company is celebrating its 25th anniversary by becoming carbon-neutral and hosting of series of events as part of its Year of Giving Thanks campaign.

C+C is committed to contributing a significant measure of its communications skills and talents to further the work of community and non-profit organizations. Among the recipients of this work are groups involved in environmental education and enrichment for children, awareness and advocacy for the treatment and prevention of heart disease in women, and fundraising events for a local children's hospital.

A recent expansion of C+C's business focuses on developing and distributing information for the federal WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program. Through a series of age-specific pamphlets for WIC clients, in both English and Spanish, parents and caregivers are provided with essential information on nutrition, health, and childhood development.

C+C is a woman-owned, certified small business.

Special Interests: C+C is particularly interested in helping our clients achieve success in an environmentally sustainable and responsible fashion.

For more Business Council profiles visit
the Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org/buscouncil

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Merge Healthcare

Merge Healthcare is a leading provider of enterprise imaging and interoperability solutions. With more than 1,500 hospitals and 6,000 clinics as clients, Merge facilitates the sharing of images and data to improve the electronic healthcare experience. Through our network of more than 20,000 Merge Motion Health Stations™ we empower consumers to take an active role in their healthcare and provide an improved patient experience. Our kiosk technology also provides local and regional government with tools to help reduce costs while simultaneously improving the health of government employees and citizens.

Special Interests: Healthcare

For more Business Council profiles visit
the Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org/buscouncil

NEA Posts Guidelines for 2012 Our Town Grants

The National Endowments for the Arts has posted the guidelines for 2012 Our Town grants. Now in its second year, Our Town supports creative place-making projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Our Town will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to:

- Improve their quality of life.
 - Encourage creative activity.
 - Create community identity and a sense of place.
 - Revitalize local economies.
- Pending availability of funding, grants

will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Projects may include planning, design, and arts engagement activities that reflect a systemic approach to civic development and a persuasive vision for enhanced community vibrancy. The deadline is Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 11:59PM EST and complete guidelines can be found online at: <http://arts.gov/grants/apply/OurTown/index.html>

If you have any question or need further assistance, contact Grants.gov Help Desk at 800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov For more information on creative place-making and to view the 51 Our Town grants awarded in 2011, visit the website <http://www.arts.gov/national/ourtown/index.php>.

In Memoriam: **MAGGIE DALEY**

July 21, 1943 - November 24, 2011

The former First Lady of Chicago, Maggie Daley, wife of former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

Conference of Mayors Vice President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran represented the organization at the funeral service attended by First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, a number of White House and Cabinet officials, Congressional leadership, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and other local mayors and city officials.

Mrs. Daley was honored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Americans for the Arts for her work on the arts and arts education at the 73rd Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Mrs. Daley was a national leader in arts education establishing the national award winning program, Gallery 37, and its expansion, After School Matters. She participated in a number of Conference of Mayors meetings speaking on the need to do more in cities to educate young people on the importance of the arts.



U.S. MAYOR
1620 I Street NW, Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20006



Left to right, USCM Past President Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran pose with Maggie Daley, who was honored with a Vanguard Arts Leadership Award during the 2005 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

***- Margaret Mead
(from mass program)***

"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

***- Maya Angelou
(from mass program)***



Margaret Corbett Daley