



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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## Press Statement

Earlier today, we were officially advised that Vice President Joe Biden and other members of the Obama Administration will not be participating at our annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Providence next week. Despite previously confirming their participation, they have agreed to the demand of the International Association of Firefighters not to join us. We are highly disappointed by this decision, but we will continue to move forward with our meeting to discuss the challenges facing American cities.

America's Mayors are facing the most troubling economic times since the Great Depression. Mayors and city councils are making painful decisions in order to balance budgets, avoid bankruptcy and reduce the tax burden on citizens, while continuing to provide services to so many who have lost their jobs, lost their homes.

We are being forced to lay-off valued employees, reduce salaries and other benefits. We make these decisions in spite of many long standing relationships with our employees, union and non-union. We make these decisions because we do not have a choice. The buck stops at the Mayors' desks.

We appreciate the strong partnership developed between the Obama Administration and America's Mayors. Mayors have long believed that in order to create the foundation to re-build America, a partnership between the White House and Main Street is essential. We are committed to this partnership.

Our President has called on all Americans to make the sacrifices necessary to rebuild our country. America's Mayors are making the necessary sacrifices. No one should be exempt from this responsibility.