



# **The United States Conference of Mayors**

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## **Statement by U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz On TSA Expansion of Global Entry Program**

Washington, DC -- Reacting to the announcement yesterday by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to the expansion of the Global Entry program, United States Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz applauded the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for expediting entry into the United States for low risk international travelers.

“Since the creation of the TSA following 9/11, the nation’s mayors have been pushing for an entry system into the United States which balances homeland security and terrorist threats. Europe and the Middle East have been dealing with terrorist activity for decades. We have seen such systems work in Europe and the Middle East using the most modern technology available to screen international visitors. America must make the investment and do the same. We must remember that overseas visitors are beneficial to the U.S. economy, spending on the average four times more than domestic travelers and international tourism provides to the economic growth of our cities.

The nation’s mayors will continue to demand that further steps be taken to expand the Global Entry program to all U.S international airports and other points of entry. This issue is part of our Mayors 10 Point Action Plan that we have presented to the presidential candidates and Congressional leaders. We will continue to push for our government to extend a welcoming hand to international visitors.”

The U. Department of Homeland Security announced the expansion of the Global entry program to four additional airports: Los Angeles International, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, Chicago O-Hara International and Miami International Airport. The Global Entry program began in June, 2008, at John F. Kennedy International, George Bush Intercontinental, and Washington Dulles International Airport. The new Global entry sites are expected to be operational in the fall of 2008 and will be equipped with kiosks for expedited processing. Global Entry-approved participants bypass the regular passport control line and proceed directly to a Global Entry kiosk. The kiosks direct travelers to provide digital fingerprints and compare biometric data with the fingerprints on file. A transaction receipt will be issued upon completion which must be presented to Customs and Border Patrol officers prior to leaving the inspection area.

The U.S Conference of Mayors has adopted policy supporting the need to balance homeland security with the economic benefits of international tourists. The Conference is a partner of the Travel Business Roundtable which is composed of CEOs of major travel related businesses and organizations which provides education on the importance of the economic and social contributions of the travel and tourism industry.

The Travel Business Roundtable is composed of national CEOs including Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For any questions, please contact Tom McClimon at [tmclimon@usmayors.org](mailto:tmclimon@usmayors.org) or 202.861.6729.

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