



The United States Conference of Mayors

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HUNDREDS OF MAYORS TO MEET IN OKLAHOMA CITY FOR THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS' 78TH ANNUAL MEETING – JUNE 11 TO JUNE 14

The BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Immigration & Jobs Top Agenda

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors, led by Conference President and Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, will gather in Oklahoma City from Friday, June 11 to Monday, June 14, for the 78th Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), to be hosted by Oklahoma City (OK) Mayor Mick Cornett. **The opening press conference will be held on Friday, June 11th at 11:15 am at the Cox Convention Center (see below).**

The economy, job creation, immigration, energy efficiency, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the growing number of vacant and abandoned properties in America's cities, high speed rail and education reform top this year's agenda. During the meeting, mayors from all over the country come together to discuss public policy issues impacting residents in cities large and small – namely **New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and several new mayors from cities like Charlotte, Houston, Baltimore and Atlanta.** On the final day of the meeting, the mayors will debate and vote on policy resolutions to forward to Congress and the Administration in the hopes of shaping federal legislation.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

All press **MUST** pre-register to gain access to the 78th Annual Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors by logging onto http://usmayors.org/78thAnnualMeeting/press_registration.asp. After showing VALID, CURRENT identification, working press representatives must pick up meeting credentials in Room 10 of the Cox Convention Center (street level). An advance DRAFT agenda is located on the USCM website at www.usmayors.org.

The Conference of Mayors is pleased to announce a Title Sponsor for this year's meeting – America's Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA). ANGA exists to promote demand for and supply of clean, abundant, affordable North American natural gas. The 34-member trade association is taking its message to a wide range of energy stakeholders including electric power utilities, commercial enterprises, federal, state and local government and, most importantly, the American people who stand to reap the benefits of this clean, reliable, domestic energy resource.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Cox Convention Center - PLEASE NOTE ROOM CHANGES BELOW!!!!!!):

Friday, June 11th

9:30 am to 11:30 am:

- Mayors Water Council Meeting (Meeting Room 17 – 2nd Level) – Release of 100-city survey on bottled water policies in cities and the movement to phase out the use of bottled water in city halls across the country.

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm:

- Mayors Climate Protection Awards Luncheon (Exhibit Hall 1 - Street Level) –
 - One set of awards will recognize mayors for innovative practices in their cities designed to increase energy efficiency and curb global warming. An independent panel of judges determines one large city winner and one small city winner from a pool of over 100 applicants.

- Another set of awards will honor cities with new Green Jobs Training Programs that embody mayoral leadership in green jobs and innovative strategies in green jobs efforts. The grant awards support the work of mayors in partnership with 501(c)(3) organizations in their cities to establish comprehensive green jobs training initiatives. The non-profit organizations in the three winning cities receive monetary awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000.
- Congressman Chaka Fattah (PA) and Chair of the Urban Caucus – Will address the mayors on H.R. 4832, The Local Jobs For America Act, Cosponsored by Congressman George Miller (CA) which would provide federal funding to cities to retain employees that would otherwise have to be cut because of local budget shortfalls. Congressman Fattah will also speak about the most recent Kerry/Graham/Lieberman Climate Bill and the fact that the local Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program was not included in the legislation. There will be Q & A from the mayors.
- Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius – Will address the mayors on the launching of First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move Cities and Towns” initiative to fight childhood obesity. Sebelius will be introduced by a video from the First Lady.

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm:

- New Mayors Forum (Ballroom A/B – 2nd Level) -- This session will and will feature New Orleans (LA) Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Charlotte (NC) Mayor Anthony Foxx, Houston (TX) Mayor Annise Parker, Baltimore (MD) Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, and Newton (MA) Mayor Setti Warren who will participate in a moderated panel discussion about the challenges/opportunities of being a new mayor in this political climate (with the recession, budget cuts, increasing foreclosures looming, all while “greening” America’s cities).
- Special Session on Vacant and Abandoned Properties (Ballroom D – 2nd Level) – Release of a study highlights effective and unique strategies of 76 cities, partnerships and the best practices on the disposition of distressed, vacant and abandoned properties – particularly existing foreclosure properties. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Little Rock, AR Mayor Mark Stodola and Bridgeport, CT Mayor Bill Finch will share “best practices” for how they handle foreclosures and abandoned properties in their cities.

Saturday, June 12th

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm:

- City Livability Awards Luncheon (Exhibit Hall 1 – Street Level) -- The Conference of Mayors City Livability Program, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc., honors mayors and their city governments for developing programs that enhance the quality of life in urban areas. Established in 1979, the City Livability Awards are given annually to ten mayors and their cities--a first-place award and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities with populations under 100,000, and a first-place and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants.

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm:

- Energy Efficiency Workshop (Ballroom D – 2nd Level) -- This workshop will highlight mayors who have greened their cities and reduced their carbon footprints. Specifically, mayors have used energy block grant monies (funded thru the stimulus bill) to invest in cost-effective energy strategies that reduce energy use, curb green house gas emissions and protect the environment and promote energy independence and how lighting solutions play a role in advancing energy efficiency and climate protection goals, while at the same time reducing maintenance and operating costs, stimulating more social and economic activity in neighborhoods and making streets safer. This Phillips sponsored workshop is titled “Lighting the Way to a More Beautiful, Energy Efficient City.”

Forum participants:

Philadelphia (PA) Mayor Michael Nutter

Indianapolis (IN) Mayor Gregory Ballard

Moderated by USCM President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth Kautz

Phillips Co. CEO Zia Eftekhari

- The High School Dropout Crisis and Data (Ballroom E – 2nd Level) -- Using Data to Solve Seemingly Unsolvable Problems – The U.S. *high school dropout crisis* poses one of the greatest threats to the nation’s economic growth and competitiveness. In addition, high school dropouts become far more likely to lead lives of crime and entrenched poverty. In this Forum, mayors will examine the use of data as a means to address the high school dropout crisis, turn around underperforming schools, and improve student outcomes. The session will examine innovative and creative ways to capture, process and collect data from disparate systems to push school reform,

set more appropriate targets for students, focus staff development efforts for teachers, encourage curriculum reform, and improve instruction and instructional materials.

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm:

- Environment Standing Committee (Meeting Room 15 – 2nd Level) – A 150 city survey on Brownfields Redevelopment will be released in this session. The report identifies the problems of brownfields redevelopment faced by local communities, outlines the fleeting opportunities lost when properties remain idle and abandoned, and quantifies some of the benefits from brownfields redevelopment efforts across the country with cities highlighting their positive results from land recycling and the return of brownfields to productive uses.

Sunday, June 13th

11:00 am to 12:00 pm:

- Plenary Session w/ Immigration Reform Panel (Exhibit Hall 1 – Street Level) – Discussion of the new Arizona Law with Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Phoenix (AZ) Mayor Gordon and Trenton (NJ) Mayor Doug Palmer

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm:

- Emergency Session re Gulf Coast Oil Spill (Ballroom A/B – Second Level) – Interactive discussion among mayors impacted by the British Petroleum oil disaster and any other mayors who wish to provide assistance and learn more on how they can help with any challenges related to BP and the federal government. Tallahassee (FL) Mayor John Marks, Baton Rouge (LA) Mayor Kip Holden and other coastal mayors. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson will call into the session to take questions from the mayors.

Monday, June 14th

8:30 am to 11:00 am:

- Morning Business Session (Exhibit Hall 1 – Street Level) --
 - Debate and vote on key resolutions before the body of mayors including the Gulf Coast Oil Spill, Arizona's new immigration law and others.
 - Release of a groundbreaking report analyzing the economic impacts of high speed rail transportation on four cities and their metropolitan areas:
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - Chicago, IL
 - Albany, NY
 - Orlando, FL

WHO: **The United States Conference of Mayors - 78th Annual Meeting:
Oklahoma, City, OK Mayor Mick Cornett, Host
Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, USCM President
Gulf Coast Mayors
Tom Cochran, USCM CEO & Executive Director**

WHAT: **Opening Press Conference**

WHEN: **Friday, June 11th at 11:15 am**

WHERE: **Foyer Outside of Great Hall B (USCM Registration location)
2nd Floor (next to SKYBRIDGE)
Cox Convention Center
1 Myriad Gardens
Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

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