



The United States Conference of Mayors

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For Immediate Release
Monday, August 25, 2008

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U.S. MAYORS LAUNCH “THIRD CAMPAIGN” FOR AMERICA’S CITIES AT NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Call for Renewed Local-Federal Partnership to Fight Crime

Denver, CO -- U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, Host Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, Miami Police Chief John Timoney (Police Executive Research Forum President), and several key U.S. mayors held a press conference today at the Democratic National Convention to stress the need for a stronger federal-local partnership to combat crime in American cities and metropolitan areas.

Mayor Diaz, the second Hispanic mayor and the first person from Florida in more than 40 years to lead the Conference of Mayors, strongly believe that national problems demand national investment. Diaz said, “The next President of the United States must understand why an investment America’s cities is an investment in America’s future.”

The mayors event in Denver came on the heels of a crime forum in Philadelphia on August 6, which brought together more 50 mayors and police chiefs from around the country to develop an anti-crime agenda focused on (1) illustrating that many of the most serious crime problems plaguing America’s cities today are national problems that require national solutions; and (2) which spells out Washington’s responsibility to support local law enforcement efforts, as part of the strong federal-local crime-fighting partnership that is needed in America today. In Philadelphia, and in the additional working sessions in which mayors and police chiefs finalized this agenda, there was significant consensus on the crime problems facing our cities.

Mayors and chiefs shared a sense of moral outrage at the fact that, each day, 34 people – more than half of them age 29 and under – are the victims of homicides involving guns, that their deaths receive little attention, and that only limited federal resources are directed to preventing these crimes.

Mayor Diaz said, “Mayors and police chiefs are united on the crime problems we face in our cities. We know what can be done to respond to them and what help we need from the federal government when solutions to those problems are beyond our reach.” In fact, a U.S. Conference of Mayors-Zogby poll released in January 2008 showed that Americans are more concerned with crime in their local communities than they are with terrorism. Nearly half (48 percent) say they are more fearful of local crime, compared to 31 percent who worry more about terrorism.

Mayor Diaz believes that Washington no longer invests in its cities and its people. Diaz has said, “Washington has lost its values – lost its principles – lost its sense of purpose – engaging in endless debate and partisan bickering while people in this country continue to suffer. ... Plain and simple, Washington has abandoned us.” **Recommendations from the mayors’ crime forum will be presented to the next President of the United States during the critical first 100 days of the new administration.**

Following the press conference, Mayor Diaz addresses the Democratic National Convention on Monday, August 25, at 5 p.m. MST.

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