

**THE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND
URBAN FOREST RESEARCH**

WHEREAS, trees are an integral part of urban infrastructure, as critical to the health and livability of communities as roads, sewers, and buildings; and

WHEREAS, tree canopy can help cities improve air quality, reduce storm water management demands, increase property values, enhance tourism, and promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, urban forests provide valuable ecological services that include carbon sequestration, air pollution control, microclimate functions, groundwater, flood moderation, nutrient cycling, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, and watershed protection; and

WHEREAS, the USDA-Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF) and urban forest research conducted by the USDA-Forest Service Research and Development (R&D) provide valuable technical and financial assistance to states, local governments, and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, U&CF was responsible in FY 2005 for providing direct assistance in all States and territories to nearly 7,000 communities where 165 million people live, comprising 77% of the 215 million Americans living in cities, suburbs and towns; and

WHEREAS, U&CF and urban forest R&D provide scientifically-based, technically accurate information and assistance to facilitate the orderly planting and proper maintenance of trees to provide maximum benefits and minimum risk to the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress restore funding to the U&CF program at no less than \$36 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress provide the U&CF program with an additional \$12 million to initiate a Metropolitan Areas Canopy Restoration Initiative to assess, restore, and monitor tree canopy in 10 to 15 pilot cities through collaborative public-private partnerships; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress fund urban forest research investments within R&D at no less than \$6 million.

COMMUNITY TREES

WHEREAS, trees are an essential resource for all cities, contributing to the economic success, quality of life and health of communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, trees provide crucial environmental benefits to our nation's cities by cleaning the air and water, controlling stormwater and reducing soil erosion, cooling our streets and providing critical habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees provide important economic benefits to citizens and businesses by increasing property values, enhancing the economic vitality of business areas and reducing utility costs; and

WHEREAS, trees provide meaningful social benefits to our nation's cities by lowering crime rates, relieving stress, improving school performance and enhancing community relationships; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource, from which numerous products are made; and

WHEREAS, 2006 marks the 30th anniversary of Tree City USA, the nation's most well-known program recognizing cities and mayors who meet core standards of supporting and managing their community forests; and

WHEREAS, The Home Depot Foundation, a national partner of The US Conference of Mayors, is presenting its first Awards of Excellence for Community Trees to cities and local non-profits for collaborating to create and implement outstanding, innovative urban tree programs; and

WHEREAS, successful community forestry programs represent an important investment to ensure the strength and health of cities across America for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors throughout the country to recognize and celebrate the essential role of trees in our cities, to support their community forestry programs and to partner with non-profit organizations, businesses, certified arborists and citizens to encourage the proper conservation, management and development of healthy community forests in cities across the nation.

**ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF A NEW NATIONAL AGENDA FOR URBAN PARKS AND RECREATION**

WHEREAS, there are thousands of urban parks in the nation's communities that help to enrich the lives of millions of Americans everyday; and

WHEREAS, urban parks provide countless social, health and environmental benefits for the residents of the nation's communities, such as helping to reduce air pollution, protecting communities from flooding, providing a safe place for children to play and learn, and providing a place for healthy recreation, physical activity, and family gatherings, usually at no or low cost; and

WHEREAS, urban parks also create enormous economic value by increasing nearby property values, increasing the local tax base, reducing crime, attracting businesses and helping to create jobs; and

WHEREAS, many of the nation's mayors and the local park and recreations systems in the nation's communities have long recognized the important benefits of urban parks and have used their best efforts to make ongoing investments of local funds to improve their parks; and

WHEREAS, the increased demand for park space and recreational facilities in many of the nation's communities, together with aging park infrastructure in many older communities, has resulted in a situation where many local governments and local park and recreation systems have been unable to keep pace with the tremendous costs of making the needed repairs, improvements and upgrades to their local parks; and

WHEREAS, the National Recreation and Park Association has recently estimated that funding for local parks and recreation is predicted to fall \$38 billion short of meeting basic needs over the next four years; and

WHEREAS, despite the clear and important benefits of urban parks to the health and welfare of the nation's communities, and a demonstrated need for more funding, in recent years the federal government has failed to provide adequate funding for the nation's urban parks; and

WHEREAS, in May 2006, representatives of the largest urban park and recreation systems in the United States gathered together in Chicago for an "Urban Parks Summit" to create a new national agenda for urban parks and recreation, and a new

compact among federal, state, and local governments, along with citizens groups, private foundations and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the new national agenda for urban parks and recreation Agenda is premised upon four guiding principles and beliefs, as follows:

Urban parks must continue to *promote health and wellness*;
Urban parks must continue to *stimulate community and economic development*;
Urban parks must continue to *protect the environment*; and
Urban parks must continue to *educate, protect and enrich America's young people*; and

WHEREAS, the new national urban parks and recreation agenda calls upon the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to provide increased federal funding for urban parks in the nation's communities, in exchange for a commitment from state and local governments to match the federal funds dollar-for-dollar; and

WHEREAS, this new urban parks agenda, which is premised upon these four guiding principles and a renewed commitment by all levels of government to invest in the nation's communities by investing in parks, will help to protect and ensure the countless value of urban parks for generations to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the invaluable role of urban parks to the nation's communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby endorses the new "National Agenda for Urban Parks and Recreation" adopted at the Urban Parks Summit in Chicago in May 2006, and recognizes the critical importance to the nation's communities of abiding by the four guiding principles for urban parks adopted at that Summit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will support the nation's mayors in helping to carry out a national advocacy effort to implement the new "National Agenda for Urban Parks and Recreation".

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability; and

WHEREAS, cities and states - through their local and state arts agencies and representing thousands of cultural organizations - have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has actively participated in National Arts and Humanities Month since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors' national arts partner, Americans for the Arts, will again coordinate this year a national awareness campaign of activities for National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the nation's 40,000 cultural organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 4,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2006 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND MUSEUMS

WHEREAS, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's forty years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 40,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 4,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal funding leverages up to 7 times more from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the world; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country – the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties and more than \$700 million annually in local government funding and more than \$300 million in state government funding to the arts and humanities; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, the NEA has undergone a major restructuring of its grants programs to more directly reach and help build communities across the nation through its Challenge America grant program; and

WHEREAS, although the federal cultural agencies have received small funding increases in an effort to begin restoring the devastating 40 percent cuts made in 1995, major increases are still needed to address the growing needs of our cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed level funding for the NEA and NEH, without any adjustments for inflation; and

WHEREAS, the President's budget proposal for NEA includes a reallocation of approximately \$3.5 million out of the Challenge America program; and

WHEREAS, the delicate balance in shared responsibility and partnership for public funding of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local government levels has been in serious jeopardy since local governments cannot make up for the current funding cuts in the federal government's share; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has unanimously passed policy resolutions and issued official letters in the past on Arts Advocacy Day to the President and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House, signed by more than 200 of the nation's mayors, to increase federal funding for the arts and humanities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts (and specifically the valuable Challenge America program), National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to increase funding for these agencies in the FY'07 appropriations bills.

**ENCOURAGING THE RESTORATION OF READING BY CITY RESIDENTS AS AN
ESSENTIAL AND ENLIGHTENING HUMAN ENDEAVOR**

WHEREAS, there has been a documented national decline in the incidence of reading across all age groups in our country, borne out by the results of various surveys, and

WHEREAS, The Big Read is the National Endowment for the Arts' response to its 2004 Reading at Risk survey that showed that less than 50% of the adult population was reading literature, and

WHEREAS, this national decline in reading incidence and ability has long-term social and economic implications for our society, as exemplified by findings in the survey such as that readers are more likely than non-readers to perform well in the workplace, go out and vote, attend and participate in social, civic or sports events and activities, and

WHEREAS, The Big Read, is a national initiative, specifically created by the National Endowment for the Arts to address the decline of reading throughout our population and that encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss books and literature, and

WHEREAS, the goal of The Big Read is to restore reading to its crucial place in American culture by working with partners across the country to develop innovative community-wide reading programs, and

WHEREAS, The Big Read is an inspiring initiative, modeled on successful city-based and public reading programs and Cities and Mayors are encouraged to replicate, participate and be part of this reading program, and

WHEREAS, our history and recent events have shown that when Mayors and cities act together in concert we can effect great and positive change in our country, and this initiative complements our Conference's mission to strengthen our cities as centers of leadership, opportunity and well-being for all, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors commends and endorses the National Endowment for the Arts reading program, the Big Read, and encourages all Mayors around the country to explore the NEA's program and develop, implement and participate in local reading programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the executive and legislative branches of our federal government to ensure that sufficient, dedicated

funding is appropriated to the support and promotion of such reading programs in cities throughout the United States.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts, in partnership with the Advertising Council, first launched the - Art. Ask for More. - national public awareness campaign in January of 2002 and will launch the second phase of the campaign in 2006, designed to motivate parents across the United States to get more involved in ensuring their children receive a comprehensive arts education and opportunity to experience the arts; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts secured more than 367 local, state, and national partners, during the first phase of the campaign including The United States Conference of Mayors, to help promote the campaign in media markets across the country; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts and The Advertising Council in the past secured media distribution relationships with numerous networks and media outlets including -- CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, BRAVO, VH1 as well as with The New York Times, USA Today, Conde Nast publications and many other local, regional and national media companies and will seek to duplicate and increase those relationships during the second phase of the campaign; and

WHEREAS, this multi-year public awareness campaign will again develop advertising materials for television, radio, newspapers, magazines, internet, and billboards with the - Art. Ask for More. - message; and

WHEREAS, Art. Ask for More. PSAs generated more than \$110 million in donated media during the first phase of the campaign; and

WHEREAS, Art. Ask for More. PSA materials will be distributed to thousands of television stations, radio stations, newspapers, and magazines; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the multi-media campaign is to increase the public's awareness and action that participation in the arts is essential to the development of every child, and to spur the integration of the arts more completely into homes, schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution in 2001 endorsing the development of a public awareness campaign to promote arts education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors specifically endorses the second phase of

the - Art. Ask for More. - public awareness campaign. Be it further resolved that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the nation's local arts agencies to actively participate in the campaign at the local level, and also to motivate parents and other citizens to take action on children's behalf to ensure the return of a comprehensive arts education in schools.

FACILITATING AND PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States generates approximately \$100 billion in visitor spending and directly and indirectly employs 17 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States helps to showcase our country's rich and varied cultural and historical attractions for tens of millions of visitors to see and experience firsthand; and

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States is proven to positively impact the opinions of foreign nationals about our country and can assist in enhancing our national image abroad; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. share of global travel has fallen 35% in the since 1992;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Bush Administration to move expeditiously to implement key components of the Rice-Chertoff Vision announced in January 2006 in order to achieve the correct balance between homeland security and a more efficient and welcoming visa issuance and entry process for the purpose of boosting international travel to our cities and our nation as a whole, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to work in a partnership with the U.S. travel industry to create a substantial and sustained international destination marketing campaign to promote the United States as the premiere visitor destination in the world.

FACILITATING CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States generates approximately \$100 billion in visitor spending and directly and indirectly employs 17 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, cross-border travel and trade with Canada and Mexico and other nations within the Western Hemisphere is critical to our nation's economy and relations with key trade partners; and

WHEREAS, securing our nation's land, air and sea ports-of-entry is absolutely critical;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Bush Administration to extend the deadline for implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), and to seek bilateral, low-cost solutions that enhance U.S. border security while ensuring the free-flow of travelers and trade across our borders with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM

WHEREAS, the U.S. travel industry is one of the nation's leading service industries and produces in excess of \$650 billion in direct spending and directly and indirectly employs 17 Americans; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. travel industry generates nearly \$100 billion in tax revenue for local, state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. travel industry is essential to the future economic, diplomatic and social health of this country; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. travel industry currently lacks high-level representation within the federal government in Washington, DC;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Bush Administration to create a Presidential Advisory Council on Travel and Tourism that includes both public and private sector leaders who will advise the President of the United States on matters critical to the health and vitality of the U.S. travel industry.

BRINGING THE ARTS BACK TO NEW ORLEANS

WHEREAS, the Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports Standing Committee of the United States Conference of Mayors met in May 2006 in New Orleans under the heading "Bring the Arts Back to New Orleans"; and

WHEREAS, the heart and soul of New Orleans is its culture, food, music and arts; and

WHEREAS, the French Quarter and hotels are open for business and welcomes our tourism; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans and the State of Louisiana have started outreach efforts to cities nationwide to employ the talents of New Orleans artists; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors and the Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports Standing Committee in an effort to assist and support the recovery of New Orleans, encourages everyone, cities, organizations, businesses who are holding conferences or wishing to visit, schedule their tourism event in New Orleans to stimulate the economy of New Orleans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to work in a partnership with the U.S. travel industry to create a substantial and sustained international destination marketing campaign to promote the United States as the premiere visitor destination in the world.

REAUTHORIZATION OF RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

WHEREAS, the Ryan White CARE Act has had a significant impact on the lives and health of people with HIV/AIDS in our cities; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the CARE Act are urgently needed by low-income, uninsured and underinsured persons living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, since its enactment in 1990, the Ryan White CARE Act has dramatically improved the quality of life of people living with HIV-disease and their families, reduced use of costly inpatient care, and increased access to care for low-income, underserved populations, including people of color; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that those receiving services from CARE Act providers are up to 40 to 90 percent more likely to report appropriate medical care, including access to anti-HIV medications; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of the Ryan White CARE Act expired in September 2005; and

WHEREAS, a reauthorized Act should build on the Act's decade of success by modernizing it to address new challenges in the HIV/AIDS epidemic while maintaining the successful structure, strong local control and continuity of care of existing services present in the current law; and

WHEREAS, mayors are concerned that although there have been recent declines in AIDS-related deaths, the HIV/AIDS epidemic remains an enormous health emergency in the United States, with approximately 40,000 new infections annually and between 850,000 and 950,000 persons living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, funding for CARE Act programs outside of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program have only increased 5.5 percent since FY2001 despite increasing caseloads and rising healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and treatment programs funded through the CARE Act remain an effective investment in people and in the health care system, saving substantial dollars by reducing hospital admissions by 30 percent nationally and up to 75 percent in some locales; and

WHEREAS, several states have only recently begun to implement names-based HIV reporting systems and both the Government Accountability Office and the Institute of Medicine have

stated that it takes several years to fully implement a new disease surveillance system; and

WHEREAS, efforts to shift CARE Act resources away from Title I communities, and the states where they are located, are based on inaccurate claims that states with Title I EMAs receive a disproportionate share of CARE Act funds per person living with AIDS, and would severely harm systems of care in urban areas where the majority of HIV/AIDS cases occur; and

WHEREAS, the current system used in the CARE Act to estimate living AIDS cases is based on the flawed assumption that people diagnosed with AIDS will be dead within 10 years of diagnosis, which consistently undercounts living AIDS cases in jurisdictions with effective systems of care that successfully prolong life for people living with AIDS and reduce AIDS deaths; and

WHEREAS, criteria including per capita prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases, density of caseload, the extent of co-morbidities such as substance abuse and mental health issues, poverty, health insurance coverage, cost of medical care and access to affordable housing would accurately assess the level of need in a given jurisdiction and the severity of the burden HIV/AIDS is placing on a system of care; and

WHEREAS, the CARE Act currently includes provisions to protect jurisdictions from severe funding cuts that destabilize established systems of care, recognizing the negative consequences of catastrophic funding reductions and annual fluctuations in funding eligibility,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act and to appropriate sufficient funds for localities to implement CARE Act programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that states be given sufficient transition time to implement new HIV surveillance systems so that CARE Act funds are allocated based on complete and accurate case counts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to oppose efforts to eliminate the "80/20" provision in Title II of the CARE Act, which appropriately recognizes the heavy burden on health systems in high prevalence areas by allowing states to receive partial credit for Title I cases in their Title II formula allocations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to immediately replace the inaccurate system currently used to estimate living AIDS cases with the CDC's estimate of the actual number of persons reported to be living with AIDS, adjusted for reporting delays; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to base any modifications in the reauthorization regarding allocation of funds on appropriate measures that accurately assess severity of need in a given jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support compromise language on the hold harmless protection proposed by the Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition, which represents the interests of all 51 jurisdictions that receive Title I funds, that prevents the rapid destabilization of existing systems of care upon which people living with HIV/AIDS rely; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that Congress, in reauthorizing the Act, modify it to give cities and their communities the proper tools to address new challenges confronting the HIV/AIDS epidemic while maintaining the Act's successful structure, strong local control and a continuity of care so that life-saving health services are not interrupted.

**SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE
JEFFERSON AWARDS**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is one of the nation's leading organizations dedicated to community building, civic engagement and the importance of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Awards for Public Service were created in 1973 on a non-partisan basis by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard to create a Nobel Prize to encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Awards for over 30 years has pioneered in civic engagement and uses profiles of individual excellence as well as the media and modern technology to attract and recruit local citizens to join in our participatory democracy; and

WHEREAS, one of the defining traditions of our American democracy is that each person can make a difference; and

WHEREAS, the ideal of public and community service was a founding principle of our republic; and

WHEREAS, generation after generation, we want to pass the tradition of neighbors helping neighbors through local community service, volunteerism and public service to young Americans,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages and supports voluntary local partnerships by Mayors with the Jefferson Awards to establish recognition systems in their communities and become part of the prestigious national Jefferson Awards recognition network.

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS, previous pandemics took the world by surprise, we now know that pandemics occur, on average, three times per century; and

WHEREAS, scientists cannot predict when a human pandemic emerges from the avian flu, but they warn of the "inevitable" emergence of a virus to which humans have no immunity; and

WHEREAS, estimates for the impact in the U.S. are for over 1/2 million deaths and 2 million hospitalizations; and

WHEREAS, the general guidelines for pandemic readiness proposed by the WHO include key local public health functions such as food safety, infection control and surveillance; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has issued a National Strategic Pandemic Readiness plan issuing guidelines for health officials at federal, state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, local responders will be responsible for the operational, on-the-ground implementation of state level plans, and

WHEREAS, surge capacity, anti-viral prioritization and outbreak tracking are among the areas especially critical to plan for in the local context, and

WHEREAS, the needs of people, families, communities, and workplaces, which become infected and the needs of doctors, hospitals, clinics and that provide services are all local needs; and

WHEREAS, highly dense urban areas pose particular dangers because of the possibility of massive virus transmission; and

WHEREAS, local government authorities are responsible for insuring that our cities and citizenry are prepared,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the thrust and direction of the Administration's National Strategic Pandemic Readiness Plan as it relates to preparedness activities for Federal, state and local health officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors commends the Plan for the focus on the needs, roles and responsibilities of local officials in a pandemic occurrence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Congress to fully fund the National Strategic Pandemic Readiness Plan in order to insure proper preparedness activities at the Federal, state and local government level.

HEALTH DISPARITIES

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic health disparities are a major preventable public health problem in cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, many major national and local studies such as those analyzed in the Institute of Medicine's 2002 Report "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare," have documented "differences in incidence, prevalence, mortality and burden of disease and other adverse health conditions," as disparities is defined by the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, these racial and ethnic health inequities are caused by many social factors, including discrimination, poverty, inequitable access to resources essential to health such as education, healthy housing, healthy environments and culturally competent health care; and

WHEREAS, cities such as Boston have taken the initiative to eliminate disparities through model collaborative, cross-sector approaches like Mayor Menino's Task Force to Eliminate Health Disparities that brought together a group of leaders from health, business, government, and community, published recommendations and is engaged in multi-year, multi-million dollar efforts to implement these recommendations; and

WHEREAS, local government also relies on a sustained partnership with the federal government to succeed in creating health equity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors requests continued and expanded national support for a) federal programs that explicitly tackle this major social problem, such as REACH 2010 and many Title VII Health Professions programs; and b) prioritize cross-departmental efforts to understand the causes of and promote solutions to racial and ethnic disparities.

SUPPORTING PARKINSON'S AWARENESS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted a Parkinson's Resolution at the 71st Conference in Denver, Colorado, calling for Mayors to support efforts to increase awareness and understanding of Parkinson's Disease and to promote advocacy, education, quality of life and research to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease and other neurological conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Parkinson's Resolution adopted at the 71st Annual Conference of Mayors indicated that The United States Conference of Mayors urges its members to support collaborative events throughout the year, with special emphasis on the month of April, which is the International Parkinson's Awareness Month and includes a world-wide Parkinson's Awareness Week and Parkinson's Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), there are approximately 1.5 million people diagnosed with Parkinson's in the United States with 60,000 new cases diagnosed each year, with 10% of these individuals being "young onset"; and

WHEREAS, the extremely debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's disease continue to plague the lives of patients and their care partners, and available treatments only temporarily relieve symptoms, and in time lose effectiveness, impairing with their side effects, quality of life, as much as the disease itself ; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the impact of Parkinson's disease is roughly \$25 billion a year in the United States in health costs and lost productivity, especially for those diagnosed with "young onset," who face difficulties maintaining employment, health and disability coverage; in addition to costs from \$2,000 - \$7,000 per year in the early stages, as the disease progresses, treatment and hospitalizations can run in excess of \$40,000, disability subsidies can cost \$30,000 and assisted living or nursing home care can exceed \$100,000 per year per patient ; and

WHEREAS, many of those with Parkinson's become incapacitated for many years and a similar number of family members are often diverted from the workforce as a result of their role as caregiver,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges all mayors to support efforts in their communities to advocate and advance research to find

better treatments and cures for Parkinson's and other neurological conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support to educate all citizens about the possibilities in the research field into causes, treatments and cures, so that many voices can be heard to facilitate passage of needed legislation for those suffering with these extremely debilitating and neurological impairments.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE SYSTEM INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the safety of our citizens, especially our children are at risk in the event of a crisis, whether it be natural, or man-made; and

WHEREAS, injuries are the number one killer of children and young adults in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the prompt provision of emergency medical care, both in and out of hospitals, can limit the consequences of injuries and mitigate disabilities, even death; and

WHEREAS, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2002 more than 160,000 people died from injuries and people experienced more than 28 million non-fatal injuries serious enough to require a visit to the emergency department. Injuries, including unintentional injuries, are the leading cause of death for people ages 1 to 44. Injury is the leading cause of years of potential life lost before age 65. Approximately one-third of all emergency department visits and 8% of all hospital stays result from injuries; and

WHEREAS, in the event of an emergency, there is a gap between the time of the emergency and the time for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to arrive on the scene; and

WHEREAS, citizens that are trained in emergency preparedness are equipped with the tools to render aid before EMS arrive, and

WHEREAS, local municipalities play an important role in protecting the safety and health of it's citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to form a Community Response System Initiative or "CRSI" Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these committees will train individuals, including children (K-12), to be active bystanders, equipped with life supporting first aid skills to assist during emergencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these committees will also raise important questions about needs related to preparedness yet to be addressed by cities and towns, and will seek out ways to make a difference, to help Mayors prepare their residents, and ultimately, to save lives.

**INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (LIHEAP)**

WHEREAS, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the primary federal program available to help low-income households, including families with children, the elderly and disabled individuals, pay their home energy bills; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP provides financial assistance for home heating and cooling, energy crisis intervention and low-cost home weatherization to low-income households, including working poor households, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP prevents low-income families from having to choose between paying to heat or cool their homes or purchasing necessary medication and food; and

WHEREAS, unaffordable home energy can lead to homelessness and housing abandonment, health and safety problems, and a lack of educational opportunities for children; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy has predicated that natural gas prices in 2006 will be 44 percent higher than during the winter of 2001-2002, and that fuel oil prices will be 69 percent higher; and

WHEREAS, Higher energy prices are increasing the need for assistance while reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP; and

WHEREAS, Low-income households are harder hit by increases in energy prices and less able to absorb fluctuations in fuel cost than medium to higher income households; and

WHEREAS, the Congress authorized \$5.1 billion for the LIHEAP program but only appropriated \$2.48 billion in regular funds and \$681 million in emergency funds,

NOW, BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund appropriations of the LIHEAP program to \$5.1 billion in the FY 2007 budget to accommodate the increase in eligible low-income households and rising energy prices.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the primary objective of the program is the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow urban, suburban, and rural communities to carry out a broad range of activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 31-year old history, the CDBG program has been a partnership among all levels of government, the business community, and the nonprofit sector to carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low- and moderate-income families; and

WHEREAS, according to FY2004 data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, CDBG funded 168, 938 housing units, created or retained 90,647 jobs principally for low- and moderate-income persons, provided public services to 13, 312, 631 low- and moderate-income persons and funded improvements for another 9,453,993 low- and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, CDBG formula grants were cut by 10 percent in FY2006 from \$4.1 billion to \$3.71 billion, and also cut in FY2005 by 5 percent, resulting in a 15 percent cut in two years; and

WHEREAS, a survey on the impact of the CDBG cuts released by 20 organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, on March 15, 2006 found that reduced formula allocations between FY2004 - FY2006 has had a substantial negative effect on the 68 percent of all state programs and 28 percent of all entitlement communities that responded to the survey; and

WHEREAS, the survey found that CDBG cuts to cities, counties and states between FY2004 - FY2006 has led to 5, 588 fewer businesses, 5, 843 fewer homeowners, 5, 064, 408 fewer low- and moderate-income persons served, 255, 569 fewer elderly persons served, 391, 823 fewer children and youth served, 253, 187 fewer persons with special needs served, 196, 150 fewer homeless persons served, 50, 046 fewer units of rehabilitated

housing, and 1251 city and county improvement projects (water and sewer, street and sidewalks, fire stations, public facilities) canceled or delayed; and

WHEREAS, the administration's FY2007 budget request proposes to cut an additional \$1 billion in CDBG formula funding to \$2.7 billion, plus and additional \$200 million in competitive "bonus funding"; and

WHEREAS, last year Congress strongly supported CDBG by rejecting the administration's FY2006 budget request to completely eliminate CDBG and 17 other programs and consolidate them into a "Strengthening America's Communities Initiative" with a reduced funding level for all 18 programs; and

WHEREAS, the FY2007 Senate Budget Resolution recommends that the administration's budget request for CDBG be increased by an additional \$1.3 billion, and the House Budget Resolution now pending also proposes to increase the program to \$1.3 billion, which puts both houses of Congress in agreement that CDBG should be funded at \$4.3 billion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports that formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program be increased to no less than \$4.3 billion in FY2007.

SUPPORTING THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, decent, safe, affordable housing is at the core of family stability and strong neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the HOME program has expanded the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing, strengthened public-private partnerships; improved the lives of low- and moderate-income people, and strengthened neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program provides direct formula grants to jurisdictions to fund a wide-range of affordable housing activities, including home buyer assistance, construction and rehabilitation of rental housing, and the rehabilitation of existing homeowner properties; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, the HOME program has committed over \$18 billion dollars to affordable housing nationwide. As of March 31, 2006, the program has helped to develop and rehabilitate 835,103 affordable homes for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families; and

WHEREAS, the majority of HOME funds have been committed to housing that will be occupied by very low-income people and a substantial amount will assist families with incomes no greater than 30 percent of median income. As of March 31, 2006, more than 87 percent of HOME assisted rental housing was benefiting families at or below 50 percent of area median income. More than 56 percent of all HOME-assisted rental housing (including tenant-based rental assistance) was assisting families with incomes at or below 30 percent of area median income.

WHEREAS, the HOME program helps persons purchase a home by providing down payment and closing cost assistance and by subsidizing the construction and/or rehabilitation costs of the home. As of March 31, 2006, the program has assisted 334,490 households in realizing the dream of homeownership; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program is cost effective and strengthens public-private partnerships by leveraging additional private resources to HOME projects. For each HOME dollar, an additional \$3.63 in private funds is leveraged; and

WHEREAS, HOME formula grants were cut in FY 2006 by nearly \$105 million, from \$1.785 billion in FY 2005 to \$1.68 billion in FY 2006; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program provides technical assistance to jurisdictions to manage their programs. Last year, Congress directed approximately 70% of the \$10 million in HOME technical assistance funds to Community Housing Development Organizations (non-profit organizations), which make up only 15% of the total HOME program, thereby, sharply reducing the technical assistance funds available to local jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and, thereby, supports increased funding for the HOME program formula to at least \$1.8 billion in FY 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports \$10 million in technical funds for the HOME program in FY 2007, with at least \$7 million of these funds directed to the local jurisdictions which directly administer the program.

**ENDORISING INNOVATIVE POLICIES TO SUCCESSFULLY END CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS ACROSS THE NATION**

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to ending chronic homelessness in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, chronically homeless individuals, those with the most persistent forms of homelessness, are afflicted not only by poverty but also by severe conditions such as mental illness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 215 mayors in the same national strategy to respond to chronic homelessness ; and

WHEREAS, in order for persons experiencing chronic homelessness to succeed in their housing, supportive services are necessary to mitigate health, substance abuse, and mental health problems; and

WHEREAS, research compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness suggests that supportive housing models to end chronic homelessness are highly effective and that the cost of providing supportive housing is substantially offset by savings in the most expensive systems of community care including hospitalizations, jails, and other correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, these supportive strategies improve the quality of life for both the individuals being housed and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, ending chronic homelessness requires collaboration and coordination at all levels of government, together with community institutions, businesses, and faith-based organizations, to determine how best to implement prevention and intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, over 215 cities have created jurisdictionally-based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, members of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness should further unify around the vision of ending chronic homelessness by aligning each agency's program and funding priorities to support this vision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the increased investment in proven strategies that end chronic homelessness, such as permanent housing with supportive services; and the preservation/restoration of existing federal programs that support homeless services and ten year plans, such as CDBG and CSBG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends and urges Congress to fund the proposed 7.5 % increase in spending on targeted homeless assistance across various federal departments in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 budget, including the continued commitment of \$200 million for the Samaritan Initiative at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), part of an overall 13% increase in HUD's homeless funding request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the value of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and asks the Interagency Council to develop concrete tools and to seek new funding to help implement ten year plans in partnership with mayors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to endorse and urges Congress to act on legislation that creates new funding sources for supportive services for the homeless, such as the Services for Ending Long-term Homelessness Act as proposed in the Health and Human Services Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to re-authorize the McKinney-Vento Act with provisions for regulatory relief that would allow existing federal funds appropriated through the McKinney-Vento Act to be fully expended and more efficiently utilized each budget year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors, having endorsed over 215 plans to end homelessness across the country in support of the Bush Administration's initiative to end chronic homelessness in ten years, requests that Congress, also through the re-authorization of the McKinney-Vento Act, fund an innovative grants program that would provide demonstration grants to communities across the nation implementing ten-year plans to end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to establish a caucus on homelessness to help focus attention on the Federal level on this urgent issue.

IMPROVING HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS AND CONTINUUM OF CARE

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has been providing funding for homeless programs since 1987 to communities across the nation that are working to combat homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, the National Partnership constellated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 215 mayors in the same national strategy to respond to chronic homelessness with both public and private sector involvement ; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to homelessness and have affirmed the work of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in partnership with mayors; and

WHEREAS, the current Continuum of Care competitive programs process could provide even more flexibility to communities to help combat homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Continuums are now subject to six different statutory program match requirements; and

WHEREAS, homelessness prevention is vital but is not an eligible statutory activity in HUD's competitive homeless programs; and

WHEREAS, HUD annually reviews and ranks approximately 500 Continuum of Care plans and 6,000 individual project applications process which requires over six months to complete; and

WHEREAS, both the House and Senate of the US Congress are considering in a bipartisan manner, federal legislation that would consolidate the competitive Continuum of Care homelessness programs to become a single program and thereby streamline the process of awarding federal homelessness grants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the implementation of this resolution that would afford the Department the ability to streamline the awarding process and ensure that communities receive their awarded federal funds months earlier; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes any net funding reductions for these consolidated

homelessness programs and that none should result from this comprehensive consolidation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the match process currently in place should be simplified and made consistent across activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prevention should become an eligible activity providing continuums resources to address the root causes of homelessness and to ultimately reduce the number of homeless persons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this consolidation would ensure broader participation at the local level and better assist cities, as they continue to help solve issues affecting homelessness throughout the nation.

LOCAL APPROVAL OF HOUSING TAX CREDITS IN KATRINA DISASTER AREAS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress adopted H.R. 4440, the Gulf Opportunities Zone Act (GO-Zone) of 2005 in order to provide incentives for development in the states ravaged by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, prior to the GO-Zone Act of 2005, some of those incentives targeted the development of low to moderate income residences in city centers identified as Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs); and

WHEREAS, the GO-Zone Act of 2005 expands the targeted areas to include any properties in the counties identified as Katrina disaster areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the relaxed location restrictions, developers are choosing sites that are highly marketable and developable and are not in need of economic incentives; and

WHEREAS, the development of low to moderate income residences outside the QCTs would further erode the vitality of city centers and draw investment away from the QCTs where such residential development is in great demand; and

WHEREAS, local governments may comment on the location of sites awarded tax credits but have no initial involvement in the process and no authority to reject any site; and

WHEREAS, local government is in the strongest position to determine where the need for low to moderate income housing is greatest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Congress to amend the GO-Zone legislation to ensure that local governments have final approval authority prior to the awarding of tax credits for development under the GO-Zone Act of 2005.

FULL FUNDING OF SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to ensuring affordable housing opportunities for low-income families and individuals, including the elderly and disabled, in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), administered by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides proven affordable housing choices for our nation's low-income families and individuals; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are confronted with decreasing affordable housing options to provide for our nation's most at-risk populations, including the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, past allocations by HUD have been inadequate to fully fund every voucher allocated to our cities; and

WHEREAS, HUD guidance issued in October 2005 limits the ability of jurisdictions to fully utilize the opportunities of project basing 20% of their HCV program to maximize affordable housing development in mixed-finance projects in our poorest neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, any reform of the Section 8 Program should be considered in the context of full and adequate funding for vouchers currently allocated to our cities and other jurisdictions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges HUD to request full and adequate funding for the Section 8 HCV Program and to provide for enhanced program flexibility to help local Housing Authorities accomplish the maximum benefit and serve the largest number of individuals possible with the funds made available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work with Congress to evaluate the impact of any reform proposals to ensure that low-income populations, the elderly and disabled served by Section 8 continue to receive decent, safe and affordable housing.

**SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN HOMEOWNER
PROTECTIONS FROM ABUSIVE AND PREDATORY LENDING**

WHEREAS, predatory lending remains a key issue of concern in cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments have passed anti-predatory lending laws to protect consumers from abusive and predatory lending practices; and

WHEREAS, many local governments, oftentimes in partnership with the mortgage industry and housing advocacy organizations, have also launched successful homeownership preservation programs in an effort to preserve homeownership whenever possible and keep families in their homes through counseling, loss mitigation and loan workouts; and

WHEREAS, Congress is now considering legislation that would protect consumers from predatory mortgage lending, including one bill that would preempt state and local anti-predatory lending laws and replace them with a federal standard that, in numerous ways, is weaker than the protections provided by many of the existing laws at the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors, at its 73rd Annual Meeting unanimously adopted a resolution entitled "Support For Federal Legislation To Strengthen Homeowner Protections From Abusive And Predatory Lending";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors, reaffirms the resolution it adopted unanimously at its 73rd Annual Meeting to support federal legislation to strengthen homeowner protections from abusive and predatory lending that will provide federal homeowner protections that are at least as strong as the strongest law at the state and local level and oppose the enactment of any federal legislation that would replace state and local anti-predatory lending laws with a federal standard that is weaker than existing anti-predatory lending laws at the state and local levels.

**IMPROVING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES:
ENDORISING MORE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SENIOR HOUSING**

WHEREAS, there is a growing senior population, which is expected to double to 70 million by 2030; and

WHEREAS, established in 1959, the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program remains the only direct financing resource for construction of housing for the elderly, providing capital and operating funds to nonprofit organizations that develop and operate senior housing.

WHEREAS, more than one third of senior households have incomes at or below \$17,500, and of the lowest income elderly households, 38% pay more than 50% of their annual income for rent; and

WHEREAS, the FY2007 proposed funds for Section 202 housing will cover only 2700 new units across the country, a cut of 2000 units from amounts made available in FY2005 and again in FY2006; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that an additional 730,000 rent-assisted units will be needed by 2020 to house seniors age 65 and older with housing problems.

WHEREAS, additional Section 202 housing resources are needed to meet the pressing needs of seniors, both today and in the future; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S Conference of Mayors asks the federal government to fully fund these critical senior housing programs, particularly at a time when the senior population only continues to grow.

**IMPROVING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES:
MAXIMIZING FEDERAL HOUSING FUNDING**

WHEREAS, Mayors across the country are committed to improving housing opportunities for residents at all income levels and to ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, local governments are working to maximize scarce federal housing resources, which are vital to maintaining and increasing the supply of affordable housing, and which have been reduced in recent years; and

WHEREAS, many affordable housing developments require a combination of different federal housing funds; and

WHEREAS, many federal funds that are frequently used together have different standards and rules which sometimes conflict; and

WHEREAS, when some federal housing funds are combined, federal rules reduce the value of the funds, which then further increases the project's complexity and the need for additional public financing; and

WHEREAS, many cities have adopted a Plan to End Homelessness and need consistent, sufficient and diverse federal funding streams to maximize resources to accomplish this ambitious goal; and

WHEREAS, cities are seeking to protect and expand the supply of affordable housing in order to provide decent, safe and affordable housing to their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development should work with cities to ensure that federal funding is maximized, not reduced, when different housing funding streams are combined in affordable and mixed-income housing developments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that income standards and restrictions for federal housing funds should be reviewed for consistency and standardized accordingly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal funds to support homelessness should be maximized in order to address the homeless population's range of complicated needs.

**PROMOTING STABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP:
ENDORISING MORE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HOUSING COUNSELING**

WHEREAS, strengthening homeownership contributes to stability in neighborhoods by giving residents a stake in their community and by helping residents build wealth; and

WHEREAS, the homeownership rate in the country has risen from 65 percent in 1996 to 69 percent in 2004; and

WHEREAS, pre- and post-purchase housing counseling helps new homebuyers avoid foreclosure by ensuring they are financially ready to purchase, understand the costs and benefits of different types of loans, and are aware of the many responsibilities they have as homeowners; and

WHEREAS, many low and moderate income homeowners are very vulnerable to even small economic changes, and may be at risk of losing their homes if interest rates continue to increase or if they experience job or personal loss; and

WHEREAS, rates for foreclosures started and loan payments past due 60-90 days have increased over the past year; and

WHEREAS, when foreclosure occurs, a family loses its most valuable asset, which can put their financial futures at risk; and neighborhoods are left with vacant buildings, which can contribute to crime and blight; and

WHEREAS, more funding is needed to counsel the expanding pool of homebuyers and homeowners about buying and owning a home in order to prevent foreclosure;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Housing and Urban Development should commit more resources to pre-purchase and post-purchase counseling.

MODERNIZATION AND REFORM OF FHA TO PROMOTE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration, since its inception in 1934, has played a pivotal and historical role in providing affordable rental opportunities and assisting tens of millions of Americans to become homeowners, especially those who are underserved by the private mortgage market; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration has enhanced the availability of mortgage capital by providing government insured financing for single-family and multi-family housing; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration has predominately assisted low- and moderate income families, minorities and first-time homebuyers to access affordable mortgage financing; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration's lack of flexibility to create new mortgage products, such as flexible down payment single family loans, has resulted in fewer people using FHA-insured mortgages, and instead turning to mortgage products that may be less preferable, more costly, or poorly structured;

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration, through regulatory burdens and overly bureaucratic processes, has been unable to achieve management efficiencies through the acquisition of new technologies, creation of innovative products, and attraction of highly qualified and skilled staff;

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration has been restrained from providing affordable single-family and multifamily financing in many areas experiencing high housing costs due to arbitrarily low loan limits; and

WHEREAS, proposed smaller new construction and rehabilitation multi-family developments are put at a significant financing disadvantage because of burdensome regulations, processes and procedures, even though such developments are critical to neighborhood revitalization; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed increasing Federal Housing Administration Insurance multi-family insurance fees and their return to the federal Treasury, as opposed to continuing their use to support HUD and/ or FHA housing programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass legislation modernizing the Federal Housing Administration, its operations, processes, and technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress provide the Federal Housing Administration more flexibility and freedom in the development of innovative mortgage insurance products, including flexible down payment single family loans, to facilitate affordable housing for the nation's low and moderate income working families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress provide the Federal Housing Administration the flexibility to address affordable housing needs in metro markets that face a particularly serious affordable housing challenges, including increasing the mortgage limits in high cost markets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress require the Federal Housing Administration to establish processes and procedures that streamline the approval and asset administration process for smaller, multi-family new construction and rehabilitation developments that are often the cornerstone of neighborhood revitalization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress encourage the Federal Housing Administration to educate consumers, especially those who are subject to the sub-prime lending market, about the mortgage products available through the Federal Housing Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration or Congress should not increase FHA's multi-family insurance fees, unless such fee increase remains within HUD and continue to support funding of federal housing programs serving low and moderate income families.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MODERNIZING FHA:
EXPANDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, one of the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) primary missions is to reach borrowers underserved or not served by the existing conventional marketplace; and

WHEREAS, FHA has a long history of innovation and has pioneered the 30-year self-amortizing mortgage and a safe-to-seniors reverse mortgage product, both of which were once thought too risky to private lenders; and

WHEREAS, the FHA single family mortgage insurance program has traditionally been a major provider of mortgage insurance for home purchases; and

WHEREAS, during past recessions, and times of other economic downturns, FHA remained a viable credit enhancer and was therefore instrumental in preventing a more catastrophic collapse in housing markets and a greater loss of homeowner equity; and

WHEREAS, as housing price appreciation slows and interest rates rise, more homeowners and prospective homebuyers will need the less-expensive, safer financing alternative that FHA mortgage insurance provides; and

WHEREAS, both the House and Senate of the US Congress are considering in a bipartisan manner, federal legislation that would modernize FHA and provide again, a viable loan insurance alternative to high cost financing; a choice that is more affordable for hardworking families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors supports the legislative initiative proposed earlier this year by the Administration and urges Congress to act promptly to provide flexibility to FHA to allow for the insurance of housing loans for low- and moderate-income homebuyers during all economic cycles in the mortgage market; to modernize the FHA single family mortgage insurance program by making it more reflective of enhancements to loan-level risk assessments and changes to the mortgage market; and to adjust the loan limits for the single family mortgage insurance program to reflect rising house prices and the increased costs associated with new construction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of USCM is directed to communicate support to the appropriate congressional committees of the Congress as soon as possible.

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESERVATION BY
EXTENSION OF HUD'S MARK-TO-MARKET PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the legislative authority for HUD's Mark-to-Market Program is scheduled to sunset on September 30, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, in eight years, Mark-to-Market has proven highly effective at preserving affordable housing in the nation's cities and towns, totaling over 200,000 housing units in 2,800 properties to date, by ensuring physical and financial soundness of the preserved projects; and,

WHEREAS, in the current environment of limited new affordable housing production, preservation of the increasingly-scarce affordable housing stock is critical as a resource for our teachers, firefighters, senior citizens, and working families, and critical to the health and stability of the lives of the tenants served, the neighborhoods, and the communities; and,

WHEREAS, there remain approximately 90,000 units in 900 projects in cities across the country that, if Mark-to-Market is extended, will become eligible for Mark-to-Market, and can benefit from preservation and restructuring; and,

WHEREAS, the preservation tools of the Mark-to-Market program could, if extended, continue to ensure safe and sound long-term affordable housing in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports this "Affordable Housing Preservation Resolution" and urges Congress to enact legislation immediately to extend the authorities of the Mark-to-Market program, currently scheduled to sunset September 30, 2006; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff of USCM is directed to communicate this support to the appropriate congressional committees of the Congress as soon as possible.

DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL LOGISTICS CENTERS

WHEREAS, national and metropolitan Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and natural disaster response systems can more effectively be built by the development of sophisticated regional logistical capabilities at the local level that can become immediately operable upon the occurrence of a catastrophic event; and

WHEREAS, the lessons of Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and others starkly demonstrate the need for state of the art logistical systems and resources to be located within metro areas so that immediate response can be realized, prior to the arrival of federal and/or state resources; and

WHEREAS, significant logistical capabilities and supplies within metropolitan regions are essential to support first responders, especially in the first 72 - 120 hours of catastrophic events; and

WHEREAS, catastrophic events that directly effect large populations will require that cities and metro areas manage the critical movement of, and have available, sufficient supplies, equipment, and resources to meet the needs of such populations immediately; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors Task Force on Homeland Security, through its Homeland Security Action Plan, has acknowledged the existence of a "logistics gap" in our response systems, and called for the federal government to support development of Regional Logistics Centers within cities and metro areas to provide state of the art logistics capability, systems, supplies and equipment, at the local level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to establish an initiative within the Department of Homeland Security that directly supports and funds cities to develop Regional Logistics Centers that provide state of the art logistics capability, supplies and equipment necessary to immediately respond to catastrophic WMD and natural event disasters, and that addresses the "logistics gap" that was apparent during the nation's recent natural disasters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors Task Force on Homeland Security work with DHS to develop successful models for the development of Regional Logistics Centers that will meet the varying needs of the nation's cities and metro areas.

CITY-TO-CITY MUTUAL AID

WHEREAS, mayors and local police, fire and emergency medical services personnel are America's true first responders to any disaster, whether natural or man-made; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the important role of FEMA, the states, and the National Guard in responding to disasters. But as the Conference of Mayors learned from its mission to the Gulf Coast area following Hurricane Katrina, the fact is that aid did not come in time for too many communities; and

WHEREAS, in the early days of response to Hurricane Katrina, mayors were told by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that all offers of assistance to the impacted area had to be made through their states, and that these offers would then be coordinated through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) system; and

WHEREAS, while for some cities this seemed to have worked, many others found this system very slow to respond, and were forced to self-deploy first responder and other resources to the area in order to help their colleagues and their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, virtually every city has entered into mutual aid or inter-local agreements for first responder activities, debris removal, etc. However, as was seen with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, such agreements were rendered all but useless as almost all cities in the respective target region required full deployment of their personnel and assets; and

WHEREAS, what should be supported is the ability of cities to enter into such mutual aid agreements with other cities and metro areas with geographic dispersion to enable cities to provide real time assistance and aid to the impacted region without delay, and

WHEREAS, some cities have already created new city-to-city mutual aid agreements that cross state lines,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress and the Administration to authorize a mechanism that would allow city-to-city mutual aid agreements to trigger reimbursement procedures and liability protection under the Stafford Act during an emergency.

OPPOSING MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES

WHEREAS, fair and effective criminal justice policies are in the interest of the citizens of every U.S. city and town; and

WHEREAS, 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1986 which established federal mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses; and

WHEREAS, twenty years of mandatory minimum sentencing has resulted in a tremendous increase in the U.S. prison population, particularly of drug offenders; and

WHEREAS, people incarcerated for drug offenses return to their communities facing barriers to employment, housing, public assistance, and education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing services to returning prisoners is borne primarily by local governments; and

WHEREAS, almost two-thirds of prisoners have dependent children, and their prolonged absence destabilizes families and threatens the economic and social vitality of communities; and

WHEREAS, mandatory minimum sentencing reflects a "one-size fits all" approach to administering justice that does not allow courts to impose sentences appropriate to the crime that take into account the offender's role in the crime, and the characteristics of the offender, and

WHEREAS, mandatory minimum sentencing has been ineffective at achieving its purported goals: reducing the level of substance abuse and crime and increasing penalties for the most serious offenders; and

WHEREAS, mandatory minimum sentencing has exacerbated racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and, particularly when used to punish drug offenses, has resulted in the disproportionate incarceration of African American offenders,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United State Conference of Mayors states its opposition to mandatory minimum sentencing on both the federal and state levels, and urges the creation of fair and effective sentencing policies that permit judges to determine appropriate sentences based on the specific circumstances of the crime and the perpetrator's individual situation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that states should review the effects of both federal and state mandatory minimum sentencing and then move forward.

IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL GUNS

WHEREAS, sixty percent of the guns used in crimes are traced back to just one percent of gun dealers; and

WHEREAS, eighty-five percent of gun dealers have never had a gun used in a crime traced back to them; and

WHEREAS, local governments and law enforcement have the responsibility to curb illegal guns both through criminal and civil actions; and

WHEREAS, the ability of local governments and law enforcement to use trace data held by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is crucial to shutting off the supply of guns to criminals; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted restrictions that prevent local governments and law enforcement from using the trace data to its greatest effect, that prevent courts from compelling its disclosure and that prevent courts from hearing the data as evidence; and

WHEREAS, there are bills before Congress that would further weaken the ability of Federal, State and local governments and law enforcement to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, and

WHEREAS, the ATF used to release statistical data on crime gun trace reports, which were extremely valuable to local law enforcement, and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2006 a bipartisan group of fifteen Mayors met in New York City at the Mayor's Summit on Illegal Guns, co-chaired by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, to begin a nationwide effort to fight illegal guns, and

WHEREAS, 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns, and

WHEREAS, as Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reject legislative proposals that limit our cities' ability to solve and prevent crime in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments and law enforcement be given access to ATF gun trace data as such information is critical to successful investigation and reduction of violent crime in our cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should remove restrictions it has placed on the availability and use of trace data that prevents that data being made available for use in civil actions against persons who violate laws governing the sale or transfer of guns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ATF should resume its publication of the Annual Crime Trace Reports that were last published in 2000 and which are extremely valuable to local governments and law enforcement in their efforts to combat illegal guns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as Mayors we will adopt and work together to find innovative new ways to advance the following principles:

- Punish - to the maximum extent of the law - criminals who possess, use and traffic in illegal guns;
- Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers;
- Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities' right to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking;
- Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns;
- Support all local, state and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices;
- Expand the number of Mayors engaged in this effort to combat illegal guns.

**IN SUPPORT OF BORDER SECURITY AND
COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the world seeking a better life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, immigrants have made enormous contributions to our nation's economic, cultural, and political life, and these contributions have been recognized and honored throughout our history and across the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, undocumented workers fill key roles in our city's and state's economy by paying taxes, including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back, raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, legislation in Congress seeks to criminalize the presence of these very same undocumented workers; and

WHEREAS, our national immigration system should uphold our basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the current national immigration system, which separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security programs, contributes to labor abuses and results in deaths on the United States border, must be reformed to provide undocumented immigrants a path for citizenship, reunification of families, strengthening of security at our nation's borders, and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy; and

WHEREAS, a viable guest worker program is warranted to address the labor and employment needs of our nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, by restoring order to our immigration system, such reform will make our nation more secure as well as meet our labor needs and uphold our basic values as a nation; and

WHEREAS, the need for common-sense and humane immigration reform is recognized by President Bush and members of both major political parties, and is supported by the leaders of business, organized labor, and faith communities; and

WHEREAS, members of the United States Senate have forged a tentative agreement that would go a long way toward comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the nation's

needs for security and employment, while also providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to approve and sign comprehensive immigration reform legislation that strengthens our nation's border security, includes a fair and efficient guest worker program, and provides a path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented people who live and work in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes efforts to criminalize undocumented workers for their presence in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors restates our opposition to efforts in the United States Congress to impose an unfunded federal mandate on local governments by requiring local governments, without reimbursement or training, to enforce immigration violations that are by their nature a Federal responsibility or by reducing local government's Federal grants in an attempt to coerce them into enforcing Federal immigration laws.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, our federal immigration system has broken and become mismatched to the economic and social realities of cities; and

WHEREAS, the existing system has created waiting lists for most categories of family reunification to grow longer than five years; and

WHEREAS, the United States federal government and many employers, through practices and policies that are entirely inconsistent with federal laws, have led millions of immigrant workers to believe they are allowed to work in the U.S. without appropriate documentation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economy requires hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, far exceeding the outdated quotas currently placed on visas for foreign workers; and

WHEREAS, authorized and unauthorized foreign workers have become essential to the functioning of local economies; and

WHEREAS, inadequate border and internal enforcement mechanisms have allowed an increasing number of unauthorized workers to reside in the U.S., and

WHEREAS, the current system has caused societal strain in cities because of the system's tendency to push unauthorized workers into second-class status; and

WHEREAS, federal attempts to deputize local police to enforce federal immigration law have chilled budding relationships between local police and immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the federal effort at deputizing local police with limited immigration authority has the tendency to distract local police departments from their principal charge of preventing crime, ensuring public safety, and serving local communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges comprehensive immigration reform that would improve security, bolster economic prosperity, and provide the approximately 12 million people already in the U.S. without legal authorization an opportunity to earn their permanent residence and citizenship, provided (1) they have not committed serious crimes, (2) they have learned, or are in the process of learning English, and (3) they pay taxes and social security on their earnings.

FEDERAL CONSENT DECREE FAIRNESS ACT

WHEREAS, consent decrees are important tools of federalism that help ensure that no state or local government is above the law; and

WHEREAS, consent decrees can help save enormous court costs and prevent damaging legal battles; and

WHEREAS, in a growing number of cases involving state and local governments across the nation, consent decrees have become a means by which federal judges make policy decisions that are best left in the hands of state and local officials; and

WHEREAS, consent decrees can remain in place for decades and lock-in policies that were agreed to by state and local officials who are no longer in office; and

WHEREAS, existing procedures discourage current state and local officials from trying to modify or terminate a consent decree, even where such a decree no longer represents the best approach for local communities; and

WHEREAS, in one recent example, reforms to Tennessee's Medicaid program - proposed by the governor and approved by the legislature in 2004 - were blocked in federal court because they ran afoul of consent decrees dating back to 1979, and only some of the reforms were permitted to go forward, resulting in increased costs for taxpayers and the loss of coverage for many Medicaid enrollees; and

WHEREAS, in another example, consent decrees have forced the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority to spend 47 percent of its budget on buses, leaving just over half the budget to pay for the county's remaining transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, in a further example, special education in New York City has been governed by a consent decree since 1979, thwarting efforts by successive mayors and schools chancellors to implement new reforms and updated policies for implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, in *Frew v. Hawkins*, 540 U.S. 431 (2004), the U.S. Supreme Court - while upholding the consent decree in question - expressed its concern that consent decrees may "improperly deprive future officials of their designated legislative and

executive powers," which may lead to "federal court oversight of state programs for long periods of time even absent an ongoing violation of federal law."; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, now pending in Congress, is bipartisan legislation that addresses weaknesses in the current system while preserving consent decrees as a valuable mechanism for settling legal disputes; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act provides a three-pronged approach to address these weaknesses by: (1) allowing a state or local government to file a motion in federal court to modify or vacate a consent decree after four years or after the end of the term of the state or local official who provided consent, whichever comes sooner; and (2) after a motion to modify or vacate a consent decree has been filed, shifting the burden of proof to the plaintiffs to demonstrate why management of a program should continue to rest with the court rather than be returned to hands of elected officials; and (3) setting out a series of findings to provide guidance to federal courts for future consent decrees, based on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Frew*; and

WHEREAS, this legislation goes to the very heart of democracy, in that citizens are entitled to elect mayors and other leaders to make policy decisions and do the business of governing, and federal judges are neither public policy experts nor accountable to the electorate for the choices they make,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the goals of the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, and urges Congress to pass legislation that would ensure that federal consent decrees are narrowly drafted, limited in duration, and respectful of state and local interests and policy judgments.

BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WORKFORCE SYSTEM

WHEREAS, in order for the United States to be competitive in the 21st century global economy, a significant investment must be made in the public education and job training systems of this country; and

WHEREAS, preparing a highly skilled workforce is essential to the economic strength of cities and necessary in order to remain competitive in the global market; and

WHEREAS, education and training are essential to having a trained and skilled workforce, but the linkage between the two systems does not always occur at the local level; and

WHEREAS, local government together with the business community and the workforce and education systems must identify strategies needed to address the skills requirements demanded by the local labor market; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive skills training and education strategies must be part of a local job training system that aligns with the labor market demands of local economies where business - the end user of the system - is located; and

WHEREAS, the current local job training delivery system serves the needs of training for individuals and businesses through the local workforce investment boards (WIBs) and local One Stop Centers; and

WHEREAS, the community college system is part of the comprehensive locally driven, private sector-led workforce investment system overseen by local Workforce Investment Boards appointed by local elected officials with authority for the design, implementation and oversight of workforce strategies and programs, and as a key partner, community colleges have shared responsibility for supporting One Stop infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has been promoting a policy to directly fund the community college system for job training outside of the local public workforce system, which has been opposed by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the current federal restrictions on training do not allow for a variety of training tools and strategies necessary for individuals to gain skills to advance beyond entry level positions; and

WHEREAS, local business and industry need the services provided by the job training system to fill labor gaps and vacancies because more than half of all American workers are employed at small businesses, which can rarely afford to provide training opportunities, and, therefore, rely on the local job training system to do so; and

WHEREAS, according to the General Accountability Office (GAO) 75 percent of large businesses utilize services through their local One Stop Centers, have a 77 percent satisfaction rate for the services they received, and would recommend to other businesses using the local job training system, and over 50 percent of small businesses use One Stop Centers to obtain and train their workforce; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has several business and industry initiatives, yet it does not have data that reflects the extent to which employers use the local job training system; and

WHEREAS, the required data collected by the job training system at the local level does not accurately reflect all of the services that are provided through the One Stop Centers, thus creating the perception that fewer customers - individuals and business - are served; and

WHEREAS, across the country there is a disparity between the investment of mandatory partners in the job training system, which can lead to inconsistency in local job training effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has proposed for a third year to consolidate and cut formula funding for all job training programs - Adult, Dislocated Worker, Youth, and Wagner-Peyser (Employment Service) - into a block grant to states,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to fully fund all job training and related education programs at a minimum of FY 2002 levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enhance the effectiveness and integration of the education and job training systems at the local level through the reauthorizations of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Perkins Vocational Technical Education Act, the Higher Education Act, No Child Left Behind Act and other related legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that strong local authority and flexibility for local elected officials and their Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) remain at the core of any job training legislation, especially in the reauthorization of WIA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if WIA reauthorization legislation contains consolidation or any changes to local authority and resources, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any legislation including a block grant must, at a minimum, devolve control to the local workforce investment area rather than to the state and retain at least current funding levels for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the reauthorization of workforce legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to implement the same funding structure system as that utilized for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which provides funding directly to cities, counties and to the state for areas under 50,000 in population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide local areas the capacity and flexibility to design workforce systems that meet the needs of the target population and employers, including sectoral initiatives and customized training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the full integration of services and partners at the local level through the local One Stop Centers, where the services are offered to businesses and individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress, when funding community colleges for job training, to ensure that the funding go through the local WIB that supports the local One Stop infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to understand the unique needs of displaced workers, economically disadvantaged adults and youth, in- and out-of-school, at risk youth, and aging workers and provide the resources and ability to target services and strategies to meet their needs in attaining education and job skills training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for allowing the lengthening of federally funded training and

education programs to ensure that individuals receive adequate skills not only to become self sufficient, but also to provide the ability to move into a career and up a career ladder toward self sufficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the establishment of a comprehensive real time data collection system from the local, state and federal levels to ensure an accurate picture is portrayed of training and services provided to individuals and business.

**EXPANDING THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING CAPACITY AND
FLEXIBILITY IN A LOCAL WORKFORCE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the nation's locally-driven job training system is in place to meet the ever increasing needs of worker preparation, basic and occupational skills training, employment, job retention, upgrade training and the workforce needs of business; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain competitive in the global market, the U.S. must invest in educating and training a 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, the *Workforce Investment Act* (WIA) is one tool to provide flexibility at the local level to address the needs of business both regional and local; and

WHEREAS, employers have a need to train/upgrade the skills of over 50 percent of workers or risk falling behind in the global labor market, and are faced with the challenges of future tight labor markets and increasing demands for higher skill levels; and

WHEREAS, within the next 25 years there will be 19 million more jobs than available skilled workers, requiring education beyond a high-school diploma, with employers estimating that 39 percent of their current workforce and 26 percent of their new hires will have basic skills deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, low-wage, low-skilled workers, youth out-of-school, at-risk in-school youth, returning offenders, people moving from welfare to work, the long-term unemployed and other hard-to-employ individuals are the populations not equipped for jobs in a 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, the labor force in the U.S. lacks fundamental and core skills needed for successful employment, including literacy; and

WHEREAS, many low-wage workers lose their jobs in their first year - at considerable cost to their employers - and many who retain their jobs do not move up over time; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, the largest growing occupations within the next ten years will be in the private service industry - including information, financial, professional and business, educational, health and social and leisure services - all of which will require postsecondary education or training; and

WHEREAS, both skills training and postsecondary education need to be part of a larger strategy and are critical for job advancement for low-wage workers; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive skills training provides opportunity for productive employment with sufficient wages and benefits leading to family self-sufficiency for the working poor, the long-term unemployed and people moving off of welfare; and

WHEREAS, the largest growing segment of the youth labor force is largely minority and immigrant and mostly concentrated in areas of cities that have the lowest socioeconomic data, are at-risk of dropping out, and are least prepared to enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the national graduation rate is 68 percent, nearly one-third of public high school students fail to graduate, and in many of the nation's low-income neighborhoods dropout rates are 50 percent or higher; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is focused on moving the job training system to vouchers for individuals, but in a demand driven system, there must be multiple training tools including customized, on-the-job training, and other business driven strategies; and

WHEREAS, funding for job training programs has been cut by Congress by over \$1 billion since FY 2002,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to make an ongoing major funding investment in education and workforce skills training programs based on funding levels of Fiscal Year 2002; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that comprehensive skills training strategies be included as part of a local workforce system that aligns with the labor market demands of local economies where business is located; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends the creation of comprehensive and career advancement strategies for low-wage, low-skilled workers, youth out-of-school, at-risk in-school youth, returning offenders, people moving from welfare to work, the long-term unemployed and other hard-to-employ individuals through partnerships with employers and industries and that they be targeted to industries and occupations that provide the working poor with opportunities to

move up the career ladder across industries to self sufficiency;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for publicly-funded, transitional job opportunities for welfare recipients, returning offenders with no job experience and other long-term unemployed and hard-to-employ individuals that provide entry level work experience, exposure, support and a first step in a career ladder; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the development of and access to alternative education opportunities and learning settings for out-of-school youth and adults without high school diplomas and provide better transition to college for these students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for an increase of funding, including student-aid, for access to postsecondary education opportunities for both in and out of school youth, low-wage, low-skilled workers returning offenders, people moving from welfare to work, the long-term unemployed and other hard-to-employ individuals, at career schools, vocational and technical schools, 2-year community colleges and 4-year institutions and that there be greater access and support for part-time postsecondary education opportunities for working adults and educational opportunities during working hours and complimentary to working schedules,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to ensure that in all appropriate legislation, training in two year postsecondary institutions and programs responds to the needs of business and industry.

BUILDING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, nationally, more than 5.4 million youth, ages 16-24, are disconnected from the labor market - are not in school and do not have a job; and

WHEREAS, the employment rate for youth in 2004 was 42.3 percent, a record low in the 57 years the statistics have been collected;

WHEREAS, the largest growing segment of the youth labor force is largely minority and immigrant and mostly concentrated in areas of cities that have the lowest socioeconomic statistics; and

WHEREAS, cities, especially areas with low socioeconomic statistics, are where more youth are at-risk of dropping out, dropping out of school, and are least prepared to enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, according to the Center on Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, youth participation in the labor force will continue to decline, especially among young males; and

WHEREAS, the national graduation rate is 68 percent, and nearly one-third of public high school students fail to graduate, and in many of the nation's low-income neighborhoods dropout rates are much higher - 50 percent or higher; and

WHEREAS, the literacy rate from 2003-2030 is expected to decline by 11 percent, primarily due to the increase of immigrants with less than a high school level of education; and

WHEREAS, there is growing evidence that successful completion of the 9th grade is a key indicator of whether or not a student will drop out of high school, based on research on Chicago Public Schools' students, indicating that those on track at the end of freshman year were 3 1/2 times more likely to graduate in 4 years. Thus, even students who achieved in middle school, but failed in 9th grade, were unlikely to graduate in 4 years; and

WHEREAS, those with the skills of typical high school dropouts will qualify for only 10 percent of all new jobs during this decade; and

WHEREAS, those with more years of schooling have higher earnings than those with less schooling and the size of the earnings advantages grows larger over time. High school dropouts on average earn \$9,200 per year less than high school graduates,

and about \$1 million less than college graduates over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, early work experience helps improve prospects for employability in the later teens and early 20's, helps develop both soft skills and occupational skills, and, for economically disadvantaged and minority youth, increases their likelihood of graduation from high school relative to those who do not work at all; and

WHEREAS, youth funding has consistently declined since FY 1994 from \$1.611 billion to \$990.1 million in FY 06; and

WHEREAS, in the FY 2007 budget the Administration proposes to eliminate youth formula funding in the *Workforce Investment Act* (WIA) in favor of a state block grant, which would result in no more direct services to youth including summer job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is proposing to eliminate two programs within TRIO - Upward Bound and Talent Search - and totally eliminate GEAR UP and Perkins Vocational and Technical Education programs; and

WHEREAS, the federal TRIO programs are designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds, increase educational opportunity, college readiness and success for low-income, high-risk students; and

WHEREAS, the GEAR UP program is designed to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The focus of the GEAR UP program is to get middle and high school kids ready for college; and

WHEREAS, the basic intent of Perkins Vocational Education programs is to help local schools implement programs to develop the academic, vocational and technical skills of students in high schools, community colleges, and regional technical centers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to ensure the education and skills development of the future workforce, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to restore the WIA Youth formula program and authorization funding for the formula program at not less than \$1 billion;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to make a major *new* investment in our nation's youth of at least \$1 billion to address the unmet needs of youth, especially the disconnected population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress and the Administration to fund TRIO, GEAR UP and Perkins Vocational and Technical Education programs at a minimum of FY 2002 levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that comprehensive strategies for summer learning and training be created to increase educational opportunities and work experiences for at-risk youth, including dropouts, and to prevent the traditional drop off of skills during the summer for at-risk youth. A variety of strategies include summer school, cultural and athletic programs, summer jobs and internships, job shadowing, mentoring, and other experiential learning opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to provide funding for summer work experience to allow for opportunities for at-risk and disconnected youth which are proven to keep young people connected to school and provide a greater opportunity for making livable wages in the future. This includes summer jobs, internships and job shadowing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges increased funding to allow access to and availability of after-school and out-of-school time (during the school year and breaks) for at-risk and low-income youth that provide academic, athletic, cultural and social activities to further enhance learning and skills - providing exposure to youth to experiences and opportunities which they otherwise would not receive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to establish national policy and programs for opportunities during the school-year for skills development and career exposure for at-risk and disconnected youth through educational work experiences and opportunities in building awareness and relating job skills to classroom learning standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the establishment of alternative schools and learning settings for youth who have not been engaged in traditional education settings, as well as create or enhance magnet, special

theme, vocational education schools and experiences, and alternative schools that meet the needs of these at-risk and disconnected youth, which includes in- and out-of-school youth, foster care and juvenile offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to build upon best practices and lessons learned from programs such as the Youth Opportunity Grant Program, which has been successful in reaching out to youth who have disappeared from school and the labor market, re-engaged them and provided multiple avenues for re-connecting youth to learning and work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the initiation and enhancement of existing opportunities to educate, build awareness, and prepare students and their families for postsecondary education experiences. For the transition to postsecondary education this requires an active effort to help parents and students understand the value of postsecondary education, the course work necessary to gain access to, and the affordability of the following: vocational-technical schools, 2-year community colleges and 4-year education institutions.

ADDRESSING LITERACY NEEDS OF THE NATION'S WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, literacy is the foundation on which a skilled and educated workforce is built; and

WHEREAS, a large segment of the population in local communities is not prepared to meet the rapidly changing demands of the 21st century workplace due to lack of core and fundamental education and skill levels; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 21st century, eleven million Americans are unable to read a bus schedule or fill out a job application; and

WHEREAS, according to The Center on Market Labor Studies at Northeastern University, by 2030 literacy rates will have fallen by approximately 11 percent nationally, largely due to the increase of immigrant populations, many of whom have low educational attainment; and

WHEREAS, by 2010 the labor force will fall short of meeting the demands of an estimated 58 million job openings by more than 4.8 million workers; and

WHEREAS, employers are faced with the challenges of future tight labor markets and increasing demands for higher skill levels with 77 million baby boomers preparing to retire; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 30 years, the United States has fallen from 3rd to 15th in producing scientists and engineers while other developed nations are increasingly providing workers with advanced skills training; and

WHEREAS, over the next ten years the largest growth in the workforce will be in the age category of 55 and over, who will need to be retrained to meet the skill requirements of the technologically advancing workplace; and

WHEREAS, within the coming 25 years the majority of the growth in the workforce, 19 percent, will be a result of Hispanic immigration; and

WHEREAS, the largest growing segment of the youth labor force is largely minority and immigrant and mostly concentrated in areas of cities that have the lowest socioeconomic data; and

WHEREAS, low-wage, low-skilled workers, youth out-of-school, at-risk in-school youth, returning offenders, people moving from welfare to work, the long-term unemployed, other hard-to-employ individuals, immigrants and older workers are the same populations not equipped for jobs in a 21st century workforce and tend to reside in cities where socioeconomic statistics are lowest; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 76 percent of Hispanics, 46 percent of Black and 35 percent of White immigrants 16-64 years old had a high school diploma or less; and

WHEREAS, successful literacy training enhances and further develops skills in reading, mathematics, technology and social interaction; and

WHEREAS, cities are where more youth are dropping out of school, are at-risk of dropping out, and are least prepared to enter the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the growing areas in manufacturing, education, professional and business, health and social services will require advanced levels of education and job training skills - a minimum of a two year degree or equivalent certificate; and

WHEREAS, Americans simply cannot compete in the global economy if the United States fails to invest in their education and skills training; and

WHEREAS, federal investments in workforce funding have decreased by over \$1 billion since FY 2002, and the Administration continues to propose cuts to the nation's education and training budgets,

WHEREAS, despite the great need, the Administration's FY 2007 budget proposes to level fund Adult Basic State Grants which provide funding for adult education including Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary education including GED and other high school equivalency programs, and English Literacy, which is \$30 million below the FY 2002 funding level,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the President to enhance the current comprehensive literacy training, which is vital to connecting individuals to educational opportunities and the workplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress and the Administration to increase the investment in education and literacy - including Adult Basic State Grants which provide funding for adult education including Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Secondary education including GED and other high school equivalency programs, and English Literacy - and job training programs to a minimum of FY 2002 funding levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to allow for greater coordination and flexibility at the local level between the education and workforce systems to address the growing need for a skilled and educated workforce for the 21st century global workforce through legislative language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress, the Administration, and business to expand funding, especially student-aid, and flexibility for access to postsecondary education opportunities for both in- and out-of-school youth and adults - including career, technical, 2-year community colleges and 4-year institutions including using the PELL Grant program year- round; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress, the Administration, and business to provide funding, especially student-aid, for greater access and support for part-time postsecondary education opportunities for working adults during working hours and complimentary to working schedules to allow movement up career ladders.

**RECRUITING, TRAINING, SUPPORTING AND RETAINING TEACHERS,
PRINCIPALS AND SUPERINTENDENTS**

WHEREAS, the turnover rate for teachers, principals and superintendents has been too high in most urban centers and prevents the needed continuity of instruction and leadership necessary to improving the quality of public education; and

WHEREAS, the traditional approaches used to prepare and train teachers, principals and superintendents has not kept pace with the need and demand for them nor the skills required for today's classrooms, schools and school systems; and

WHEREAS, school systems have not invested enough time and funding nor often had the resources to provide the appropriate and necessary types of professional development and leadership training to further develop and enhance the skills of their teachers, principals and other administrators; and

WHEREAS, in our urban centers there is too high a turnover rate of teachers in their first few years of teaching because we have not set up a system of support with master teachers to help them make it through the first years of induction into the profession; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline for new leaders in our schools -- principals and superintendents -- is not being replenished with the retirement of the baby boom generation, and the stresses and pressures that accompany these publicly held positions; and

WHEREAS, the current methods of recruiting, selecting, training and supporting new school teachers and leaders has not reflected the demographics of the population of our urban school systems which is critical in working with communities and providing positive role models for the children attending our public schools; and

WHEREAS, postsecondary education institutions that have been given the responsibility by the individual states for training and credentialing teachers, principals and superintendents have not changed and improved the approach used to train these professionals nor have most of the institutions recognized the need to become more rigorous, flexible and innovative to better prepare these professionals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the use of high quality alternative programs

that recruit, train, support and retain teachers, principals and superintendents as well as provide them with the appropriate rigorous experiences and courses to become certified and credentialed to do their job; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to work with their school systems to utilize, participate in, and possibly even develop both the traditional and alternative access programs to train, recruit, support and retain these education professionals such as for teaching - Teach for America, American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and individual university programs; for principals - New Leaders for New Schools and specific city-based leadership academies such as in Chicago, New York and Boston; and for superintendents - the Broad Superintendent Academy and university-based programs, so together the pool of qualified and quality people who instruct and lead their local public school system can be strengthened, and broadened and diversified to reflect the changing demographics of the nation's student population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for mayors to encourage their states to allow these quality alternative programs to be a part of the process for preparation, certification and credentialing so there can be an increased improvement and diversification in the education professional workforce in our public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to actively support the inclusion of these programs in their local school system and for mayors to be supportive of business leaders who offer alternative employment programs for their workforce when they want to become teachers, as IBM has done, and to support others who wish to apply to alternative principal and superintendent preparation programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to participate in the recruitment of these educational professionals, especially teachers and principals, to their public school system by establishing programs and policies that enhance the recruitment of quality education professionals to teach or lead and live in the city such as housing loans and rent subsidies as in St. Petersburg, San Jose and Chicago; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for mayors to work with their public school system to create policies, programs and supportive strategies that encourage the retention of quality experienced teachers in urban schools, especially those in the most difficult schools that may include financial incentives, financial support for advanced degrees and certifications, increasing support staffing and changing of work and transfer rules in contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for mayors to be a part of the development and implementation of rigorous quality programs that enhance the recruitment, diversification, training, support and retention of teachers and principals in the public schools of their city.

PREPARATION FOR AND TRANSITION TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, it was just fifty years ago a high school diploma was the gateway to a decent job and a large enough salary to raise a family; and

WHEREAS, today, the gateway degree for a good job is a college degree or technical certification from a postsecondary institution or program; and

WHEREAS, the graduation rate from high school in many of our urban centers has continued to be abysmal with some urban high schools graduating less than 50 per cent of the entering class four years earlier; and

WHEREAS, recent research findings indicate that current high school reform efforts are not preparing most students for college and the challenges of the modern world because the high schools are not providing a rigorous enough curriculum and experiences for students to attain the skills that today's world economy requires; and

WHEREAS, the data indicate that a majority of people now incarcerated did not finish high school nor hold a high school diploma, and the education provided to those while incarcerated is not equivalent to what is included in a rigorous high school education; and

WHEREAS, the economic stability and growth of a city is greatly determined by its homegrown workforce that is developed, prepared and trained through its system of public schools, local postsecondary institutions and job training system; and

WHEREAS, too often in our cities communication and cooperation are lacking when it comes to the public schools, the juvenile justice system, social services, higher education and technical schools which inhibits improving and transforming the public schools, and limits the educational experience opportunities and options for middle grade and high school age students to experience the world of work and connect these to the necessary core educational skills and courses; and

WHEREAS, mayors need to become involved in education including, if necessary, utilizing their bully pulpit to raise issues and confront the uncomfortable problems that result from low graduation and high drop out rates, poor performance in schools including not meeting state standards, weak preparation for

postsecondary education, low percentages of students attending postsecondary school, and a disinterest on the part of the education establishment to change programs and practices to meet the education and skill needs for the 21st century in our cities and nation; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for greater input from the business, government agencies, higher education and the not-for-profit community in how to restructure, transform and reform the middle and high school grades, and in the establishment of education opportunities to create alignment between skills and experiences needed in the curriculum and for individual state standards; and

WHEREAS, every job matters and the only way to be successful in increasing job development is to ensure the existing and future workforce has acquired mastery in such skill areas as literacy, mathematics, science and technology, as well as the human interpersonal skills required for the workplace from the various educational opportunities and experiences offered,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to become more active in bringing together all aspects of the community in order to ensure that students and youth understand the skill requirements and are prepared for making the transition to postsecondary education which includes taking the appropriate rigorous courses needed to attain the skills required to be successful in postsecondary education and the world of work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors have a role in and, when appropriate lead the effort to change, transform, redesign and improve the public schools, especially the middle and high school grades so that various education experiences, opportunities and options are available, and if this can not be accomplished within the public schools then mayors should look to other strategies to enable these to be available to students and out-of-school youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors, in partnership with school systems, to be advocates for or sponsors of programs, experiences and opportunities beginning in the middle grades through high school, that inform and educate both students and parents about what courses need to be taken and passed for adequate preparation to apply to a postsecondary institution (2-year or 4-year school) and the costs involved in attending including the

availability of student financial assistance such as GEAR UP and Project Grad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for significant reform and redesign of high school education in conjunction with changes in the earlier grades, and that these changes should include reducing the size of schools, increasing personalization of the education experience, and offering a variety of options for in- and out-of school youth in a variety of learning environments and structures such as career academies, theme or magnet schools, traditional high schools, charter schools, alternative learning settings or schools, other pathways to complete high school, smaller learning communities, community schools, early college, joint learning facility/courses with a postsecondary education institution, and other public school choices, all of which can emphasize the preparation for and transition to postsecondary education or the world of work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors and their public school systems to create joint ventures and partnerships with postsecondary education institutions such as universities and community colleges within their city, county and/or state to provide the needed opportunities for youth both in and out of school to experience education beyond high school, have the opportunity to take courses at such an institution, and/or experience the world of work at appropriate times during their high school years so they may be better prepared to apply to postsecondary schools or programs including taking courses during and within their high school building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to work with public school systems whenever possible and other governmental entities such as the courts as appropriate to develop a means for out-of-school above high school aged youth to have access to programs and opportunities to achieve the necessary skills and competencies to enable them to complete high school and go to postsecondary education and/or the world of work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to establish new or partner with existing programs in their city that assist students both in and out of school in facilitating attending a postsecondary education including financial assistance programs, counseling, transition and summer support programs, and summer jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on mayors to take on a critical role in making sure quality educational opportunities and options are available to in- and out-of-school youth so they are prepared to be the nation's future citizenry and workforce.

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, mayors are the chief locally elected official in cities and residents hold them accountable for the quality of education provided by the public schools and the quality of the local school system which is not, in most cities, the mayor's responsibility, as well as the quality of life, economic stability and growth, health and welfare, social services, safety, transportation, environment, housing, and other services which are a direct responsibility of the mayor; and

WHEREAS, mayors represent all residents of the city since they are elected by them, and not by districts or at-large, and mayors understand that the city's destiny is in their hands since they do not work in isolation or separation from the community; and

WHEREAS, mayors have a fundamental interest in the quality of education provided in their cities because it is an essential element in drawing new business, building a strong and competitive workforce, and either retaining or attracting new residents; and

WHEREAS, the economic future and strength of our cities lies in the quality of education and related services provided to children so they are ready to learn and attain the core fundamental skills during their years in schools so they are prepared for postsecondary education and/or the world of work; and

WHEREAS, mayors understand the need for a nexus between education, related social services and other mayoral areas of responsibility which are key components to insure students have the support services, experiences and environments appropriate to encourage and support learning; and

WHEREAS, mayors are best positioned to forge a common vision for educational equity and excellence; establish collaborative groups and task forces focused on specific education issues to address problems; create a public and political will for public schools; expand services to students when needed; turn educational crises into opportunities; develop creative partnerships in the best interests of teaching and learning; facilitate opportunities for students, teachers and schools which otherwise would not happen, and make tough or difficult decisions; and

WHEREAS, mayors can use their bully pulpit to raise issues and confront uncomfortable problems, establish a dialogue, build civic capacity and engagement, bring all critical stakeholders to the table, and create partnerships when no one else can in the city,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on mayors to take on a critical and essential leadership and involvement role in local public education which can range from working as a partner with the local school system to address education needs, problems and issues to one where the mayor has the legal responsibility for the governance of the city's public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly suggests that mayors who decide to become involved in education first assess their capacity for their level of engagement and make sure they include all aspects of the community in their efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a wide range of options for mayoral leadership and involvement in education including:

- taking responsibility for after-school programs, creating or authorizing charter schools,
- participating in teacher recruitment,
- establishing programs to assist in housing for teachers and other education professionals,
- sponsoring policies and practices in city government that encourage tutoring, mentoring and other volunteer work with students,
- visibly supporting school bond and tax levies,
- enhancing and encouraging parental involvement,
- facilitating business partnerships with schools,
- creating options for alternative learning opportunities and settings directed at at-risk in-and out-of school youth,
- developing education opportunities and settings for recently release juvenile offenders and those ending their foster care,
- helping in the construction and modernization of school facilities into joint use and community learning centers,
- providing recreation and athletic facility options for students,
- establishing recognition programs for educators,

- engaging in or mediating contracts when appropriate,
- lobbying for improved funding, and new policies and programs at the state and federal level that enhance improvement and change, facilitating the conversation and working relationship between local government, public schools, and higher education, having the governance responsibility for the city's public school system,
- participating in the selection of school board members and/or the superintendent,
- offering transparency to the school budget process,
- overseeing the school budget process and implementation,
- taking responsibility for backroom services for the schools to make them more efficient and cost effective such as IT, personnel, payroll, school security, and/or other management functions, and
- creating summer and during the school-year jobs, and internship and work experience opportunities linked to academic and career skill building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes and supports the rightful role of mayors in doing what needs to be done to promote the interests of public school students and parents, and the schools, align the efforts of the city and the school system, and improve the lives, and education outcomes and opportunities of the children who attend the public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports mayoral leadership and involvement in education that makes a positive difference in the quality of teaching and learning in the city's schools, whether through direct forms of involvement or informal means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports a myriad of choices in selecting the level of mayoral leadership and involvement in education including utilization of the bully pulpit to build political support for education improvement that provides the impetus school districts need to speed reforms; fostering greater student achievement; providing greater visibility to important issues which forces decisions to be made; creating programs when needed; increasing public participation; working to enhance funding and resources; and setting new priorities when necessary.

**CREATING A P-16 EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a comprehensive education process in this nation that begins with making sure our youngest children are prepared to attend school and ends with a postsecondary education that educates, provides experiences and opportunities, instills an interest in life-long learning and continuous skill development, and educates and trains our youth with the necessary skills to be employable in a global market economy; and

WHEREAS, if this nation and its individual communities, especially cities where the largest number of at-risk children reside, does not begin to address the needs of children ages 0-5 years to ensure that they have the appropriate nourishment, emotional and physical stimulation, and challenging intellectual activity including preparing to learn how to read, count and know other basics to be ready for kindergarten, these children will begin school already far behind in their skills development; and

WHEREAS, our current education and workforce training systems are not coordinated nor has it been a priority to ensure that students: are prepared for school academically, physically and emotionally when they enter kindergarten, continuously evaluated and assessed to make sure they are making timely progress in the attainment of core or fundamental education skills, are made aware of and provided the information to choose the appropriate educational courses, requirements, experiences and opportunities during the middle and high school grades that enable them to graduate high school in a timely fashion and attend a postsecondary education, informed as to what skills and competencies are required for the variety of work they may be interested in pursuing, and instilled with an understanding of the importance and belief in the need for continuous life-long learning; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that mayors, who are the chief locally elected officials, begin to take a leadership role in facilitating the conversation on a local level in order to create the opportunity for establishing a comprehensive seamless education process and system; and

WHEREAS, without at least a P-16 system in our cities and across the nation, the United States will find itself short-changed in a very competitive global market economy given that other nations with which we compete are developing and supporting such a system,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors to initiate a civic discussion within their cities concerning P-16 education in an effort to begin to build an understanding of the need and support for such a systematic approach as has occurred in Austin, Denver, Portland and Columbus, and this includes mayors creating a local P-16 council that helps facilitate that discussion, policy development, priority setting and expanded involvement in education from early childhood through postsecondary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to lead the introduction of and raise this issue within their states requesting governors and state legislatures join mayors in establishing policies and funding of programs to enable the creation of a P-16 education process and system in their state as well as mayors requesting that they be included for membership on statewide P-16 councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors who are establishing P-16 efforts and councils to include yearly reporting of disaggregated data collection in those efforts, not only on high school completion and drop outs, but also on postsecondary completion and drop outs because both are important data in building accountability for a P-16 system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors to work with school systems to establish a better linkage or connection between education and related social services so children are ready for school, schools are ready for the children, alternatives and options are available to all youth to continue their learning in different settings, and there is a comprehensive support system to enable children, students and youth to be successful as long as they continue to attain the necessary skills to progress in a timely fashion toward a goal of a high school diploma and further postsecondary education either in a 2- or 4-year school or technical certification program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors suggests mayors build comprehensive partnerships with higher education, business, not-for-profit organizations, other governmental entities, faith-based groups, and other education stakeholders from across their cities to sustain and continuously improve the P-16 system to provide the necessary array of services, programs, experiences and opportunities needed to ensure that all children are successful, no child is left behind and all youth have access to postsecondary education opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors understands that through the leadership of mayors, schools can become centers of community and joint use facilities for teaching and learning, pre-school, life long learning, workforce skills development and training, social services, sports and recreation, out-of-school time, arts and culture, and pre-school, elementary, secondary and postsecondary education as well as other activities all related to constructing a functioning P-16 and beyond education process and system.

**MAYORS ENCOURAGED TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DAY -
SEPTEMBER 17, 2006**

WHEREAS, when President Lyndon Johnson spoke to Congress in 1965 and told them that "the American city should be a collection of communities where every member has a right to belong;" and

WHEREAS, Robert Putnam, an expert on community life at Harvard University, said "Communities work better when neighbors know one another better"; and

WHEREAS, city leaders can make a difference in building stronger communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Providence resident Lorne Adrain came up with the idea of National Neighborhood Day, one day set aside every year to inspire, build and sustain the neighborhood relationships that provide the foundation for civic action and more effective communities; and

WHEREAS, National Neighborhood Day reinforces the relationships that are the fabric of our communities; and

WHEREAS, whether a simple gathering of neighbors or a neighborhood clean-up effort, these ties help a neighborhood tackle and enjoy the myriad of challenges and opportunities we face; and

WHEREAS, September 17th has been declared National Neighborhood Day for 2006,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all Mayors to celebrate National Neighborhood Day every year on the third Sunday in September, falling on September 17 in 2006, in their cities

by organizing events and other activities and that Mayors should utilize the tools and resources of the National Neighborhood Day organization to assist in their planning.

IN SUPPORT OF BORDER SECURITY AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded by immigrants who traveled from around the world seeking a better life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, immigrants have made enormous contributions to our nation's economic, cultural, and political life, and these contributions have been recognized and honored throughout our history and across the political spectrum; and

WHEREAS, undocumented workers fill key roles in our city's and state's economy by paying taxes, including contributions to Social Security that they cannot receive back, raising families, and contributing to our schools, churches, neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, legislation in Congress seeks to criminalize the presence of these very same undocumented workers; and

WHEREAS, our national immigration system should uphold our basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the current national immigration system, which separates families, reduces the effectiveness of national security programs, contributes to labor abuses and results in deaths on the United States border, must be reformed to provide undocumented immigrants a path for citizenship, reunification of families, strengthening of security at our nation's borders, and a safe and orderly process for enabling willing immigrant workers to fill essential jobs in our economy; and

WHEREAS, a viable guest worker program is warranted to address the labor and employment needs of our nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, by restoring order to our immigration system, such reform will make our nation more secure as well as meet our labor needs and uphold our basic values as a nation; and

WHEREAS, the need for common-sense and humane immigration reform is recognized by President Bush and members of both major political parties, and is supported by the leaders of business, organized labor, and faith communities; and

WHEREAS, members of the United States Senate have forged a tentative agreement that would go a long way toward comprehensive immigration

reform that addresses the nation's needs for security and employment, while also providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to approve and sign comprehensive immigration reform legislation that strengthens our nation's border security, includes a fair and efficient guest worker program, and provides a path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented people who live and work in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes efforts to criminalize undocumented workers for their presence in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors restates our opposition to efforts in the United States Congress to impose an unfunded federal mandate on local governments by requiring local governments, without reimbursement or training, to enforce immigration violations that are by their nature a Federal responsibility or by reducing local government's Federal grants in an attempt to coerce them into enforcing Federal immigration laws.

ADOPTING THE "2030 CHALLENGE" FOR ALL BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Building Sector has been shown to be the major consumer of fossil fuel and producer of global warming causing greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the federal government through programs fostered within many of its key agencies and numerous state governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. have adopted high performance green building principles; and

WHEREAS, a recent study completed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green buildings ever conducted, concluded that the financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot, more than 10 times the additional cost associated with building green; and

WHEREAS, the large positive impact on employee productivity and health gains suggests that green building has a cost-effective impact beyond just the utility bill savings; and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that student attendance and performance is higher in high performance school buildings; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that a building's initial construction costs represent only 20-30 percent of the building's entire costs over its 30 to 40 year life, emphasis should be placed on the "life cycle costs" of a public building rather than on solely its initial capital costs; and

WHEREAS, the construction industry in the U.S. represents a significant portion of our economy and a significant portion of the building industry is represented by small business and an increase in sustainable building practices will encourage and promote new and innovative small business development throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the national professional organization representing architects has adopted a position statement calling for the immediate energy reduction of all new and renovated buildings to one-half the national average for that building type, with increased reductions of 10% every five years so that by the year 2030 all buildings designed will be carbon neutral, meaning they will use no fossil fuel energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to adopt the following "2030 Challenge" for building performance targets:

New construction of City buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Renovation projects of City buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

All other new construction, renovations, repairs, and replacements of City buildings shall employ cost-effective, energy-efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

60% in 2010
70% in 2015
80% in 2020
90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to join this effort by developing plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets as part of their procurement process and by establishing policies to insure compliance and measure results; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to develop plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets for *all* new and renovated buildings within the City; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to join this effort to develop plans to fully implement similar targets as mentioned above.

ENCOURAGES THE USE OF LANDFILL GAS-TO-RECOVERY TECHNOLOGIES

WHEREAS, the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the meeting, calling for meeting or exceeding the Kyoto Protocol on a local level; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions target for the United States would have been to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent (7%) below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions from local governments is methane produced and emitted from landfills where organic waste naturally biodegrades into methane; and

WHEREAS, capturing and destroying the methane produced by landfills can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, landfill gas extraction technology is available and in use across the country; and

WHEREAS, landfill gas-to-energy systems, such as microturbines which are used to convert landfill gas into power sources creating renewable energy, are available and in use across the country; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources are necessary to reduce our country's reliance on foreign energy sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses landfill gas collection and gas-to-energy initiatives and urges the mayors from across the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to support federal and state legislative incentives to support further development of landfill gas-to-energy technologies and their use.

**ENCOURAGING INCREASED INVESTMENTS IN WEATHERIZATION
TO BENEFIT THE NATION'S COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, the cost of energy to heat and cool homes, businesses, and municipal buildings in the nation's communities has been rising in recent years to unprecedented levels; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of heating and cooling homes, businesses, and municipal buildings in the nation's communities have a direct and substantial impact on the financial well-being of families, business, and local governments across the nation; and

WHEREAS, these high energy prices amount to a substantial drain on local economies; and

WHEREAS, there are many factors that drive the cost of energy, most of which are outside the control of families, businesses and local governments, but one important factor -- ensuring that homes and buildings are properly weatherized -- generally can be controlled; and

WHEREAS, there are many simple and cost-effective weatherization measures that can help reduce the amount of energy used and therefore help lower energy bills; and

WHEREAS, federal resources to assist with weatherization have been declining in recent years, even in the face of rising energy costs; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are well-positioned to assist families, businesses and their municipal budgets by educating their communities and their local governments on weatherization measures and aggressively promoting weatherization through local programs; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize the importance of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as an important federal resource to assist qualified individuals and families with paying energy bills, but also recognize that weatherization efforts are critical because LIHEAP generally does not provide sufficient funding to meet the demand for the program, LIHEAP serves only one small segment of the population; and LIHEAP does nothing to assist energy consumers with lowering their actual energy bills;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to substantially increase the amount of

federal resources to assist families, businesses and local governments with weatherization efforts, without jeopardizing LIHEAP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the nation's mayors to educate their communities, businesses and local governments on the benefits of weatherization and to works toward development and implementation local weatherization programs to help reduce energy costs and improve local economies.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF PLUG-IN HYBRID VEHICLES

WHEREAS, American over-reliance on foreign oil is a growing and serious threat to the national security and economic vitality of the United States;

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, petroleum combustion accounts for about 40% of all U.S. CO2 emissions

WHEREAS, oil is only used to generate 2% of American electricity;

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the meeting and urged mayors from around the nation to join this effort;

WHEREAS, plug-in hybrid vehicles can dramatically reduce reliance on imported oil and decrease greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants generated by vehicles;

WHEREAS, plug-in hybrid technology can accomplish reductions in greenhouse gas reductions and reliance on oil more quickly than other emerging technologies;

WHEREAS, plug-in hybrids can be manufactured with flexible fuel engines thus increasing business for American agriculture;

WHEREAS, plug-in hybrid vehicles will also help American citizens and businesses save on fuel costs

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is leading the Plug-In Partners campaign to encourage automakers to manufacture flexible fuel plug-in hybrids and to demonstrate a demand for such vehicles;

WHEREAS, Cities all across America are providing leadership in fighting climate change;

WHEREAS, American cities working together can effectively address challenges facing our cities and our nation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the Plug-In Partners initiative and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges automakers to manufacture flexible fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its mayors to submit "soft" or "advance" fleet orders to the Plug-In Partners initiative, which only commit the City to seriously consider the purchase, but shows interest to automakers;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to support federal and state legislation that funds incentives, demonstration projects, and fleet orders for plug-in hybrid vehicles.

ENDORSES THE INCREASED USE OF RENEWABLE FUELS

WHEREAS, Transportation consumes a considerable amount of fossil fuel; and

WHEREAS, The burning of conventional fuel such as gasoline and diesel, by motor vehicles, contributes to air pollution, and increased carbon emissions that have been linked to global climate change; and

WHEREAS, Transportation fuel costs represent a substantial operating expense for municipalities and their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gasoline and diesel fuel prices are at record highs and are likely to remain high or increase, aggravating the adverse impact that high fuel prices have already had on municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, There are cleaner burning fuel alternatives to conventional transportation fuels, such as ethanol and bio-diesel that are produced domestically; and

WHEREAS, Increased use of renewable transportation fuels and fuel efficient vehicles in municipal government will provide many economic, financial, environmental and other benefits, such as decreased operating costs for the municipal transportation fleets and reduction of green house gas emissions and other air pollutants emitted from vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Municipal governments will "lead by example" in using renewable fuel, to the maximum extent possible so as to encourage the citizens, businesses, and other government entities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the increased use of renewable fuels and urges mayors from around the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urge fuel suppliers to manufacture renewable fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors to support federal and state legislation that funds incentives and demonstration projects for renewable fuels.

**INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
(LIHEAP)**

WHEREAS, The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the primary federal program available to help low-income households, including families with children, the elderly and disabled individuals, pay their home energy bills; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP provides financial assistance for home heating and cooling, energy crisis intervention and low-cost home weatherization to low-income households, including working poor households, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, LIHEAP prevents low-income families from having to choose between paying to heat or cool their homes or purchasing necessary medication and food; and

WHEREAS, unaffordable home energy can lead to homelessness and housing abandonment, health and safety problems, and a lack of educational opportunities for children; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy has predicated that natural gas prices in 2006 will be 44 percent higher than during the winter of 2001-2002, and that fuel oil prices will be 69 percent higher; and

WHEREAS, Higher energy prices are increasing the need for assistance while reducing the purchasing power of LIHEAP; and

WHEREAS, Low-income households are harder hit by increases in energy prices and less able to absorb fluctuations in fuel cost than medium to higher income households; and

8. **WHEREAS**, the Congress authorized \$5.1 billion for the LIHEAP program but only appropriated \$2.48 billion in regular funds and \$681 million in emergency funds; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund appropriations of the LIHEAP program to \$5.1 billion in the FY 2007 budget to accommodate the increase in eligible low-income households and rising energy prices.

PROMOTION OF CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

WHEREAS, all people have a right to clean, reliable sources of energy; and,

WHEREAS, the health of the planet, including its oceans, wildlands, rivers, air, and climate, faces increasing threats from our continued dependence on fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the United States comprises only 5% of the world's population, but consumes 26% of the world's energy; and,

WHEREAS, the United States' overwhelming dependence on fossil fuels makes its economy increasingly vulnerable to price spikes and shortages; and,

WHEREAS, the United States' electric utility sector ranks first among U.S. industries emitting toxic pollution, as listed in the federal Toxic Release Inventory, releasing 1 billion pounds of toxics in 2004, more than the chemical, paper, plastics and refining industries combined; and

WHEREAS, increased domestic production of oil is an unsustainable and environmentally damaging alternative to foreign sources of oil; and

WHEREAS, the full societal costs of reliance upon fossil fuels are not reflected in retail prices for energy, due to a wide array of subsidies and long-term environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, the artificially deflated costs of energy in the United States lead to an enormous waste of energy through inefficient vehicles, appliances, and industries; and

WHEREAS, numerous technologies for producing abundant energy from clean renewable sources currently exist, such as wind, solar, and geothermal electricity, and alternative fuels for vehicles; and

WHEREAS, widespread adoption and encouragement of these technologies by United States energy policy could greatly reduce the need for producing energy from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, numerous United States cities have initiated their own policies to support development of renewable energy technologies and use of alternative fuels, and, in so doing, have reduced their dependence on fossil fuels, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy consumption, and saved taxpayer dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States government to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive energy policy focused on (1) reducing the United States' dependence on fossil fuels, (2) dramatically increasing the production of energy and fuel from clean, sustainable, and renewable sources, (3) appropriate pricing of fossil fuels to reflect actual societal and environmental costs and to encourage conservation, and (4) increased production of vehicles powered by clean renewable sources of energy.

ESTABLISHING A NEW MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENDA TO HELP ADDRESS THE NATION'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND IMPROVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, in recent years, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many of the nation's mayors are concerned about the fact that high energy costs have a direct and substantial impact on the economic well-being of local economies, including an adverse impact on local governments who rely on energy to carry out critical municipal operations, on working families who must contribute higher percentages of family incomes towards the payment of energy bills, and on local businesses who experience increases in the cost of doing business as a result of higher energy prices; and

WHEREAS, on May 10-11, 2006, a group of the nation's mayors gathered in Chicago for the U.S. Conference of Mayors National Summit on Energy and Environment in order to share best local energy practices, work towards reducing local energy costs, and collectively commit to improving the nation's energy future from the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Summit demonstrated that many mayors are already taking innovative actions at the local level to help decrease energy costs, improve the environment, and increase energy choices for municipalities, residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Summit also demonstrated that many mayors are fully committed to increasing their leadership role in the effort to address the nation's energy challenges in an environmentally sustainable way and improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Summit demonstrated that there are numerous opportunities for mayors to take actions at the local level including the following:

REDUCING ENERGY USAGE: Mayors can reduce municipal energy usage and thereby reduce municipal energy costs by setting aggressive targets for reducing overall municipal energy usage and taking steps towards accomplishing that goal by installing energy-saving measures in all municipal facilities, such as programmable thermostats, energy efficient lighting, lighting sensors,

whole-building automation systems, and centralized energy monitoring systems.

b) PROMOTING GREEN BUILDINGS: The building sector accounts for more than 48% of the nation's energy use and 76% of U.S. electricity use, and therefore presents an enormous opportunity for significantly reducing energy costs, improving the environment, improving building operations, and increasing the amount of funds in local economies that are available for expenditure on goods and services other than energy. Mayors can work towards establishing or expanding upon local goals and incentives for green buildings, and should strive to set a goal of using 30% less energy for every new municipal facility.

ENSURING RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE: As low-income and working families face the challenge of paying increasingly higher energy bills, mayors can initiate or expand upon local efforts to encourage investment in residential weatherization measures that can help to substantially reduce energy costs. In addition, mayors should continue to be strong advocates for increasing the amount of federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: Mayors can enhance voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions either on their own, or by taking actions in accordance with the The US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement or by joining structured programs like the Chicago Climate Exchange. Mayors can also strive to adopt carbon neutral building standards and codes.

ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY IN ENERGY GENERATION: Traditional forms of energy generation, including coal, nuclear and natural gas, will continue to play a critical role in providing power to the nation for many years to come, and when appropriate, mayors can take steps to encourage local utilities to improve existing facilities. At the same time, renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar power, waste-to-energy and geothermal, are becoming more widely available and more cost-effective, and mayors can set goals to encourage diversification of their local energy supply resources.

IMPROVING MUNICIPAL VEHICLE FLEETS: Mayors can strive to replace or retrofit municipal fleets with clean fuels, clean vehicle technologies and emission control technologies, such as hybrids, plug-in hybrids, hydrogen, ethanol, compressed natural gas, clean diesel, retrofit technologies and other alternatives to vehicles.

ENCOURAGING INCENTIVES TO IMPROVE VEHICLE FUEL EFFICIENCY: Mayors can encourage automakers to make vehicles more fuel efficient and encourage government, residents and businesses to purchase vehicles that achieve maximum fuel efficiency.

INVESTING IN TRANSIT AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES: Mayors can actively encourage increased funding for and use of public transportation, work towards building more walkable communities, and promote car sharing, biking and alternative forms of transit.

SHARING BEST ENERGY PRACTICES AMONG CITIES: Mayors can increase efforts to share best energy practices among each other so they can benefit from the experience and progress of their fellow mayors.

ENCOURAGING PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: Mayors can use their own municipal energy initiatives to demonstrate to businesses and residents how to make smart energy choices, and mayors can provide incentives to the private sector, such as implementing green building permit programs, adopting energy efficient and conservation building codes, and developing energy efficiency standards for construction supported by city assistance, such as affordable housing grants or loans, tax increment financing assistance, or other types of financial assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the nation's mayors are committed to increasing their leadership role in helping to address the nation's energy challenges from the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there are numerous opportunities for mayors to initiate or expand upon actions at the local level to address the nation's energy and environmental challenges and improve local communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The US Conference of Mayors endorses the above ten initiatives as a guide for the nation's mayors, and encourages the nation's mayors to adopt these principles to establish and expand upon local energy programs that address the nation's energy and environmental challenges and improve local communities.

**RECAPITALIZING THE STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF) LOAN PROGRAMS ANNUALLY
TO HELP COMMUNITIES IMPROVE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEET FEDERAL
WATER MANDATES**

WHEREAS, a recent Survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors Urban Water Council identified rehabilitating the aging urban water resources infrastructure as the number one water priority facing America's principal cities; and

WHEREAS, the Survey also indicated that from 52 percent to 83 percent of cities are currently engaged in making major capital investments in five types of water infrastructure: water supply; water treatment plants; water distribution systems; wastewater treatment plants; and wastewater collection systems; and

WHEREAS, many of the nation's communities face staggering costs for making upgrades and repairs to protect and improve water quality and to meet federal clean water and drinking water mandates; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) are intended to help communities meet federal water quality mandates, but continue to be substantially underfunded, and will not satisfy the \$530 billion plus "Needs Gap" estimated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to comply with federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) have been significantly cut back in recent years, to the point where some communities are facing a 50 percent or greater reduction in new loan funds made available for public-purpose water and sewer projects; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), while inadequately funded, has proven to provide significant public benefits including: better water quality to protect drinking water, protection of aquatic life and wildlife, improvements in waters used for primary and secondary contact recreation, and protection of waters providing fish and shellfish for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of federal unfunded mandates (like the drinking water standard for arsenic and other regulations) add significant capital costs for municipal water treatment systems that cannot realistically be complied with without federal financial assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the continuation of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund loan programs as currently implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the public and environmental benefits derived from these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Congress and Administration to annually approve recapitalization authorizations to the CWSRF at \$1.355 billion or more, and the DWSRF at \$850 million or more; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Congress to approve legislation to substantially increase the authorized levels for both Funds to help reverse the continuing decline of the federal share of financing these federally mandated improvements.

**INCREASING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO HELP COMMUNITIES CONSERVE
MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES**

WHEREAS, a recent Survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors Urban Water Council identified water supply availability as the third highest water resources priority facing America's principal cities; and

WHEREAS, the Survey also indicated that drought management; regional conflict over water use; water rights; groundwater depletion and inter-basin transfers were among the top water resources priorities of cities; and

WHEREAS, the Survey revealed that 35 percent of the nation's principal cities will be facing critical water shortages in 2015 and 2025; and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of the nation's principal cities have made, or plan to make, major capital investments in water supply infrastructure between 2000 and 2009, including development and/or expansions of reservoirs, constructing or rehabilitating ground water wells, construction of desalination infrastructure to treat brackish water supplies, and developing water recycling and reclamation infrastructure at great cost; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that between 1985 and 2000 the amount of municipal water consumption at the level has grown nationally by nearly 25 percent, especially in cities that have not adopted and implemented water conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, water supplies are critical to the economic and social vitality of our cities and metropolitan areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges cities to take local action to: benchmark current levels of municipal water consumption by all sectors of water users (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, institutional, municipal, recreational, etc.); set water conservation levels appropriate for each water consumption sector with vigorous goals for water use reduction; establish public education outreach programs or improve existing programs; identify financial incentives to reward water conservation measures (such as low flush/no flush toilets; low volume spray valves in restaurants and cafeterias; municipal grounds water recycling; and others); and other measures that will result in achieving significant water use reduction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges cities to consider modernizing water and wastewater use metering in order to more accurately monitor water use, improve capacity to detect leakage and reduce Unaccounted for Water (UAW) loss; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges cities to consider altering water rate structures to encourage water users to conserve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges local governments to develop and implement ordinances, policies and/or regulations that promote water conservation, water reclamation, water reuse and water recycling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports, and urges Congress to reintroduce and enact, "The Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2003" and its goal to develop a comprehensive water strategy designed to identify incentives to ensure a dependable and adequate water supply for the next 50 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to include a local elected Mayor to serve as a Member of the "Commission" to ensure that local government which provides almost 90 percent of the funding for water infrastructure is properly represented in the planning process.

PROMOTING "GREEN" INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE NATION'S COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors defines green infrastructure as the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas, such as greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preserves and native plant vegetation, that provide wildlife habitat, natural drainage, recreational opportunities and help to sustain our Nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors recognizes that green infrastructure naturally manages stormwater, reduces flooding risk and improves air and water quality, thus performing many of the same functions as traditionally built infrastructure, often at a fraction of the cost; and

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors recognizes that the rapid expansion of urban and suburban growth has resulted in a general loss of natural systems which manage stormwater, allow for the natural replenishment of groundwater aquifers, provide wildlife habitat, improve air quality and the carbon sequestration capabilities of plants and trees, and provide the natural amenities that make the nation's cities a pleasure to live in; and

WHEREAS, this loss of green infrastructure has resulted in increased groundwater aquifer depletion, increased untreated sewer discharge into urban waterways, rising urban temperatures, increased pollution of waterways through surface water runoff, and a general decrease in the quality of life of our Nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, reduced natural capacity for water treatment increases the costs of maintaining urban water management systems; and

WHEREAS, the General Accounting Office, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the American Society of Civil Engineers estimate that the Nation faces up to a \$1 trillion dollar deficit in drinking and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years and the Conference of Mayors believes that investment in green infrastructure could dramatically reduce those costs; and

WHEREAS, rising temperatures in urban areas, as the consequence of increased paving and minimal tree cover, result in the urban heat island effect and in higher energy costs for the Nation's citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors recognizes green infrastructure's important contribution towards improved air

quality, land conservation, wildlife preservation, water quality improvements, and thus quality of life in the Nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, The US Conference of Mayors acknowledges that many traditionally planned and built infrastructure projects could be modified to include green infrastructure elements resulting in reduced construction and maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's mayors applaud the federal government's leadership role on green infrastructure research, through the research and project development efforts being conducted by such agencies as the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Department of the Interior's National Park Service and the US Department of Commerce's SEA Grant program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The US Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to provide incentives and funding mechanisms to encourage green infrastructure strategies and approaches for municipal infrastructure improvement projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the nation's mayors to implement local programs and local incentives to increase the amount of green infrastructure within their own communities.

ADOPTING THE "2030 CHALLENGE" FOR ALL BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Building Sector has been shown to be the major consumer of fossil fuel and producer of global warming causing greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, the federal government through programs fostered within many of its key agencies and numerous state governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. have adopted high performance green building principles; and

WHEREAS, a recent study completed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green buildings ever conducted, concluded that the financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot, more than 10 times the additional cost associated with building green; and

WHEREAS, the large positive impact on employee productivity and health gains suggests that green building has a cost-effective impact beyond just the utility bill savings; and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that student attendance and performance is higher in high performance school buildings; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that a building's initial construction costs represent only 20-30 percent of the building's entire costs over its 30 to 40 year life, emphasis should be placed on the "life cycle costs" of a public building rather than on solely its initial capital costs; and

WHEREAS, the construction industry in the U.S. represents a significant portion of our economy and a significant portion of the building industry is represented by small business and an increase in sustainable building practices will encourage and promote new and innovative small business development throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the national professional organization representing architects has adopted a position statement calling for the immediate energy reduction of all new and renovated buildings to one-half the national average for that building type, with increased reductions of 10% every five years so that by the year 2030 all buildings designed will be carbon neutral, meaning they will use no fossil fuel energy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to adopt the following "2030 Challenge" for building performance targets:

New construction of City buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Renovation projects of City buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

All other new construction, renovations, repairs, and replacements of City buildings shall employ cost-effective, energy-efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

60% in 2010
70% in 2015
80% in 2020
90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to join this effort by developing plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets as part of their procurement process and by establishing policies to insure compliance and measure results; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to develop plans to fully implement

the above mentioned targets for all new and renovated buildings within the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to join this effort to develop plans to fully implement similar targets as mentioned above.

ENCOURAGES THE USE OF LANDFILL GAS-TO-RECOVERY TECHNOLOGIES

WHEREAS, the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the meeting, calling for meeting or exceeding the Kyoto Protocol on a local level; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions target for the United States would have been to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by seven percent (7%) below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions from local governments is methane produced and emitted from landfills where organic waste naturally biodegrades into methane; and

WHEREAS, capturing and destroying the methane produced by landfills can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, landfill gas extraction technology is available and in use across the country; and

WHEREAS, landfill gas-to-energy systems, such as microturbines which are used to convert landfill gas into power sources creating renewable energy, are available and in use across the country; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy sources are necessary to reduce our country's reliance on foreign energy sources;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses landfill gas collection and gas-to-energy initiatives and urges the mayors from across the nation to join this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to support federal and state legislative incentives to support further development of landfill gas-to-energy technologies and their use.

ESTABLISHING A NEW MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENDA TO HELP ADDRESS THE NATION'S ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND IMPROVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, in recent years, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many of the nation's mayors are concerned about the fact that high energy costs have a direct and substantial impact on the economic well-being of local economies, including an adverse impact on local governments who rely on energy to carry out critical municipal operations, on working families who must contribute higher percentages of family incomes towards the payment of energy bills, and on local businesses who experience increases in the cost of doing business as a result of higher energy prices; and

WHEREAS, on May 10-11, 2006, a group of the nation's mayors gathered in Chicago for the U.S. Conference of Mayors National Summit on Energy and Environment in order to share best local energy practices, work towards reducing local energy costs, and collectively commit to improving the nation's energy future from the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Summit demonstrated that many mayors are already taking innovative actions at the local level to help decrease energy costs, improve the environment, and increase energy choices for municipalities, residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Summit also demonstrated that many mayors are fully committed to increasing their leadership role in the effort to address the nation's energy challenges in an environmentally sustainable way and improve their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Summit demonstrated that there are numerous opportunities for mayors to take actions at the local level including the following:

REDUCING ENERGY USAGE: Mayors can reduce municipal energy usage and thereby reduce municipal energy costs by setting aggressive targets for reducing overall municipal energy usage and taking steps towards accomplish that goal by installing energy-saving measures in all municipal facilities, such as programmable thermostats, energy efficient lighting, lighting sensors,

whole-building automation systems, and centralized energy monitoring systems.

b) PROMOTING GREEN BUILDINGS: The building sector accounts for more than 48% of the nation's energy use and 76% of U.S. electricity use, and therefore presents an enormous opportunity for significantly reducing energy costs, improving the environment, improving building operations, and increasing the amount of funds in local economies that are available for expenditure on goods and services other than energy. Mayors can work towards establishing or expanding upon local goals and incentives for green buildings, and should strive to set a goal of using 30% less energy for every new municipal facility.

ENSURING RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE: As low-income and working families face the challenge of paying increasingly higher energy bills, mayors can initiate or expand upon local efforts to encourage investment in residential weatherization measures that can help to substantially reduce energy costs. In addition, mayors should continue to be strong advocates for increasing the amount of federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: Mayors can enhance voluntary efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions either on their own, or by taking actions in accordance with The US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement or by joining structured programs like the Chicago Climate Exchange. Mayors can also strive to adopt carbon neutral building standards and codes.

ENCOURAGING DIVERSITY IN ENERGY GENERATION: Traditional forms of energy generation, including coal, nuclear and natural gas, will continue to play a critical role in providing power to the nation for many years to come, and when appropriate, mayors can take steps to encourage local utilities to improve existing facilities. At the same time, renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar power, waste-to-energy and geothermal, are becoming more widely available and more cost-effective, and mayors can set goals to encourage diversification of their local energy supply resources.

IMPROVING MUNICIPAL VEHICLE FLEETS: Mayors can strive to replace or retrofit municipal fleets with clean fuels, clean vehicle technologies and emission control technologies, such as hybrids, plug-in hybrids, hydrogen, ethanol, compressed natural gas, clean diesel, retrofit technologies and other alternatives to vehicles.

ENCOURAGING INCENTIVES TO IMPROVE VEHICLE FUEL EFFICIENCY: Mayors can encourage automakers to make vehicles more fuel efficient and encourage government, residents and businesses to purchase vehicles that achieve maximum fuel efficiency.

INVESTING IN TRANSIT AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES: Mayors can actively encourage increased funding for and use of public transportation, work towards building more walkable communities, and promote car sharing, biking and alternative forms of transit.

SHARING BEST ENERGY PRACTICES AMONG CITIES: Mayors can increase efforts to share best energy practices among each other so they can benefit from the experience and progress of their fellow mayors.

ENCOURAGING PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES: Mayors can use their own municipal energy initiatives to demonstrate to businesses and residents how to make smart energy choices, and mayors can provide incentives to the private sector, such as implementing green building permit programs, adopting energy efficient and conservation building codes, and developing energy efficiency standards for construction supported by city assistance, such as affordable housing grants or loans, tax increment financing assistance, or other types of financial assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the nation's mayors are committed to increasing their leadership role in helping to address the nation's energy challenges from the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there are numerous opportunities for mayors to initiate or expand upon actions at the local level to address the nation's energy and environmental challenges and improve local communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The US Conference of Mayors endorses the above ten initiatives as a guide for the nation's mayors, and encourages the nation's mayors to adopt these principles to establish and expand upon local energy programs that address the nation's energy and environmental challenges and improve local communities.

**RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAGEDY
IN SUDAN**

WHEREAS, a conflict between rebel forces in the Darfur region of Sudan and forces of the Sudanese government (along with allied Janjaweed militias) has resulted in attacks by air and ground forces on tens of thousands of innocent people and undefended villages throughout the Darfur region; and

WHEREAS, more than 200,000 deaths in the region can be attributed to violence, disease, and malnutrition because of the conflict. Over two million people have been forced from their homes by the Sudanese government troops and Janjaweed militias, approximately 220,000 of them having sought refugee protection in neighboring Chad; and

WHEREAS, Janjaweed militias, with air support from the Sudanese government, have recently launched successful attacks on refugees and Chadian civilians within Chad; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of State estimates that at least 500 Sudanese villages have been systematically attacked and destroyed, and another 700 Sudanese villages have been damaged; and

WHEREAS, rape has been, and is being utilized as an instrument of war for the sake of humiliation, punishment, and breaking the will of the people who have remained on their lands; and

WHEREAS, a more precise assessment of the scope of the killing, ethnic cleansing, and other human rights atrocities (including rapes and torture) has been made impossible because of obstructions to access imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese government has been unwilling to effectively address the human rights crisis in Darfur and has been supplying arms to the allied Janjaweed militias perpetrating violence against African Muslims in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch noted in April 2006 that "fighting between the Sudanese government and Darfur rebel movements has escalated in the past six months, displacing tens of thousands of people, many of whom had already fled attacks in 2003-2005," and that "civilians continue to be targeted for killings, rape, displacement and looting, mainly by government-backed Janjaweed militias in Darfur"; and

WHEREAS, much of the violence being perpetrated against people in the Darfur region of Sudan is occurring through aerial attacks; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch estimates that almost 3.5 million people are affected by the conflict in the Darfur region, but humanitarian aid agencies and the United Nations estimate that only 15% of these people have received aid, due to impediments to the delivery of aid imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, because of the impediments to access by humanitarian organizations, hundreds of thousands of displaced Sudanese are in jeopardy of starvation and illness;

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in March 2005 - over a year ago - said of the situation, "The international community has to act on Darfur. It has to act with great speed. It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a moral crisis, and it is a crisis that is extraordinary in its scope and in its potential for even greater damage to those populations."; and

WHEREAS, the United States and much of the international community turned a blind eye to the murders, rapes and torture of millions of people, as well as the ethnic cleansing and other massive human rights abuses during the Holocaust, and in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Srebrenica; and

WHEREAS, there has been general agreement that "Never Again" will we allow such genocides to occur; and

WHEREAS, effective measures can be taken by the United States, by the United Nations, and the international community to end many of the tragic human rights abuses occurring in Sudan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The U.S. Conference of Mayors, for the third consecutive year, strongly urges the U.S. Congress and the Bush Administration, in collaboration with the United Nations, and NATO to a) create a NATO enforced no-fly zone over the Darfur region, putting an end to aerial attacks; (b) require the Sudanese government to allow the free movement of human rights investigators and humanitarian workers in the Darfur region; (c) require the Sudanese government to cease supplying the allied Janjaweed militias with arms; and (d) agree to a United Nations mission of at least 10,000 international peacekeepers to stop the violence and attend to the needs of those who have been impacted by the violence in the Darfur region.

**CALLING ON RUSSIA AND CHINA TO DECLARE EXPLICITLY THAT U.S. CITIES
ARE NO LONGER TARGETS FOR NUCLEAR ATTACK**

WHEREAS, during the Cold War many cities in the United States were targeted for attack by the Soviet and Chinese nuclear forces; and

WHEREAS, the strategy of mutually assured destruction envisioned the tit-for-tat slaughter of a large portions of the urban populations of the United States, Russia, and China; and

WHEREAS, the Cold War has been over for fifteen years and our worst fear today is that terrorists will obtain and use a nuclear weapon; and

WHEREAS, the United States now has extensive commercial interaction and cultural exchange with Russia and China; and

WHEREAS, the International Court of Justice found in 1996 the threat or use of nuclear weapons to be generally unlawful under International Humanitarian Law; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors stated on 28 June 2004, "weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world," and further called for the commencement of "negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapon-related materials,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The U.S. Conference of Mayors seek assurances from the Governments of Russia and of China that they explicitly rule out U.S. cities as targets of nuclear attack; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Government to provide corresponding assurances to Russian and Chinese cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The U.S. Conference of Mayors express its solidarity with any city seeking such assurances from any nuclear-armed state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the initiation of nuclear warfare under any circumstances and whatever the target, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The U.S. Conference of Mayors shall remain engaged in this matter until our cities are no longer under the threat of nuclear devastation.

**FACILITATING CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL
WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States generates approximately \$100 billion in visitor spending and directly and indirectly employs 17 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, cross-border travel and trade with Canada and Mexico and other nations within the Western Hemisphere is critical to our nation's economy and relations with key trade partners; and

WHEREAS, securing our nation's land, air and sea ports-of-entry is absolutely critical;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Bush Administration to extend the deadline for implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), and to seek bilateral, low-cost solutions that enhance U.S. border security while ensuring the free-flow of travelers and trade across our borders with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

**AMERICA'S MAYORS: PARTNERS IN PROMOTING BROADBAND-VIDEO
DEPLOYMENT AND COMPETITION**

WHEREAS, America's metropolitan areas, its cities and suburbs, are the engines of our nation's economy generating 86% of its economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the nation's future growth and prosperity relies directly on healthy and robust cities that can compete in the global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, America's cities and suburbs need an affordable and modern communications infrastructure to ensure the rapid and competitive dissemination of video, telephone and broadband services in which neither economic status nor location should be a barrier for citizens, while preserving traditional local governments' communications oversight and compensation authority; and

WHEREAS, mayors embrace technological innovation and competition and actively seek the benefits such changes may bring to their communities and to their constituents; and

WHEREAS, mayors want and welcome genuine competition in video, telephone and broadband services in a technologically neutral manner, and support deployment as rapidly as the market will allow; and

WHEREAS, federal communications policies should enhance the ability of local governments to protect the health and welfare of their residents by not diminishing local authority to manage public rights-of-way, to zone, or to collect just and fair compensation for the use of public assets; and

WHEREAS, mayors remain concerned that rhetoric and not facts have led members of Congress to believe that competition and innovation will flourish only if local government is removed from the equation; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should not try to oversee management of local streets and sidewalks from Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, national franchising would abrogate a basic tenet of federalism by granting companies access to public and privately-owned properties; and

WHEREAS, nationalizing franchising would limit the benefits of video competition to a few well-to-do neighborhoods, would threaten local budgets, would undermine the ability of local governments to protect their residents and manage public rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, local franchises do not just provide permission to offer video services, they are the core tool local governments use to manage streets and sidewalks, provide for public safety and homeland security, enhance competition, provide locally-originated programming, and collect compensation for private use of public land; and

WHEREAS, mayors want cable competition and have actually sought it for years, but do not favor:

- Subsidizing multinational communications companies' use of local streets and rights-of-way at the expense of local governments' budgets and local taxpayers;
- Giving the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., control and oversight over how localities manage their local streets and rights-of-way;
- Subsidizing service to a few well-to-do neighborhoods while less well-to-do neighborhoods are left behind without competition, and with higher prices and poorer service;
- Allowing telephone companies to provide new cable and broadband services only to some of their telephone customers, leaving others behind; Cutting current levels of financial support for local community programming and emergency communications; Taking away local authority to handle their residents' cable customer service complaints; and

WHEREAS, cities have a fundamental responsibility to protect the public health and welfare through the exercise of police powers vested in them by actions of their residents or the operation of state law; and

WHEREAS, local governments must have access to and use of effective and reliable emergency communications systems; and

WHEREAS, the ability to impose and collect taxes to fund its operations is an essential authority of any government, including local government; and

WHEREAS, local governments should have the ability to provide their local communities with telecommunications facilities and/or services; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the only appropriate jurisdictions to oversee community needs assessments for community media and related public service obligations; and

WHEREAS, local governments support universal service and the nation's long-held communications policy to provide affordable services to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has played a major role in every communications legislative discussion since 1984,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to close the digital divide by ensuring that broadband services, including those provided over a telco-cable system are made available to all residential subscribers in a reasonable period of time. This can only be done by banning "redlining", the practice of bypassing less profitable neighborhoods, and preserving the ability of franchise authorities to enforce reasonable "build out" requirements for providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to avoid fiscal harm to local governments by ensuring consumers are paid a fair rent for use of their assets, the communities' rights-of-way. This goal may be achieved by doing no fiscal harm to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to reject proposals that claim to retain the full 5% franchise fee, but exclude traditional revenues such as advertising, and other non-subscriber revenues. Local governments need this revenue to support critical municipal services, including public safety, traffic management, and street and sidewalk preservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to preserve local governments' management of the rights-of-way. Local governments have both state delegated and inherent police powers to manage and charge impact fees in addition to rent for the use of public rights-of-way. Local governments are proven stewards of the

public rights-of-way, and are pivotal in helping to prevent public safety issues resulting from overcrowding and improper use; ensuring local emergency services are provided; as well as addressing customer service and local business concerns related to misuse of public rights-of-way. It is important that Congress respect local governments' property rights and interests in the management and control of the public rights-of-way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to maintain local governments' franchise agreement authority. Congress must ensure all citizens and businesses benefit from the rewrite of the Communications Act through preserving local franchising authority. Preserving local franchise authority ensures that key services for all citizens and businesses are tailored to meet local needs, including public, education and government access channels, local emergency alerts and institutional networks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to support a balanced federalist approach that encourages new innovation and technology while preserving appropriate authority for local governments to protect their citizens, particularly as it relates to public safety and homeland security, promoting local competition and economic development, taxation, universal access, rights-of-way management, and consumer protection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to honor local governments' communications taxing authority and make it clear that localities must retain full communications taxing authority flexibility, as does the federal government, to structure their tax policies in a manner that best serves their citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to oppose efforts to curb the ability of local officials to collect local communications taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to oppose actions that have the direct or indirect effect of preempting local governments from collecting revenue from wireless services transactions, sales, or other means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to maintain social and public safety obligations of the providers. Congress and the states have long recognized that social obligations, such as channel capacity, capital grants and in-kind support for access channels should be imposed upon communication providers as part of the compensation required of a rights-of-way occupant. Similarly, institutional network grants and in-kind support serving non-residential buildings such as police and fire stations, schools, and libraries need to be retained. Maintenance of these social and public safety systems require continued obligations based on the current 2-3% average on top of the 5% franchise fee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to support universal access policies that promote universal and affordable access to communications services including the federal and state universal service funds, the E-Rate program, Lifeline and Linkup, urban and rural infrastructure support mechanisms, and obligations ensuring equitable cable and broadband deployment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to support the principle that satellite companies should not be exempt from public interest requirements such as public, education and government (PEG) channels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to include public safety obligations, such as E911 and CALEA, in all communications platforms, regardless of technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to require the FCC to accelerate E911 deployment, including next generation technology and deployment of emergency information and systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to preserve and strengthen the ability of state and local governments to protect and warn the public through emergency alert systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress make clear in

federal policy that local governments should have the ability to provide their citizens with communications facilities and/or services, including community broadband systems, by prohibiting any legislation that prevents, has the effect of preventing, or in any way impairs the ability of local governments from providing communications facilities and/or services, if a local government determines that it is in the best interest of its community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to support that cable modem service should be classified as a "cable" service, not as an information service, or otherwise, thereby subjecting the service to oversight, such as requirements to comply with customer service standards, consumer privacy protection, anti-redlining requirements and universal build-out and offerings throughout communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to embrace the principle that states and localities are best positioned to effectively respond to a wide variety of consumer concerns regarding communications services, including but not limited to, complaints related to service quality and affordability, reliability, deceptive practices, billing practices, privacy and criminal activity.

**RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE CONGRESS TO BRIDGE
THE BROADBAND DIVIDE**

WHEREAS, the 1996 Telecommunications Act mandates that the Federal Communications Commission must ensure the deployment of broadband "that enables users to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video telecommunications"; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 Telecommunications Act also directs the Federal Communications Commission to "determine whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion"; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 Telecommunications Act requires the Federal Communications Commission to "take immediate action to accelerate deployment of such capability by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition in the telecommunications market"; and

WHEREAS, according to the International Telecommunications Union, the United States has dropped from 13th to 16th place in worldwide broadband penetration between 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission defines a "high speed" connection as the ability to transmit greater than 200 kilobits per second (Kbps) of data per second in one direction (upload or download); and

WHEREAS, 200 kbps is only strong enough to enable a user to receive low-quality video; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census, a huge digital divide exists. Families earning incomes \$60,000 and above have an internet penetration rate of 80% and higher, but families earning below \$30,000 have an internet penetration rate that varies between 25%-41%; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission measures broadband penetration by usage in a zip code; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission will conclude that a zip code is served by broadband if it contains at least one broadband subscriber; and

WHEREAS, mayors support the development and deployment of broadband technology and services to all Americans at a reasonable rate of time and price; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has played a major role in every communications legislative discussion since 1984,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors resolves that Congress should pass legislation to spur the deployment of high-speed internet to all Americans and that any revision or amendments to the federal Communications Act should include language that clearly defines broadband as high-speed internet service in a way that is more on balance with international standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should pass legislation to encourage the provision of affordable and ubiquitous wireless broadband services, including through such means as allocating more low-frequency wireless spectrum for unlicensed use and by ensuring that municipalities and local governments have the ability to sponsor or support the deployment of wireless broadband networks under local control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any revision or amendment to the federal Communications Act should respect the rights of local governments to act in the best interests of their citizens as the owners/trustees of the local rights-of-way and should honor the sovereignty of state and local governments and their related police powers to protect citizens from consumer abuse and mistreatment.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN PROVIDING BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS
SERVICES TO CITIZENS**

WHEREAS, the United States ranks behind 15 other industrialized countries in the percentage of residents using broadband Internet connections; and

WHEREAS, the availability of broadband service is critical to attracting, growing, and retaining businesses in the highly competitive global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, broadband service is proving valuable to the economic transitioning and growth of distressed urban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, broadband service to access information and resources is pivotal to eliminating the digital divide and promoting the economic and personal self-sufficiency of low-income individuals; and

WHEREAS, local governments are seeking to meet the needs of their communities for broadband service where such service is unavailable, inadequate, or prohibitively expensive; and

WHEREAS, local governments can play an important role in achieving President Bush's goal of universal broadband deployment by 2007; and

WHEREAS, local governments are beginning to establish wireless municipal broadband networks for underserved residents, either directly or in partnership with others; and

WHEREAS, for example, there has been a ten-fold increase in the number of public power companies offering broadband service over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the permissibility of and conditions under which local governments can offer broadband service will be considered in the upcoming rewrite of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to ensure the continued ability of local governments to offer broadband Internet service access to citizens, and endorses S. 1294, the Community Broadband Act, and

Title IV of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement Act.

**TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT -
REBUILDING INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL**

WHEREAS, Amtrak, America's national passenger railroad, served 25 million passengers last year, the highest number in any year in its history; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is the largest commuter operator in the nation, transporting more than 60 million commuters per year directly and an additional 340 million riders yearly indirectly through agreements and/or shared operations; and

WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail has the tremendous potential to compliment other modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, increasing highway and air travel congestion (takeoff and landing delays), increasing air pollution, and rising fuel prices are urgent reminders of the transportation crisis that is jeopardizing America's prosperity; and

WHEREAS, when it comes to disasters, whether man-made or natural, America needs viable alternatives to aviation and highway transportation, and it is clear that intercity passenger rail service is that alternative; and

WHEREAS, intercity passenger rail infrastructure has been neglected for far too long by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, a significant federal investment led to the development of the extensive air system and highway network; and

WHEREAS, over the long term, significantly higher levels of investment will be needed to stabilize the existing intercity passenger rail system and get it into a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major transportation link to the rest of the country and is especially important with discontinuance of bus service throughout much of the rural United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to stabilize Amtrak operations, infrastructure, and financials by appropriating Amtrak's FY07 grant request of \$1.59 billion while federal policymakers debate the immediate and long-term authorization for Amtrak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to establish a sustainable federal passenger rail trust fund, comparable to the highway and aviation trust funds, to provide Amtrak, states and local governments with a reliable source of capital and operating support for intercity passenger rail corridor expansion and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to enact tax incentives and pursue other measures to stimulate increased private sector participation to improve crossings, rail stations, and rail infrastructure; acquire rolling stock; offer commuter benefits and transit-oriented development in support of intercity passenger rail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to dedicate a portion of any proceeds from the federal issuance of bonds to fund transportation spending to an intercity passenger rail trust fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with the establishment of a sustainable federal passenger rail trust fund, The United States Conference of Mayors recommends to the Administration and Congress that a federal match program for intercity passenger rail corridor operations and capital be comparable to other modes of transportation, generally at 80% federal and 20% state funded, with perhaps a richer federal match under certain circumstances, to stimulate development where it is most needed, including encouraging intercity passenger rail-airport-transit connections and rail-oriented development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the long distance, including transcontinental passenger trains, form the basis for, and connections to, emerging federal-state supported corridors and provide an important transportation link for many rural communities and regions across the country; therefore, it is the recommendation of The United States Conference of Mayors to the Administration and Congress that the federal government maintain full responsibility for operating and capital funding, and pursuing vastly improved on-time performance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to delay enactment of long distance performance evaluations or benchmarks until the

long distance infrastructure is brought into a state of good condition and numerous freight rail issues, including choke points, have been identified and solved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with the establishment of a sustainable federal passenger rail trust fund, The United States Conference of Mayors recommends to the Administration and Congress that a federal match program for Northeast Corridor operations and capital be comparable to other modes of transportation, generally at 80% federal and 20% state funded, with perhaps a richer federal match under certain circumstances, to stimulate development where it is most needed, including encouraging intercity passenger rail-airport-transit connections and rail- oriented development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress oppose efforts by the Amtrak Board of Directors to split the railroad's heavily traveled Northeast Corridor service into a separate subsidiary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to require that the composition of the Amtrak Board of Directors include a mayor of a city selected from among mayors of cities with an interest in passenger rail, especially in light of recommendations in the Administration's and Amtrak's reform proposals that states and local governments share the costs of corridor and long-distance passenger rail service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Homeland Security take financial and operational responsibility for securing intercity passenger rail operations and infrastructure.

ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION SECURITY: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the issue of public transportation security is a vital component of every community; and

WHEREAS, public transportation security in the U.S. must be maintained on the rails, highway and waterways; and

WHEREAS, mayors are owners and/or operators of many of the major public transportation facilities and systems in the nation and securing these systems and protecting users from potential terrorist activity is a high priority; and

WHEREAS, with more than 9.7 billion trips logged on the nation's public transportation systems in 2005, with public transportation growing at a faster rate than highway travel, securing this critical infrastructure and protecting riders from potential terrorist attacks rank as high priorities; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that public transportation is growing faster than any other mode of transportation, and with growing number of terror attacks on bus and rail systems worldwide, such as the London attacks in 2005 killing more than 50, and in 2004 in Madrid killing 191 and in Moscow killing 41, since 9/11, bus and rail public transportation have received only \$545 million in federal security grants; and

WHEREAS, by contrast, in 2004, transit agencies identified \$6 billion in security needs, including \$5.2 billion in capital and \$800 million in operating; and

WHEREAS, transit authorities have significant and specific transit security needs:

Based on the American Public Transportation Association's 2003 Infrastructure Database survey, over 2,000 rail stations do not have security cameras;

- According to our 2005 Transit Vehicle Database, 53,000 buses, over 5,000 commuter rail cars, and over 10,000 heavy rail cars do not have security cameras;
- Fewer than one-half of all buses have automatic vehicle locator systems (AVLs) that allow dispatchers to know the location of the bus when an emergency occurs;
- Nearly 75 percent of demand response vehicles lack these AVLs;
- Furthermore, no transit system has a permanent biological detection system; and

- Only two transit authorities have a permanent chemical detection system; and

WHEREAS, public transportation requires state-of-the-art technology (that is currently in the research and development stage) to detect and/or neutralize potential chemical, biological, radiological and/or nuclear attacks at our stations, on board our trains and buses, as well as throughout our nation's mass transit infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, such technologies must be able to interface with existing technologies and work effectively under the open system that mass transit operates under today; and

WHEREAS, further, research and development can also address the rising operating costs associated with added security personnel; and

WHEREAS, an investment in public transportation security programs, resources and infrastructure, provides a direct benefit in preparation and response to natural disasters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide at least \$560 million in the FY07 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill for transit security grants to assist public transportation systems to continue to address the \$6 billion in security needs identified by transit agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to support a robust and dedicated funding source for transit-related research and development technology; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to fund deployment of security and communications technologies including:

- Voice and video interoperable communication systems;
- Security cameras on board public transportation vehicles and in bus and rail stations;
- Video surveillance and threat detection cameras;
- Increased surveillance via closed circuit TV; and
- Automated bus and rail locator systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress fund security

infrastructure expansion, modernization and rehabilitation including:

- Permanent chemical, biological and explosive detection systems;
- Fencing and barriers, lighting, alarms and access control for tunnels, bridges, interlockings, track, yards and facilities;
- Redesign of infrastructure to eliminate hiding places; and
- The life safety program in New York City and to rehabilitate existing Baltimore and Washington, D.C. tunnels.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES TO PROVIDE FOR MORE AFFORDABLE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT, AND SAFE TRAVEL CHOICES

WHEREAS, Americans are currently experiencing significantly higher gasoline prices, with predictions of \$100 per barrel of oil and gas prices at the pumps exceeding \$3.00 per gallon; and

WHEREAS, the President, in his State of the Union address in January, highlighted the need to focus on achieving energy independence and keeping America competitive, by greater use of existing and new technologies to reduce reliance on foreign oil often imported from politically unstable countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, increased use of public mass transit is the single most effective way to reduce America's energy consumption, and can provide congestion relief, and support other national economic, environmental, and community goals; and

WHEREAS, if Americans used public mass transit at the same rate as Europeans -- for roughly 10 percent of their daily travel needs -- the U.S. could reduce its dependence on imported oil by more than 40 percent, or nearly the amount of oil the U.S. imports from Saudi Arabia each year; and

WHEREAS, economic forces and demographic trends are creating additional market demand for more affordable, energy-efficient, safe, and convenient travel alternatives; and

WHEREAS, even before the current energy crisis, more people across the country were shifting from use of their private automobiles and turning to public transportation, resulting in unprecedented increases in transit ridership in 2005; and

WHEREAS, existing public transportation systems are also impacted by the fuel price increases, and some are reaching or exceeding their current capacity to accommodate the current and expected growth in transit use; and

WHEREAS, transit agencies are increasingly investing in alternative fuel vehicles and other innovative technologies utilizing renewable resources; and

WHEREAS, to better protect U.S. transit riders from terrorism will require dramatically increased funding for transit security; and

WHEREAS, the public transportation system, if improved and expanded with greater investment, can provide a wide array of affordable, energy-efficient transportation choices for U.S. commuters and travelers, including fixed-guideway transit - heavy and light rail, commuter rail, streetcars, and bus rapid transit - as well traditional bus transit service; and

WHEREAS, the Congress enacted, and the President signed into law, in August 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) which authorized a record level of federal transit funding over the next six years; and

WHEREAS, even if the authorized SAFETEA-LU transit projects are fully funded in the annual federal appropriations budgets, investment will continue to be inadequate for new transit needs and initiatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to fully implement the funding packages authorized in the SAFETEA-LU legislation, and to substantially increase future investment focused on:

A national initiative for substantial and rapid expansion of the public mass transit system network,

Research into new transit technologies and alternative fuel sources,

Development of security measures to ensure the safe use of public mass transit by the traveling public, and

Incentives for employers to encourage employees to increase their use of public mass transit.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IDENTIFYING VIABLE AND STABLE FUNDING
MECHANISMS FOR FUTURE ROADWAY AND TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT**

WHEREAS, the transportation infrastructure in the U.S. is critical to the vitality and productivity of the economy, and to meet the mobility and access needs of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, current revenues at all levels of government - federal, state, and local - devoted to transportation investments have declined and are not sufficient to maintain or improve the nation's roadway and transit systems; and

WHEREAS, many cities are facing the need to build, rebuild, or repair major segments of their transportation infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, move people and goods, relieve congestion, and ensure safe travel; and

WHEREAS, a national study in 2005 highlighted that revenues from all sources were estimated at \$180 billion for 2005 - which is \$42 billion short of the \$222 billion needed to "maintain" and \$91 billion short of the \$271 billion needed to "improve" the system; and

WHEREAS, total national needs for the next ten-year period will be \$3.4 trillion to improve the system, but total revenue will be only \$2.4 trillion, leaving a cumulative gap of approximately \$1.0 trillion, according to the 2005 study; and

WHEREAS, the biggest challenges to infrastructure funding are the federal pay-as-you-go approach, which relies primarily on the fixed-rate fuel tax, and other dedicated user fees flowing into the Federal Highway Trust Fund (HTF), and similar limitations on the state fuel tax and user fee sources; and

WHEREAS, several studies suggest the Highway Trust Fund may be bankrupt within the next few years, further emphasizing the need for immediate attention to transportation funding issues; and

WHEREAS, construction costs for highways and other transportation infrastructure generally increase at a faster rate than inflation in other sectors of the economy, because of the reliance on the availability and pricing of petroleum, steel, concrete and asphalt; and

WHEREAS, while Congress has periodically increased the taxes to keep pace with the nation's growing transportation needs, the last increase was in 1993, and it is estimated that federal motor fuel taxes have lost about one-third of their purchasing power since the 1960s because they are not indexed to inflation; and

WHEREAS, increased use of alternative fuels, which are not taxed at the same rate as gasoline, and greater fuel efficiency in many of today's vehicles -- which are necessary and desirable to support a more sustainable economy -- are, nonetheless, contributing to the erosion of the fuel tax revenues and the ability of the HTF to adequately fund transportation; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state governments are exploring options, such as tolling and/or selling public infrastructure to the private sector, in order to supplement traditional funding. These solutions, however, raise serious concerns about equity, access, inability to pay by lower-income users, and charges of "double taxation", and these solutions have very limited use; and

WHEREAS, enhanced cooperation between federal, state, and local governments is needed in the effort to improve transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, formation of regional or special transportation funding authorities with the ability to impose additional fees and taxes may be necessary,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports identifying equitable, viable and stable funding mechanisms for future roadway and transit infrastructure investment by:

- Urging Congress to (1) index the motor fuel tax equivalent to the annual inflation rate in the transportation sector beginning in 2007 and (2) minimize special exemptions from the fuel tax and diversion of HTF funds to fund other non-transportation infrastructure and programs.
- Explore new revenue sources that are based on the use of our roadways, such as annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- Implement strategies that would charge a higher rate for use of roadways during peak periods.
- Establish incentives for businesses and other organizations to implement flex time, encourage transit use by employees,

- establish off-peak deliveries and truck travel, set up vanpools and carpools, and encourage teleworking.
- Establish a funding mechanism that does not put an undue burden on the poor and elderly.
 - Establishing a special task force, work group, ad hoc committee - in cooperation with AASHTO and APTA - to analyze and monitor the trends in the funding sources and the needs at the federal, state and local levels; and to propose innovative mechanisms to generate new funding.

REDUCING TRAVEL DEMAND BY PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES

WHEREAS, consumers, employers, and public agencies need significant federal support to combat the impact of gas price increases and the continuing challenges of traffic congestion; and,

WHEREAS, transportation costs comprise the second largest expenditure within a household and the transportation sector consumes more than one quarter of the country's energy; and,

WHEREAS, increased gasoline prices will help to encourage commuters to change their travel behavior, so long as adequate alternatives exist; and,

WHEREAS, options and alternatives, such as carpooling, vanpooling, public transportation, and teleworking are available and provide significant cost savings and relief to the pain of rising gas prices, as well as helping the country reduce its dependence on oil; and,

WHEREAS, there has been significant focus by Congress on expanding energy capacity, but little or no attention focused on changing travel behavior or reducing demand; and,

WHEREAS, federal highway funding is focused largely on reducing congestion and increasing capacity, thereby inducing more trips by single-occupant vehicles, creating more congestion, and damaging air quality; and

WHEREAS, similar to the water and utilities sectors, managing transportation demand is a critical part of an efficiently operated and cost effective transportation system,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and Congress to enact legislation, create programs, and provide funding for transportation demand-side strategies that provide travelers and commuters with commuting options, such as walking, biking, carpooling, teleworking, and fast, reliable, and convenient public transportation, and reduce the demand for travel by single-occupancy vehicles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to provide cities with financial resources and tools to create, promote,

and expand carpool, vanpool, and telework programs, and substantially increase funding for bicycle facilities and public transportation systems.

**IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CUTS TO THE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) is the principal grant-in-aid program for our nation's airports; and

WHEREAS, the AIP is vital to providing airports with the federal funding necessary to build, improve, and maintain critical aviation infrastructure to meet forecasted capacity needs of in excess of one billion passengers by 2015; and

WHEREAS, in Vision 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, Congress authorized \$3.7 billion in federal funding for the AIP for fiscal year 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's budget proposes only \$2.75 billion in AIP funding for fiscal year 2007, nearly one billion dollars under the amount authorized by Congress, and \$765 million less than the amount Congress appropriated in fiscal year 2006, one of the largest program reductions in the fiscal year 2007 budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, this drastic reduction in AIP funding would adversely impact airports of all types and sizes: large, medium and small hub airports, as well as reliever and general aviation airports,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to fund the AIP at the authorized level for fiscal year 2007 of \$3.7 billion in order to meet the nation's aviation infrastructure and capacity needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Bush Administration to support an increased level of funding for the AIP to \$3.7 billion.

**URGING SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION'S PASSENGER SCREENER WORKFORCE AND
AN ALLOCATION OF SCREENERS TO REDUCE PASSENGER WAIT TIMES
AT BUSY COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORTS**

WHEREAS, Congress has capped the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) passenger security screening workforce at 45,000 full time equivalents (FTEs); and

WHEREAS, Congress in fiscal year 2006 appropriated funds that will allow TSA to maintain no more than approximately 43,000 FTEs; and

WHEREAS, TSA has allocated the number of security screeners for each airport based on a model that considers many factors, including the number of origin and destination passengers, the number of checkpoints, and the risk posed by a large congregation of passengers awaiting screening; and

WHEREAS, protracted wait times at large commercial airports inconvenience travelers, cause passengers to miss flights, and discourage some from traveling by air, resulting in more trips by automobile,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide sufficient funding in fiscal year 2007 to allow TSA to maintain a workforce of no less than 43,000 FTEs, thereby helping to avoid a significant increase in passenger wait times at many airports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on TSA to adjust the allocation of passenger security screeners as needed to reflect an airport's recent and expected near-term growth in passenger traffic, and to work with airports and airlines to adopt measures to increase the efficiency of passenger screening, allowing TSA to do as much or more with the same or fewer number of screeners.

**URGING INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION'S BAGGAGE AND CARGO SCREENING EXPLOSIVE DETECTION
SYSTEM PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the September 11 terror attacks, the federal government made an increased commitment to screen all airport checked baggage and increase the level of cargo inspections for explosives; and

WHEREAS, airport security is an interdependent network, and the security at any individual airport is dependent on the security at other airports; and

WHEREAS, in response, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has placed Explosive Detection Systems (EDS) and Explosive Trace Detection (EDT) in airports; and

WHEREAS, according to the Government Accountability Office, the TSA acknowledges that placing EDS systems in-line with the baggage systems is the most efficient and cost-effective use of limited resources, resulting in significant savings in personnel and worker compensation costs, and allowing the savings to cover the costs of installing EDS systems in-line in only a few years; and

WHEREAS, TSA has established two ways to reimburse airports for the costs of EDS in-line installation: a letter of intent (LOI) and an other transaction agreement (OTA); and

WHEREAS, in Vision 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, Congress authorized TSA to fund 90% of the in-line installation costs for large and medium hub airports and 95% for small and nonhub airports, and directed TSA to revise LOIs to provide for this reimbursement percentage; and

WHEREAS, TSA refused to revise any LOI, Congress in fiscal year 2005 and 2006 reduced the federal share to 75% for large and medium hub airports, and OMB continues to forbid TSA from entering into any additional LOI beyond the eight already granted because of funding constraints; and

WHEREAS, Congress has authorized \$650 million in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 in funding for the costs of installing EDS equipment (\$250 million from the Aviation Security Capital Fund and \$400 million from general appropriations), yet appropriated

only \$295 million in fiscal year 2006 and the Administration's budget proposes only \$250 million for fiscal year 2007; and

WHEREAS, the lack of funding will result in protracted delays of airport EDS projects, thereby delaying the efficiencies in security that will improve screening efficiency while also allowing for a reduction of TSA screeners needed to perform these functions, allowing them to be employed for passenger screening; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the TSA have yet to develop an adequate funding mechanism or program broadly to assist airport efforts to fund in-line EDS and cargo inspection facilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to provide funding for EDS in-line installation costs at the authorized level of \$650 million and not to disturb the authorized reimbursement levels provided in the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and TSA to develop effective, creative financing options that will accelerate the installation of efficient, cost-effective, in-line EDS equipment where appropriate, without imposing an underfunded mandate on airport sponsors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon TSA to revise LOIs as required by law and to use OTAs to fund EDS in-line installation projects at airports that did not receive an LOI.

**URGING SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR THE
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION WORKFORCE
TO ALLEVIATE CHRONIC DELAYS IN PROCESSING ARRIVING INTERNATIONAL
PASSENGERS**

WHEREAS, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees are responsible for processing the entry of arriving international passengers, both U.S. citizens and non-citizens, at ports of entry in the United States, including international airports in this country; and

WHEREAS, all arriving international passengers must undergo customs inspection and non-U.S. citizens must also undergo immigration processing; and

WHEREAS, many lanes are not staffed during peak periods, and the general lack of CBP staffing at many international airports results in processing delays of over one hour, after the passenger has endured an international flight of anywhere from one to ten hours or more; and

WHEREAS, many international airports are expecting an increase in the number of international operations, which will result in even greater delays in processing; and

WHEREAS, at the April 2006 Global Travel & Tourism Summit three Administration Cabinet Members pledged to address the challenges faced by international tourists coming to the United States, and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stated that the United States loses "a lot of ground if people come to this country and have a bad experience;" and

WHEREAS, the bad experience of waiting for over an hour to go through customs and/or immigration processing may sour foreigners on returning to visit the U.S., discourage U.S. citizens from traveling internationally, and may discourage an airline from adding additional international operations at particular international airports,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that sufficient funds are provided in fiscal year 2007 to increase the CBP workforce to alleviate the chronic delays in processing arriving international passengers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on DHS and CBP to develop a program to address this chronic delay problem, and to explore cross-training of employees of various DHS components to be able to perform CBP responsibilities to cover peak arrival periods at certain airports.

**INCREASING FEDERAL ROLE IN THE ASSESSMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING
OF CRITICAL NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, every U.S. city plays a vital role in our nation's economy, serving as centers of transportation, technology, and education for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. will not experience a first-class economy without a first-class infrastructure and the critical role that cities play in the national economy suggests that local infrastructure needs should be a national issue of priority; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2005 Urban Mobility Report, gridlock, decaying roads and bridges, and deteriorating transportation systems are costing the U.S. economy billions in lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in infrastructure, as a percentage of federal spending, continues to decline creating a substantial funding void for major infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, federal agencies continue to hand down mandates related to the development, operation, and maintenance of major infrastructure projects to state and local governments but fail to provide the funding necessary to achieve these mandates; and

WHEREAS, the nation's infrastructure was graded by the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the average grade was "D," or poor, for all infrastructure including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, security, solid waste, transit, and wastewater; and

WHEREAS, estimates to simply *maintain* the current condition of our public infrastructure exceeds existing revenue streams at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in the last decade at the federal, state and local level to better manage our public infrastructure, this progress has generally been in the form of sporadic, stop-gap efforts and is not reflective of the broader, large-scale investment needed for operations, maintenance, and improvement of our public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. economy and the quality of life for many Americans rests on this nation's network of critical infrastructure, and to allow our major public infrastructure to

deteriorate is to allow our economy to fail and to invite a national crisis,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to immediately address the country's infrastructure financing gap through short-term measures such as expanding the use of flexible tolling provisions and extending to all infrastructure projects those federal policy options that enable public-private partnerships and stimulate greater investment by the private sector, such as Private Activity Bonds, as well as longer-term strategies for the future such as the development of a more progressive alternative transportation funding system like Mileage/Weight-Based Revenue systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to make our nation's critical infrastructure a top funding priority so as to ensure that all infrastructure of regional and national significance (including aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, public parks and recreation, rail, roads, schools, security, solid waste, transit, and wastewater) receives adequate federal funding, as a supplement to state and local funds, for ongoing maintenance and continued improvement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress recognize the critical role cities play in the national economy by enacting legislation that will both reverse the decline in the federal share of infrastructure financing and require full federal funding of federally-imposed mandates on state and local infrastructure projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation that will require federal agencies to systematically report and update critical infrastructure needs so that decision-makers at all levels of government can prepare to respond to immediate, short-term and long-term infrastructure demands and strategically plan for the requisite funding of those projects and future financing needs.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation that will require federal agencies to systematically report and update critical infrastructure needs so that decision-makers at all levels of government can prepare to respond to immediate, short-term and long-term infrastructure demands and strategically plan for the requisite funding of those projects and future financing needs.

REVITALIZING CITIES THROUGH EMINENT DOMAIN

WHEREAS, eminent domain is a fundamental and necessary power of government; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of eminent domain is to allow governments to undertake projects that benefit the whole community, while compensating property owners for the value of their property; and

WHEREAS, eminent domain can be a critically important tool for promoting sensible land use, revitalizing distressed communities, cleaning up polluted land, building new infrastructure, and alleviating the problems of unemployment and economic distress; and

WHEREAS, cities cannot address the issues of dilapidated and dangerous housing, overcrowding, crime, and neighborhood renewal by simply constructing train stations, roads, and parks; and

WHEREAS, economic development, which provides jobs, hope and opportunity to communities, is a fundamental public purpose of local governments; and

WHEREAS, absent appropriate sites, economic development will not happen in the places that desperately need it; and

WHEREAS, one of the biggest obstacles to the revitalization of our metropolitan areas, which include center cities and older inner-ring suburbs where more than 80 percent of the nation's population resides, is the difficulty of assembling parcels of land of sufficient size to allow for new economic development; and

WHEREAS, in situations of fragmented ownership, eminent domain is necessary to assemble parcels and move critical projects forward; and

WHEREAS, governments do not lightly use the power of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, many state and local laws provide protections to individuals regarding the use of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, there are already adequate fiscal, political and legal checks that prevent governments from arbitrarily exercising their eminent powers; and

WHEREAS, the concept of requiring participation by condemnees in projects involving eminent domain is practically unworkable; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are already regulated by the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act where federal funds are involved, to provide relocation services and benefits which include: 1) Assistance in finding a comparable dwelling unit; 2) a replacement housing payment (difference between comparable unit cost and just compensation for property being acquired through eminent domain); 3) all closing costs associated with the purchase of the comparable unit; 4) all utility reconnecting costs; and 5) actual moving costs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo v. New London* upheld the constitutional authority of state and local governments to use eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, the *Kelo* case has resulted in the examination of the use of eminent domain at local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation providing for a study by the Government Accountability Office on the use of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, while sometimes projects that involve eminent domain use federal funds, most times the projects do not have any federal involvement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that any federal legislation enacted on eminent domain must allow eminent domain to be used to construct affordable housing, hospitals, educational institutions and public infrastructure, including highways, streets, bridges, water supply facilities, waste water treatment plants, and recycling facilities as well as the revitalization and development of brownfields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that any federal legislation must allow the use of eminent domain for economic development to create or retain jobs and revitalize communities (a) in redevelopment areas identified as blighted areas or similar statutorily-created redevelopment project areas, which include areas that are unsafe, inadequate, unsanitary, deteriorated, dilapidated, vacant, and/or violent to the point where a threat to human health and safety may be

present; and (b) in supporting neighborhood revitalization projects that are sponsored by community-based development organizations or faith-based institutions that provide goods, services or employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that any federal legislation must not preempt, but must respect, the state and local judicial and political processes for resolving legal disputes arising from community zoning and land use regulation and require claimants under the Takings Clause of the U.S. Constitution to pursue available state compensation procedures before filing a federal Takings claim in federal court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress, if national legislation is enacted, to continue to allow local government to use eminent domain to construct:

- affordable housing;
- public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, streets, highways, pedestrian walkways and streetscapes;
- wastewater treatment facilities, recycling facilities and brownfields rehabilitation and development;
- common-carrier functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government;
- arenas or stadiums that serve the general public;
- public utility functions, including use for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale;
- educational institutions, including schools, universities, libraries, museums and cultural institutions; and
- hospitals.

**URGING OPPOSITION TO MANDATORY STATE COLLECTION AND
ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATION TAXES IN FEDERAL
STREAMLINED SALES TAX SIMPLIFICATION PROPOSALS**

WHEREAS, separate bills (S. 2152 and S. 2153) were introduced last November to simplify the collection and administration of sales and use taxes at the state and local level; and

WHEREAS, under two previous Supreme Court rulings state and local governments are prohibited from requiring out-of-state retailers to collect their taxes because at the time of the rulings, in 1967 and again in 1992, the Court determined it would have been too complicated and costly to require them to keep up with 7,000 different tax systems; and

WHEREAS, because of this prohibition, state and local governments across the nation have not been successful in collecting taxes on remote sales, and as a result they lost an estimated \$15.5 billion in 2003 and will lose between \$22.5 billion and \$33.7 billion by 2008 according to a study by the University of Tennessee Business and Economic Research Center; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed legislation, state and local governments would be granted authority to require out-of-state retailers to collect their sales and use taxes once they comply with simplification standards outlined in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement which was ratified by participating states on November 12, 2002 and became effective on October 3, 2005; and

WHEREAS, a total of 34 states and the District of Columbia have combined forces to simplify state and local taxes in accordance with these standards and of that total 13 states have already passed legislation bringing their tax systems in to full compliance with the standards while six others have adopted legislation that brings their tax systems mostly in to compliance; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed legislation once ten states with a population equal to twenty percent of the total population of all states imposing a sales tax pass legislation fully complying with the standards in the Agreement, they will be granted authority to require out-of-state retailers to collect and remit sales and use taxes on remote sales; and

WHEREAS, complying with the simplification standards on the one hand could assist state and local governments in collecting revenue from remote sales, but on the other hand local governments could lose telecommunications revenue if provisions of the bill are implemented that would require states to collect and administer local telecommunication taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, by preempting local control over local telecommunications taxes, the proposed legislation would open the door to efforts by some in the telecom industry who are aggressively pushing for an all out ban on local telecommunications taxes and local rights-of-way fees; and

WHEREAS, mayors have been generally supportive of the simplifications provisions of the bill relative to sales and use taxes but are concerned about provisions in the bill that would put collection and administrative responsibilities for local telephone taxes, local franchise fees, local rights-of-way fees and other telecommunications taxes under state control,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors expresses its support to states involved in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax process who are working with all stakeholders to simplify the collection and administration of sales and use taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors extends our appreciation to Senators Michael Enzi and Byron Dorgan for introducing legislation to grant state and local governments authority to require out-of-state retailers to collect state and local taxes on remote transactions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that the telecommunications provisions as currently drafted in S. 2152 and S. 2153 be dropped; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges members of Congress to oppose the inclusion of language in Streamlined Sales and Use Tax bills that would preempt local control of local telecommunication taxes and fees.

**IRS COLLECTION OF PAST-DUE LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TAX OBLIGATIONS**

WHEREAS, local governments often find it difficult to collect past-due taxes; and

WHEREAS, past-due taxes place a fiscal strain on local government finances and unfairly burden members of the community who pay their local taxes promptly; and

WHEREAS, 36 states and the District of Columbia participate in the Federal Offset Tax Program; and

WHEREAS, under the Federal Offset Tax Program the Internal Revenue Service offsets individual tax refunds by the amount the individual owes state government in past-due income taxes and child support obligations and sends those funds to the appropriate state government; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Offset Tax Program largely operates electronically with a minimum of paperwork and administrative burden; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Offset Tax Program requires the states to certify that income tax and child support payments are past due and gives substantial advance notice to an affected taxpayer and also includes other procedural protections for individuals; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Michael Turner (R-OH), Tom Davis (R-VA) and James Moran (D-VA) have introduced bipartisan legislation (HR 3498) that would expand the Federal Offset Tax Program to authorize the Internal Revenue Service to reduce tax refunds due an individual taxpayer by the amount of past-due legally enforceable tax obligations the taxpayer owes to a local government; and

WHEREAS, under HR 3498 the Federal Offset Tax Program would continue to be operated in the same efficient manner by the Internal Revenue Service and the state taxing authorities and would not create any major new administrative burdens; and

WHEREAS, under HR 3498 taxpayers would continue to enjoy the same protections they have under the current Federal Offset Tax Program; and

WHEREAS, HR 3498 would allow for the more efficient collection of past-due local taxes and would help ensure that the burden of uncollected taxes does not unfairly fall on taxpayers who pay their local taxes promptly,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to quickly pass the expansion of the Federal offset Tax Programs as outlined in HR 3498.

**IN SUPPORT OF
FEDERAL TAX REFORM**

WHEREAS, more than 76 million American families and businesses spent more than six billion hours and approximately \$130 billion on tax preparation; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers spent about 26 hours to complete their tax returns - but still ended up paying about \$157 out of their pockets to professional tax preparers for assistance; and

WHEREAS, the current tax code is unfavorable to working and middle class families and in favor of those who can hire accountants and lawyers to reduce their tax liability; and

WHEREAS, cities are the economic engines of this country, and mayors are responsible for leading local and regional economic growth. Tax-exempt municipal bonds are central to this effort to make critical investments and provide municipal services; and

WHEREAS, tax incentives are important to city strategies to revitalize urban areas, stimulate business investment in communities, and create jobs for residents; however tax incentive efficacy is limited by complex and overlapping eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides working families that struggle to stay above the poverty line with an average, refundable tax credit of \$1,800 per year, and a single, consolidated credit modeled on the EITC could help more families who struggle to coordinate all of the existing child tax credits; and

WHEREAS, a new Family Tax Credit (FTC) would provide working families with one dollar of a refundable tax credit for every two dollars earned. The maximum credit would be \$3,500 for a family with one child, \$5,200 for a family with two children, and \$7,000 for a family with three or more children; and

WHEREAS, families and students who turn to federal tax incentives for college have five different tax breaks to navigate, multiple definitions of qualifying education expenses, and convoluted income eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, a new consolidated College Tax Credit (CTC), replacing the Hope Scholarship, Lifetime Learning Credit, higher education deduction, and employer-provided education benefits and

qualified tuition reductions, would provide any student attending an accredited college or university, more than half time, with a \$3,000 refundable credit covering tuition and fees for four years of undergraduate study and up to two years of graduate school; and

WHEREAS, savings incentives, such as preferential tax treatment of IRAs and 401(k)s, do not help low- and moderate-income families, and nearly two-thirds of the benefits go to the top 20 percent of income earners; and

WHEREAS, renewing the Saver's Credit, would provide matching contributions to retirement plans of up to 50 percent for families earning \$50,000 or less per year, up to a maximum of \$1,000; and

WHEREAS, home ownership is an important part of the "American Dream", but the Home Mortgage Deduction incentive - allowing taxpayers to deduct interest payments made on home mortgages of up to \$1 million - is only available to those who itemize their federal taxes excluding millions of working and middle class families who do not itemize; and

WHEREAS, the IRS already has the information for tens of millions of taxpayers with wage income and minimal interests earnings to complete a first draft of their tax return and to determine their initial eligibility for certain tax benefits; and

WHEREAS, employers and banks already report earnings information directly to the IRS, calculating a taxpayer's liability or refund through a "ReadyReturn" form is viable and could dramatically simplify the tax compliance process for the more than two-thirds of Americans who do not itemize their taxes; and

WHEREAS, the nation's tax system consists of a network of approximately 10,000 local, state, and federal tax systems, where the federal income tax is the backbone of this intertwined system one of the most important features is the deductibility of state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, changing the federal income tax system has implications for the local, state and federal tax systems, the elimination or any significant change in the deductibility of state and local taxes at the federal level will have major fiscal and administrative consequences at the state and local level - amounting to a significant tax increase for our citizens and

weakening state and local governments' capacity to finance vital public services; and

WHEREAS, Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) increasingly whittles at the value of state and local tax deductibility and, if unaddressed, threatens to increase taxes for millions of middle income families over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, the long-term costs of federal tax reform should not be passed on to the next generation and should be paid for now; and

WHEREAS, recommended reforms are approximately 85 percent funded in the current tax code; and

WHEREAS, new tax incentives to help working families raise their children, buy a home, and save for both college and retirement requires an estimated \$450 billion over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the government could raise more than \$45 billion over the next 10 years by closing the Bermuda tax loophole and eliminating tax breaks for companies that move their headquarters overseas; and

WHEREAS, \$155 billion over the next 10 years could be saved by enacting measured reforms to the federal estate tax, instead of completely repealing it; and

WHEREAS, at least \$250 billion could be saved by tightening up the rules on how capital gains and losses are reported; and

WHEREAS, recommended tax reforms would lower taxes and provide a simpler tax system for working families,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the federal tax code

- to preserve and expand cities' access to the tax-exempt bond market;
- consolidate tax incentives into a single Jobs Tax Credit (JTC), speed their issuance, and grant cities the flexibility to target these credits to businesses, neighborhoods, or difficult-to-employ populations;
- renew the R&D tax credit and add a five percent "bonus," on top of the current 20 percent credit, for business-sponsored incremental research at

universities or in partnership with our federal research laboratories;

- support legislation combining the EITC, the Child and Dependent Care Credit (CDCC), and the Child Credit (CC) into a unified Family Tax Credit (FTC);
- establish a consolidated College Tax Credit (CTC);
- renew the Saver's Credit;
- move the Home Mortgage Deduction "above the line" making it available to individuals who do not itemize their taxes;
- initiate a "ReadyReturn" tax liability report system;
- continue state and local tax deductibility;
- amend the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT);
- amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act to cover any changes in federal tax law that negatively impact state and local revenues.

FEDERAL CONSENT DECREE FAIRNESS ACT

WHEREAS, consent decrees are important tools of federalism that help ensure that no state or local government is above the law; and

WHEREAS, consent decrees can help save enormous court costs and prevent damaging legal battles; and

WHEREAS, in a growing number of cases involving state and local governments across the nation, consent decrees have become a means by which federal judges make policy decisions that are best left in the hands of state and local officials; and

WHEREAS, consent decrees can remain in place for decades and lock in policies that were agreed to by state and local officials who are no longer in office; and

WHEREAS, existing procedures discourage current state and local officials from trying to modify or terminate a consent decree, even where such a decree no longer represents the best approach for local communities; and

WHEREAS, in one recent example, reforms to Tennessee's Medicaid program - proposed by the governor and approved by the legislature in 2004 - were blocked in federal court because they ran afoul of consent decrees dating back to 1979, and only some of the reforms were permitted to go forward, resulting in increased costs for taxpayers and the loss of coverage for many Medicaid enrollees; and

WHEREAS, in another example, consent decrees have forced the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority to spend 47 percent of its budget on buses, leaving just over half the budget to pay for the county's remaining transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, in a further example, special education in New York City has been governed by a consent decree since 1979, thwarting efforts by successive mayors and school chancellors to implement new reforms and updated policies for implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, in *Frew v. Hawkins*, 540 U.S. 431 (2004), the U.S. Supreme Court - while upholding the consent decree in question - expressed its concern that consent decrees may "improperly deprive future officials of their designated legislative and

executive powers," which may lead to "federal court oversight of state programs for long periods of time even absent an ongoing violation of federal law."; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, now pending in Congress, is bipartisan legislation that addresses weaknesses in the current system while preserving consent decrees as a valuable mechanism for settling legal disputes; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act provides a three-pronged approach to address these weaknesses by: (1) allowing a state or local government to file a motion in federal court to modify or vacate a consent decree after four years or after the end of the term of the state or local official who provided consent, whichever comes sooner; and (2) after a motion to modify or vacate a consent decree has been filed, shifting the burden of proof to the plaintiffs to demonstrate why management of a program should continue to rest with the court rather than be returned to hands of elected officials; and (3) setting out a series of findings to provide guidance to federal courts for future consent decrees, based on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Frew*; and

WHEREAS, this legislation goes to the very heart of democracy, in that citizens are entitled to elect mayors and other leaders to make policy decisions and do the business of governing, and federal judges are neither public policy experts nor accountable to the electorate for the choices they make,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the goals of the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, and urges Congress to pass legislation that would ensure that federal consent decrees are narrowly drafted, limited in duration, and respectful of state and local interests and policy judgments.

ELIMINATING THE IRS'S PAYROLL TAX BURDEN ON VOLUNTEER MUNICIPAL BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

WHEREAS, the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service interprets federal law to require that volunteer municipal board and commission members who receive minimal stipends to be municipal employees and therefore subject to payroll taxes; and

WHEREAS, volunteers on municipal boards and commissions throughout this nation selflessly give of their time and expertise on such disparate subjects as animal control to zoning; and

WHEREAS, decreased citizen participation, as expressed through low voter turnout and general voter apathy, in government at all levels is a growing plague on the health of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, any government functions best when it is truly representative of citizenry; and

WHEREAS, local governments have few inducements to offer citizens for their volunteer efforts; and

WHEREAS, taxing token stipends for board and commission members serves as a further discouragement of citizen participation, generates no significant revenue, and creates an additional bureaucratic burden for local governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors does hereby request that Congress enact legislation to repeal the legal requirement that volunteer municipal board and commission members be treated as employees when their stipends total less than seventy-five dollars per month and further calls upon fellow mayors to seek the assistance of their respective Congressional delegations' support in removing this undue burden upon those engaged in the fundamental work of our democratic republic.

**URGING SUPPORT FOR THE *GO DIRECT* PROGRAM
TO PROMOTE DIRECT DEPOSIT OF SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Bank initiated *Go Direct* in the fall of 2005, a national campaign designed to motivate more Americans to select direct deposit for their federal benefit payments such as Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); and

WHEREAS, many Americans report lost or stolen benefit checks each year, which underscores the fact that people are 30 times more likely to have a problem with a Treasury Department check than with direct deposit; and

WHEREAS, last year alone the Treasury Department processed a half million cases of people reporting problems with checks, including 65,000 checks (with an estimated value of \$60 million) that were forged; and

WHEREAS, because money is deposited directly into a person's account, direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks; and

WHEREAS, according to the Treasury Department direct deposit has the potential of saving taxpayers \$120 million annually if the 150 million benefit checks issued each year were converted to direct deposit; and almost all of the savings would remain in the Social Security Trust Fund - a benefit to all Americans for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the *Go Direct* campaign reaches out to citizens through organizations and people they know and trust, such as elected officials, financial institutions and community-based groups to inform them about the benefits of direct deposit; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is pleased to partner with the U.S. Treasury Department, Federal Reserve Bank and numerous organizations to encourage people to switch to direct deposit; and

WHEREAS, many mayors are already participating in the *Go Direct* campaign including mayors from the cities of Alexandria (VA), Baton Rouge, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dallas, Greenwood, Houston, Raleigh, Richmond, St. Louis, San Antonio, San Francisco and Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the campaign makes it easy for mayors to participate by offering a complete electronic toolkit for conducting public outreach and raising awareness of the benefits of direct deposit,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors nation-wide to participate in the *Go Direct* program and actively encourage citizens to switch to direct deposit.

THE MAYORS NATIONAL DOLLAR WISE CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Council for the New American City recognizes that financial illiteracy is a national problem that needs to be addressed, the Mayors National Dollar Wise Campaign was established in 2004 to educate citizens about financial literacy; and

WHEREAS, over 80 cities currently participate in the Dollar Wise Campaign; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2006, the week of September 25-30 has been declared Dollar Wise Week for the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign; and

WHEREAS, during Dollar Wise Week, mayors are encouraged to hold classes, community financial education forums, and other activities to promote and publicize their efforts to educate city residents about personal financial issues; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission to improve the financial literacy and education of citizens through the development of a national strategy to promote financial literacy education; and

WHEREAS, over 1.5 million families and individuals filed for bankruptcy in 2004; and the level of personal bankruptcy filings in the nation increased over 535 percent between 1980 and 2002, and various states have experienced increased bankruptcies that are two and three times the national increase; and

WHEREAS, a 2004 survey by the JumpStart Coalition revealed that only 52.4% of high school seniors understand basic financial concepts; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Reserve Board, at least 10 million people in the United States are unbanked; and

WHEREAS, credit card debt has tripled since 1989, growing to nearly \$800 billion in 2006, and one third of consumers carry their balances over from month to month which leads to financial distress; and as long as credit is readily available and credit education is scarce, the problem will continue to compound; and

WHEREAS, education provides the skills necessary to succeed and empowers citizens to take charge of their financial futures to secure their own well being and that of their families; and

WHEREAS, savings give families financial stability, and teaching children how to save at a young age can help them become financially responsible adults; and

WHEREAS, alongside business investors, the most important investors in American cities are families and individuals who choose to buy a home or start their own business within the city, and in order to position themselves as investors, residents must be financially literate and maintain good credit histories,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors National Dollar Wi\$e Campaign continue to work with mayors to educate citizens about personal financial issues, and encourage cities to develop local financial education campaigns that involve participation by local non-profit groups, the financial sector, the business community and educational organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mayors across the country be encouraged to support Dollar Wi\$e Week from September 25-30 by holding events and forums to promote financial education in their cities, and to highlight local financial education "best practices."

**EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE DISPROPORTIONATE EFFECT SARBANES-
OXLEY HAS ON SMALL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, in 2002, Congress enacted the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to address the malfeasance in companies throughout the country,

WHEREAS, senior managers of companies of all sizes must continue to improve their financial reporting and accountability,

WHEREAS, the law does not make a distinction between businesses of varying sizes and businesses of all sizes are faced with the same obligations,

WHEREAS, compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley law will be extremely costly for all businesses, but especially so for small businesses, in the amount of tens of billions of dollars annually,

WHEREAS, such high costs are especially difficult for small businesses,

WHEREAS, it will be extremely challenging for small businesses to comply with Sarbanes-Oxley and still be competitive in today's marketplace,

WHEREAS, many believe that the high costs of Sarbanes-Oxley compliance for small businesses has driven and will continue to drive many companies to make initial public offerings overseas,

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office and a Securities and Exchange Commission-created panel have issued reports dealing with the disproportionate burden the Sarbanes-Oxley Act has had on small businesses,

WHEREAS, the SEC is currently considering ways of reducing this added burden on small businesses, including delaying implementation of some sections,

WHEREAS, Members of Congress have also addressed the issue by introducing legislation that would exempt smaller companies from Section 404 requirements,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, at the same time that companies continue to improve their financial accountability, Mayors work with the SEC and Congress to prevent the Sarbanes-Oxley Act from overwhelming small businesses,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, if Congress passes any Sarbanes-Oxley related legislation, that it include provisions that do not disproportionately affect small businesses.

**THE HONORABLE BEVERLY O'NEILL
MAYOR OF LONG BEACH
PRESIDENT, THE U. S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, 2005-2006**

WHEREAS, Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach has served as President of The United States Conference of Mayors from June 2005 until June 2006; and

WHEREAS, guided by the powerful theme of her Presidency – “Cities for a Strong America” – the Conference of Mayors has addressed the nation’s most immediate and pressing challenges—transportation, gangs, energy, water, poverty -- and has also courageously faced the tragic and unexpected challenges of Hurricane Katrina, not only for the mayors and people directly in Katrina’s path but for the whole nation; and

WHEREAS, under Mayor O'Neill’s leadership, the Conference of Mayors convened:

- A Water Summit, to address water supply and infrastructure needs;
- A Transportation Summit, which brought together mayors and key public and private officials to discuss major transportation challenges;
- A National Summit on Gangs to discuss how cities can control this growing problem; and
- An Energy Summit to provide ways to protect cities from skyrocketing fuel costs as well as future energy options, green buildings, and alternative-fuel vehicles; and

WHEREAS, soon after Hurricane Katrina--the most destructive natural disaster this nation has ever experienced--hit New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana, and the Alabama and Mississippi Gulf Coast, Mayor Beverly O'Neill:

- Went to the cities of Alabama and Mississippi, where she pledged the Conference of Mayors’ support of the nation’s cities to help the stricken Gulf Coast cities rebuild;
- Led the first meeting of mayors of the impacted Mississippi region;
- Helped convene the first meeting of the New Orleans Mayor and City Council;
- Brought national attention to the human disaster and institutionalized poverty that Katrina had unmasked, not only in New Orleans but throughout the nation; and
- Developed continuing assistance to this area through the Conference’s Mayors’ Institute on City Design and through the U.S. Conference of Mayors-National Conference of Black Mayors’ “Adopt a Community Program;” and

WHEREAS, Mayor O'Neill created a Poverty Task Force, led by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, which has culminated in a strong action plan presented in Las Vegas at the 74th Annual Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, President O’Neill has continued to lead the efforts to save the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, President O’Neill, mayor of the fifth largest port in the world, has continued the international outreach of the Conference of Mayors by

- Leading a mayors’ delegation to China for the Fourth Sino-U.S. Mayors Summit in October 2005, nurturing the Conference’s cooperative relationship with the China Association of Cities, and hosting a China Association of Mayors delegation, led by Beijing Mayor Wang Qishan, at this 74th Annual Conference of Mayors, in which plans for the next Summit were made;
- Leading the Conference of Mayors delegation to Poland, where the delegation met with the President of Poland, the Mayor of Warsaw, other Polish officials, and with Conference of Mayors Past President Victor Ashe, now U.S. Ambassador to Poland, and
- Traveling to Hiroshima to participate in ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima; and

WHEREAS, Mayor O’Neill has served three terms as Mayor of Long Beach, her tenure marked by the renaissance of the city, in which it was transformed from decline into a diversified mix of international trade, tourism, emerging technologies, and expanding retail. An important contributing factor to this success was Mayor O’Neill’s ability to bring varied constituencies of the city together to work for the city’s rebirth; and

WHEREAS, Mayor O’Neill’s experience and education began in the Long Beach Day Nursery, and continued through the Long Beach public school system to California State University in Long Beach, where she earned her college degree. She then earned her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California and pursued post-graduate studies at the University of Vienna; and

WHEREAS, before becoming Long Beach Mayor in 1994, Dr. O’Neill spent a 31-year career at Long Beach City College, beginning as a music instructor and women’s advisor, and culminating in being named President; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments have directly contributed to her successful tenure as President in which she further strengthened the role of the Conference of Mayors as an important advocate and force for the cities of this nation,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors expresses its deep appreciation to our President, Mayor Beverly O’Neill of Long Beach, for her magnificent service to this organization, and for her dedication, intellect, and vision, which led to so many significant new initiatives during this past year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors, the Mayors of the United States, the staff of the Conference of Mayors, warmly salute you

for your brilliant leadership in creating and pursuing an aggressive agenda that will make each of us, our cities, and our nation stronger for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after a year of having had the privilege of working with you as our President, we all now truly understand why your favorite hymn is “Amazing Grace,” because every one of us can testify that, just as you sing this hymn in a beautiful, professionally trained voice, you demonstrate amazing grace, beauty, and professionalism in all your relationships, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all mayors both assembled here and those throughout the country, the Conference of Mayors staff, and all other participants extend our good wishes for a productive and very happy next chapter in your life, both to you and your family, and once again, Mayor O’Neill, we thank you with love for your contribution to mayors, cities, and our nation!

**MAYOR OSCAR B. GOODMAN
MAYOR OF LAS VEGAS
EXUBERANT HOST OF THE 74TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

WHEREAS, Mayor Oscar B. Goodman has graciously and warmly opened the city of Las Vegas, “The Entertainment Capital of the World,” to the 74th Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, June 2-6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Goodman, the self-proclaimed “happiest mayor in the world,” has given the mayors of the United States, their spouses and staff, and all other conference participants the opportunity to participate in an outstanding array of events, both substantive and entertaining; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Goodman has carefully ensured that all events were designed to stimulate our minds, our palates, and our appreciation for the variety of activities in Las Vegas, including:

- The Welcome Reception at the Paris Hotel on Friday, June 2, with delicacies from the city’s great restaurants and entertainment;
- “Oscar’s Night,” on Saturday evening, June 3, with great food, delightful music, and incredible stars;
- The New Cirque du Soleil Production at the Mirage Resort on Sunday, June 4, where we enjoyed the premiere production of Cirque du Soleil’s celebration of the musical legacy of the Beatles, followed by the party at the Jet Nightclub and “Viva Las Vegas,” the Fremont Street Experience, topped by the Viva Las Vegas light canopy and the Special Ceremony honoring our President Beverly O’Neill and Mayor Michael A. Guido, our incoming president; and
- Our Monday evening, June 5, event of “Hot Tropical Nights,” with music and a show that magically transported us all to the mystical beaches of the Pacific and a great luau; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Goodman provided workshops on Monday afternoon, which gave participants the opportunity to visit the Regional Justice Center, the Darling Tennis Complex, and the World Market Center; and

WHEREAS, all attending the great 74th Annual Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors have had the opportunity to view firsthand Mayor Goodman’s successful downtown revitalization efforts -- a downtown urban village filled with small businesses, boutiques, fine restaurants, bookstores, and an art component where the public can have social dialogue and exchange ideas,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all participants in this great 74th Annual Conference of Mayors salute our world-class host Mayor Oscar B. Goodman – mayor extraordinaire, premier criminal defense attorney, and a man characterized by his no-nonsense, tell-it-like-it-is style, his very happy spirit, and his skilled revitalization of his city; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayors of the United States, joined by their families and staff, the Conference of Mayors staff, and all other conference participants, thank Mayor Goodman, his dedicated staff, volunteers from the City of Las Vegas, and everyone else who contributed to the great success of this great 74th Annual Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayors of the United States and all conference participants sincerely wish Mayor Goodman, his wife Carolyn, and his entire family continued happiness, success, and the very best of everything always, here in this great “City of Lights!” **Viva Las Vegas!**