



U.S. MAYOR

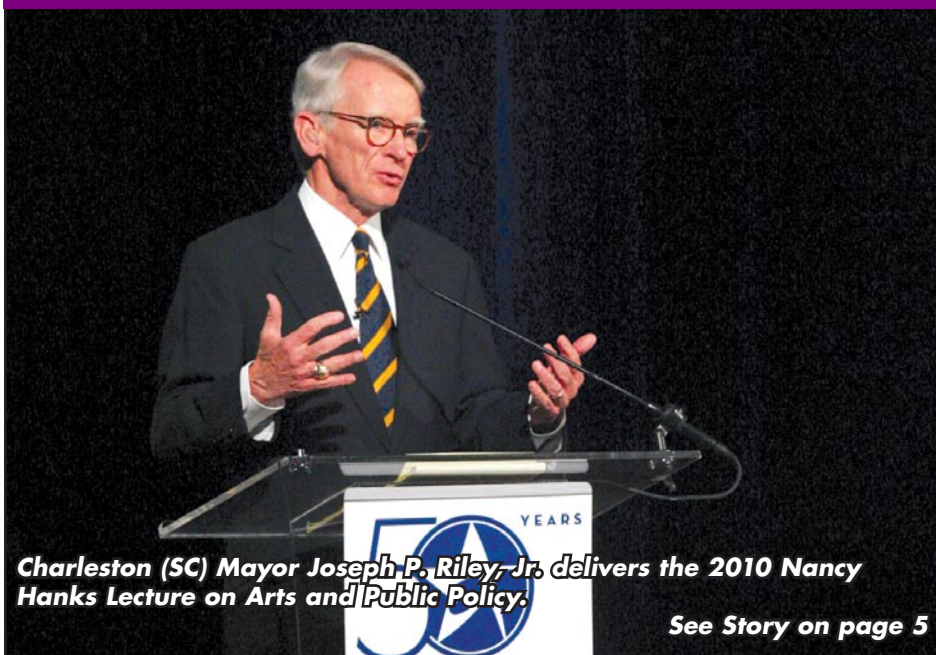
USCM Mourns Polish Tragedy 4

Economic Downturn Takes Toll on Transit 6

Public Safety Opposes Spectrum Auction 7

MAYORS PUSH ARTS ADVOCACY AGENDA

Photo by Andrew Snow



Charleston (SC) Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. delivers the 2010 Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy.

See Story on page 5



Speaker Nancy Pelosi, center, receives the 2010 Congressional Arts Leadership Award from Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch, left, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

See Story on page 5

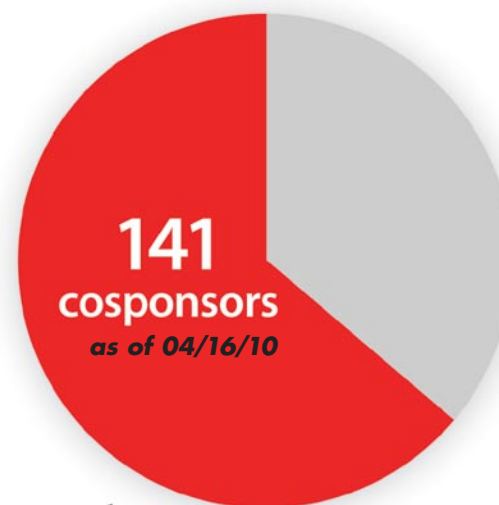
Photo by Andrew Snow

Mayors Discuss Partnership with Secretary Chu on Energy Block Grant See Story on page 3



Left to right, Gastonia (NC) Mayor Jennifer Stultz, Elizabeth (NJ) Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, USCM President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, USCM Past President Trenton (NJ) Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Santa Ana (CA) Mayor Miguel Pulido, Rep. Chaka Fattah (PA) and Hallandale Beach (FL) Mayor Joy Cooper.

Support Grows for Local Jobs for America Act (H.R. 4812)



216 Votes needed for Passage

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TO THE MAYOR FROM THE CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



April 16
Washington, DC

Poland

The plane crash in Smolensk, Russia killing President Lech and First Lady Maria Kaczynski is sad and unbelievable. The political, military, parliamentary, financial, and academic leaders are all gone. My immediate thought on April 10th was to call Ambassador Ashe, our past President and former Knoxville Mayor. He said it would be in this country as if Air Force One, loaded with our leadership, crashed and killed them all. He is right.

Poland's loss today devastates the Polish people because the place of the plane crash where the national elite died, Smolensk, Russia, is less than twenty miles from the Katyn Woods where starting on April 4, 1940, 22,000 of the Polish national elite were killed seventy years ago. These were not only soldiers. Doctors, clergy, professors, business leaders, the national elite leadership were shot individually by Russian secret police with a bullet in the back of the head. Thousands were shot on the edges of open pits and fell dead on top of their comrades.

Once again, the national elite leadership of the Polish people are taken away - instantly. The young and the old grieve together, but the old grieve deeper because their dynamic and precious leaders have been killed, twice now in the same place, only twelve miles apart in the month of April.

The other person who perished was Anna Walentynowicz. She was the "Rosa Parks" of the rebellion at the Gdansk shipyard in August of 1980. She was a crane operator,

and when she wasn't operating the crane she was handing out unofficial union newspapers. Her firing was the defining moment that jolted the workers to strike and lead the way to the legalization of Solidarity, the first trade union in the communist bloc. At the same time, Lech Kaczynski was a law student and advisor to Solidarity. When the communists cracked down with the martial law, both Ms. Walentynowicz and Mr. Kaczynski were jailed without a trial. Afterwards, throughout the 80's the two of them worked with thousands in underground resistance. In the new Democratic Poland Kaczynski would go on to become President and she was an outside critic.

Marjorie Castle, author of *Triggering Communist Collapse*, writes beautifully about how these two national figures boarded a small plane to perish together just a few miles from where others of national stature in life died seventy years ago. Castle writes "the irony can not be understated" and she goes further to point out that the lesser well-known names in the passenger manifest includes relatives and descendants of the Polish leaders who died seventy years earlier. These individuals spent decades working to reveal the nature of those deaths, which was methodical execution by Russian security police and not by the Nazis.

The methodical killing of 22,000 in April of 1940 and the plane crash with the national leaders in April of 2010, in the same place, only twelve miles apart, has caused former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski to call Smolensk and its environs "a cursed place." And Castle writes, "Smolensk will be a curse word for generations of Poles, yet unborn."

Our Connection

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a long friendship with the Polish people and with Polish local and national leaders. I was invited in 1989 to wit-

ness the first municipal elections since the 1930s. Thousands of local officials were elected. It was indeed a celebration of democracy. The Solidarity leader who became President of the new Poland, Lech Walesa, came to Washington after he was elected and Guy Smith and I met with him at the National Press Club.

In October of 1990 with our government's support, the Conference organized a delegation of mayors led by Conference President York Mayor Bill Althaus to conduct Mayors Leadership institutes in three cities Warsaw, Krakow, and Rzeszow. The conference fielded three additional delegations in 2004, 2006, and in 2007 and we held our first ever outside the USA. International Mayors Institute on City Design.

We are so proud of the distinguished service of former Conference President and former Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe, our former Polish Ambassador who led and accompanied our 2007 mayoral mission to the Presidential Palace to spend time with the late President Kaczynski, who

was the mayor of Warsaw before he was President. Mayors present will remember much of the enjoyable dialogue with him was about his being a mayor and it was so good to hear a President who understood the role of a mayor because he had lived it.

Polish allies, and observers, students and historians all know how strong the people of Poland are. They have survival in their DNA. They will grieve and have pain. They have an abiding faith that runs deep and it centers them. They have been persecuted, killed, destroyed, and almost annihilated throughout ancient and modern history. But they will survive and be even stronger. May God bless Poland during this most painful period as He gives them strength to be even stronger, remembering their great leaders and determined people. And soon - just as sure as the sun comes up tomorrow morning, they will wipe away their tears and march on. Then the heroic saga of Poland and her people, rich in history, with its ups and downs, goes on to fill the pages of the future.



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USCM President Kautz Leads Mayoral Discussion with Energy Secretary Chu on Stronger Partnership

Mayors, Rep. Fattah Cite EECBG as Starting Point

By Debra DeHaney-Howard and Kevin McCarty

Conference President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz led a Conference delegation in discussions with Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu on implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, explaining how this new initiative can underpin a stronger partnership between the Energy Department and the nation's mayors on shared energy and climate goals.

Joining Kautz in the delegation were Conference Past President Trenton (NJ) Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, Elizabeth (NJ) Mayor Christian Bollwage, Hallandale Beach (FL) Mayor Joy Cooper, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Santa Ana (CA) Mayor Miguel Pulido, Gastonia (NC) Mayor Jennifer Stultz and U.S. Representative Chaka Fattah (PA).

In her remarks, Kautz underscored the mayors' desire for a stronger partnership with Chu and his Department. "We are here seeking a stronger partnership with your department. We want to make our collaboration on the energy block program a success, especially since the mayors believe it's vital to our efforts to move forward on energy independence and climate protection," Kautz stated.

Citing the substantial work of the nation's mayors on energy and climate protection, including the more than 1,030 mayors who have signed the Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, Kautz said, "Funding the energy block grant through the Recovery Act was a good first step in helping cities meet their emission reduction goals, but it's important that the block grant has a sustained level of funding."

Following her remarks, each of the mayors shared their perspectives, praising President Obama for his support of initial EECBG funding in the recovery legislation. Each discussed the importance of direct funding of cities for their energy and climate initiatives, the need for sustained annual EECBG funding and ways to further successful implementation

of the program.

Joining the Conference delegation was Fattah, chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus and a key member of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, who explained that EECBG funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was "not a one shot deal but an initial down payment to cities."

Chu acknowledged that implementation of the energy block grant program started slowly but said through the work of his Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) team, lead by Assistant Secretary Cathy Zoi, block grant funds are moving out to cities faster and implementation has picked up speed, building momentum for the program. Chu explained how departmental officials were working to overcome legacy practices, such as its procurement rules, that complicated the startup of the EECBG program.



Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu

The mayors and departmental officials pledged to keep working together on ways to collaborate more effectively and to promote successes with the use of EECBG funds in cities.

Oklahoma!

Oklahoma City is the place to be for the 78th Annual Conference of Mayors June 11-15.

Registration is now open.



Contact Carol Edwards at 202-293-7330 or visit our website at usmayors.org.

Resolutions/Standing Committee Deadline

The deadline for member mayors to submit resolutions for action in Oklahoma City is:

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
at 5:00pm EDT**

This is the same deadline for standing committee membership changes.

Detailed information on this process has been sent to all member mayors. This and registration is also available online at: www.usmayors.org.

Statement from USCM CEO and Executive Director Cochran Mourning Loss of President Kaczynski, First Lady, National Leaders of Poland

On behalf of the nation's mayors and The United States Conference of Mayors, CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran offers heartfelt condolences to the Polish people and its leaders upon the tragic loss of President Lech Kaczynski.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a long friendship with the Polish people and with Polish local, regional, and national leaders. The more than ten million Americans of Polish ancestry living in the United States have contributed greatly to American cities and to our nation.

As an organization, the Conference of Mayors has had a cherished friendship with Poland over many years and especially since 1989. Conference CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran was invited to Poland as an election observer in June 1989, and gladly contributed to oversight of that important election, the first democratic election in Poland since the 1930's.

In October 1990, with U.S. government support, the Conference of Mayors organized a delegation of mayors to conduct Mayors Leadership Institutes with newly-elected Polish mayors in Warsaw, Krakow, and Rzeszow. The Conference fielded three additional delegations to Poland – in 2004, 2006, and in 2007. In 2007, the Conference held its historic first-ever – outside the United States – International Mayors Institute on City Design, bringing together

U.S. and Polish mayors to share best practices on design and to learn from each other.

The Conference of Mayors is proud of the distinguished service of Former Conference President and mayor of Knoxville (TN) Ambassador Victor Ashe, who was sworn in as Ambassador to Poland in June 2004 and served until February 2009. During the Conference of Mayors' 2007 Mayoral Mission to Poland, Ambassador Ashe accompanied the delegation to the Presidential Palace to meet with President Lech Kaczynski.

During that meeting, The U.S. Conference of Mayors delegation had a productive exchange with the President. His strong intellect and convictions, strength of character, and fierce patriotism were, as always, evident. The U.S. mayors also shared observations with the President about his having been a mayor himself, enjoying the President's remarks about his tenure as mayor of Warsaw, elected in 2002 and serving until 2005.

Poland is a country that produces giants of science, literature, music, politics, economics, and all other areas – Jozef Konrad Korzenlowski (Joseph Conrad), Ignacy Paderewski, Maria Skłodowska (Madame Curie), Fryderyk Chopin, Adam Mickiewicz, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II), and countless others.

Lech Kaczynski, teacher, thinker,



USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran paid a visit to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland April 12 in Washington (DC). On behalf of the nation's mayors and The U.S. Conference of Mayors, he conveyed the sorrow and grief felt at the loss of the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and national leaders. Cochran is writing a special message and signing the Book of Condolence. His statement in memory of President Kaczynski and offering condolences to the people of Poland is included in this issue of U.S. Mayor, and his column is also devoted to Poland's tragic loss.

scholar, visionary, organizer, public servant, patriot, mayor of Warsaw, and President of Poland, will be always respected remembered, and revered for his unflinching and dedicated service to his people, to his city, and to his country.

The United States Conference of

Mayors joins with Poland and the world in mourning the tragic loss of the national military, political, and economic leaders of Poland, of Maria Kaczynski, the First Lady of Poland, and of President Lech Kaczynski.

Newark Mayor Cory Booker Named Honorary Co-Chair for New Obesity Prevention Foundation

By Crystal Swann

The Partnership for a Healthier America recently announced key leaders in its effort to address the epidemic of childhood obesity. The organization named former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Newark (NJ) Mayor Cory Booker as Honorary Vice Chairs, and appointed a board of directors, including Dr. James R. Gavin III, who will serve as chairman. The Partnership is working to mobilize the private sector, thought leaders, media, and local communities to action and further the goals of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! movement to end childhood obesity within a generation. The First Lady

will serve as the foundation's Honorary Chairperson.

In their roles, Frist, Booker, Gavin, and the board of directors bring valuable leadership and experience to help drive the Partnership's activities and ensure the organization is effective in establishing measurable solutions for fighting obesity.

On a conference call with Frist, Booker, and Gavin, the First Lady welcomed the Partnership's new leaders. "Reversing the obesity trend has never been more important to the health of our nation and, to succeed, it will take the combined effort of public and private sectors," she said. "I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and resolve of the

honorary vice chairs and new board of directors, and I am confident that their leadership and experience will help us achieve our goal of solving childhood obesity within a generation."

Booker has worked tirelessly to promote healthy lifestyles and physical fitness for all Newark residents. "What we are seeing here on the local level, what we all know, is that this is an epidemic problem within our nation, and we see it in urban areas in particular. And it is very difficult, as I deal with many children every day, to see the impact that obesity has on self-esteem, self confidence, the kids' pride in themselves, kids' love of themselves..." Booker said. "I am excited to join in this effort and

help bring our nation together for this important cause."

The Partnership for a Healthier America is an independent, nonpartisan organization whose goal is to mobilize broad-based support for efforts to solve the child obesity challenge. Other members of the board of directors include Deborah DeHaas, Peter Dolan, S. Lawrence Kocot, Deborah Landesman, Janet Murguia, Vivian Riefberg, William L. Roper, and Antronette K. Yancey.

For more information on the Let's Move! campaign and the new foundation, go to letsmove.gov and www.aHealthierAmerica.org, respectively.

Charleston Mayor Riley Honored As Nancy Hanks Lecturer

By Tom McClimon

Conference of Mayors Past President Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. presented the 23rd Annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy on April 12 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington (DC).

Riley is the first mayor to be chosen for this honor, which has included such luminaries as Wynton Marsalis, William Safire, Ken Burns, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Robert Redford, David McCullough, and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. This lecture, presented in conjunction with National Arts Advocacy Day, draws an attendance of over 1000 people each year, including members of Congress and the Administration, leading arts advocates and senior corporate and government officials. The lecture is named in honor of Nancy Hanks, a former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts and former president of Americans for the Arts.

Riley was chosen for this honor by the Americans for the Arts in consultation with Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. The

evening's printed program described Riley as "...one of the most visionary and highly effective governmental leaders in America. A recipient this year of the prestigious National Medal of Arts by the White House, Mayor Riley has set the national standard for urban revitalization and been a model of civic support for the arts and culture." Riley is a founder of the Mayors Institute on City Design, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. Over 800 mayors have participated in its programs. The mayor was also recognized for his local leadership in revitalizing his city, especially the historic downtown business district and in the creation and growth of the Spoleto Festival USA.

Riley's remarks centered on the importance of urban design in the building and revitalization of America's cities. Using many of the slides, photographs and projects that he uses at a Mayors Institute on City Design, Riley encouraged each of the audience members to leave with a better understanding and awareness of the importance that city design plays in communities. "Each of us needs to insure that we leave our cities as better more livable places and



Photo by Andrew Snow

At left, Senator Mark Begich (AK) and Charleston (NC) Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

much of that is accomplished by good urban design," he stated. The mayor also called for a White House Summit on Arts and Cities.

Alaska US Senator Mark Begich, the former mayor of Anchorage, introduced

Riley. In 2004 as mayor, Begich participated in a Mayors Institute on City Design in Charleston. He introduced Riley as "a visionary and dedicated public servant that all of us do our best to emulate."

Congressional Arts Leadership Award Given to Speaker of the House Pelosi

By Jocelyn Bogen

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran in conjunction with Americans for the Arts President and CEO Bob L. Lynch presented the 2010 National Award for Congressional Arts Leadership to U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (CA) at the Congressional Arts Kick Off event during the April 13 Arts Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.

"Speaker Pelosi grew up in a family of mayors and thus understands the positive impact of the arts on cities. She truly deserves this award for her tireless work on placing the arts high on our national agenda," said Cochran. "Under her leadership, the 111th Congress is making great strides in advancing cultural policy and federal arts funding in the United States."

The National Award for Congressional Arts Leadership award recognizes distinguished public service on behalf of the arts. Pelosi received the Congressional Arts Leadership Award for her commitment to the arts as an outspoken defender of the creative industries in

her home of San Francisco and across the country.

"Our mayors understand their role in this legacy: working hand-in-hand with art directors in cities large and small; collaborating with Americans for the Arts, empowering local artists, and investing in local arts education initiatives; fighting – alongside Chairwoman Louise Slaughter – to expand NEA funding, even as opponents tried to reduce investment in the arts," said Pelosi. She was also recognized for her personal involvement and leadership in securing funding to save nonprofit arts jobs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"Speaker Pelosi is on the front lines in Congress as a champion for the arts, and her dedication can be demonstrated by her actions. Under her leadership, the House speaks up for all of the arts, and often against strong and vocal headwinds. The arts community thanks her for her perseverance," said Lynch.

The National Award for Congressional Arts Leadership is part of a series of Public Leadership in the Arts Awards given annually by Americans for the

Arts and the United States Conference of Mayors since 1997. Earlier this year at the Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, the 2010 Public Leadership in the Arts Awards were presented to Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and musician Michael Feinstein.

Philadelphia Mayor Nutter Testifies on Behalf of Arts Funding

Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter advocated on behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors for increased public funding for the arts and humanities at an arts hearing on April 13 hosted by Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior Rep. James P. Moran (VA). "The arts anchor

See PELOSI on page 6



Photo by Andrew Snow

At left, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Kyle MacLachlan.

New Survey Finds Economic Downturn Taking Severe Toll on Transit Systems

By Ron Thaniel

A survey released on March 31 by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) reaffirms The U.S. Conference of Mayors concern regarding the deteriorating state of the nation's transit systems.

According to the *Impacts of the Recession on Public Transportation Agencies* survey, transit systems are facing unprecedented funding challenges due to widespread declining state and local revenues.

The survey found the following:

- Revenue decline is widespread; with 90 percent of public transit agencies reporting flat or decreased local funding and 89 percent reporting flat or decreased state funding.
- Budgetary pressures are increasing with seven out of ten agencies (69

percent) projecting budget shortfalls in the coming year.

- Despite actions taken to address budgetary issues, 11 transit agencies project shortfalls in excess of 20 percent, and the cumulative projected shortfall among participating transit agencies is almost \$2 billion.
- More than eight out of ten transit agencies (84 percent) have cut service or raised fares or are considering either of those actions for the future, with nearly three in five agencies (59 percent) having already cut service or raised fares.
- Larger transit agencies were more likely to have a decrease in local, regional, or state funding, or fare revenue than other transit agencies. Among larger agencies, more than half (54 percent) have already increased fares, and two in three (66



percent) have cut service. Nearly all (97 percent) of larger agencies have cut service or raised fares or are considering doing so in the future.

- More than half of all transit agencies (53 percent) have eliminated positions and one in three (32 percent)

have laid off employees. Among larger transit agencies, the cuts in staff have been more common, with four out of five (80 percent) reducing positions and more than half (57 percent) laying off employees.

As reported in the April 5 edition of the *U.S. MAYOR*, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging that federal support for operations be restored for the large transit agencies to stabilize their services. As pointed out in the APTA survey, transit agencies serving urbanized areas of 200,000 or less in population, or serving rural areas may use a portion of their federal formula funding for operating assistance. Larger transit agencies cannot use their federal formula funding for operating and clearly are impacted the most.

The APTA survey is based on a survey of 151 transit agencies representing more than 80 percent of the nation's transit riders, and includes 19 of the top 25 agencies in terms of annual ridership.

The full survey can be viewed at www.apta.com.

Amtrak to Significantly Increase Speeds Above 150 on Northeast Corridor

Ridership on Record-Breaking Pace

By Ron Thaniel

Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman announced on March 19 that he is creating a new high-speed rail department to pursue opportunities to expand high-speed rail operations. The department will work on the planning and development activities that will

allow Amtrak to significantly increase operating speeds above 150 mph on the Northeast Corridor.

The announcement also states that the railroad "will also pursue partnerships with states and others in the passenger rail industry to develop federally-designated high-speed rail corridors such as the new projects moving forward in California and Florida."

In Florida, grants from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will go toward the creation of a new high-speed rail corridor that connects Tampa Bay, Orlando, Miami and other communities in central and south Flor-

ida. In California, funding from ARRA will go toward the construction of a new, electrically powered high-speed rail system of 800 miles serving major population centers from San Francisco and Sacramento to Los Angeles and San Diego with over 300 trains per day.

Ridership Increases Significantly

Amtrak announced on April 8 that it is on pace to break its annual ridership record carrying more than 13.6 million passengers between the first two quarters of FY 2010 (October 2009 - March 2010). This is an increase of 4.3 percent



increase over the same period the prior year and is about 100,000 more riders than the 13.5 million posted in FY 2008, which turned out to be Amtrak's best ridership year in history when the railroad carried 28.7 million passengers.

Comparing March 2010 to March 2009, ridership increased by 13.5 percent to a record 2.47 million passengers for the month. In addition, every single Amtrak route carried more passengers with several experiencing double-digit growth.

PELOSI from page 5

our neighborhoods. They are an integral part of our civic identity, a vital part of the fabric of Philadelphia community life, a key ingredient in the education and enrichment of our children, as well as a major segment of our economy," said Nutter. He asked the Subcommittee to

approve a budget of \$180 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the creation, preservation, and presentation of the arts in America. Nutter stated, "Philadelphia Arts organizations employ residents, and attract and retain residents, job seekers and businesses. On a regional basis, about 1,300 non-profit arts organizations put on more than 50,000 events annually. The regional non-profit cultural sector generates \$1.3

billion in annual expenditures, 40,000 jobs and \$158.5 million in State and local taxes."

Witnesses at the "Arts in Service of Communities" hearing included: NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman, Lynch, actors Kyle MacLachlan and Jeff Daniels, Ovation CEO Charles Segars, Brig. Gen. Nolen V. Bivens, and North Dakota arts leader Terri Aldrich.





State-Local Elected, Public Safety Officials Oppose Spectrum Auction in National Broadband Plan

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Opposition to the proposal in the National Broadband Plan to auction off the D block of the 700 MHz spectrum has been building among mayors, governors, police and fire chiefs, and other state and local officials and emergency responders and the organizations that represent them in Washington. The executive directors of the “Big 7” organizations, which represent state and local government, including Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, wrote on April 14 to the chairmen and ranking members of key House and Senate Committees and Subcommittees with jurisdiction over the Plan, urging them to “oppose a commercial auction of the 700 MHz D block and support legislation to reallocate the D block of spectrum

to public safety.” Organizations representing public safety officials, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum, also have called for reserving the D block for public safety.

The National Broadband Plan, released by the Federal Communications Commission March 16, proposes that the D block be auctioned to the highest bidder. The winner of the auction—expected to be a commercial carrier—could use the block for commercial applications, but also would be required to give public safety agencies priority access to the airwaves, particularly when they need it most to respond to major disasters or terrorist incidents.

The public safety community strongly

believes that it must be able to access a broadband network capable of providing reliable high speed applications (both data and voice), and that developing broadband technologies will require a minimum of 20 MHz of spectrum (the 10 MHz currently licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust and the adjacent 10 MHz in the D block) to be able to meet current and future public safety needs.

The Big 7 letter echoes the position of the public safety community. It explains that “for years, state and local first responders have sought to build a national interoperable communications network that allows real-time information sharing through high speed video and data,” and that “this requires an appropriate, dedicated band of spectrum that can accommodate the everyday needs of firefighters, police officers



and emergency medical personnel, as well as provide excess capacity during times of emergency.” It concludes that the 700 MHz D block is crucial to building the needed national system and expresses concern that providing “public safety roaming and priority access on other commercial 700 MHz networks for a fee...relies on untested technologies and new regulations that cannot ensure reliable and resilient communications capabilities to meet stringent public safety needs.”

The Big 7 letter to Congress is available at www.usmayors.org.

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By Ron Thaniel

The FCC announced on April 8 the agenda for implementing recommendations of the National Broadband Plan (Plan) that will involve more than 60 rulemakings and other notice-and-comment proceedings.

Of particular interests to The U.S. Conference of Mayors is that the Rights-of-Way Task Force is scheduled to begin work in July and in late Q2 or early Q3 2010.

After a successful local government lobbying campaign led by The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Plan, mandated by last year's economic stimulus package, did not include recommendations that would have limited local government rights-of-way authority or would have undermined local budgets by imposing a less than fair market value as the standard for fair and reasonable rights-of-way compensation. However, while the Conference of Mayors closely monitors this through ongoing discussions with FCC staff, the Plan, as referenced, does call for a Rights-of-Way Task Force with state, Tribal and local policymakers to craft guidelines for

FCC Announces Broadband Agenda: USCM Continuing to Meet with FCC on Rights-of-Way, Public Safety Concerns

rates, terms and conditions for access to public rights-of-way.

In addition, the Plan recommends the license of the D-block for commercial use, with options for public safety partnerships. The Conference of Mayors is opposed to a commercial auction of the 700 MHz D-block. The Conference, along with a coalition of state and local government associations, is supporting legislation to reallocate the D-block of spectrum for public safety. Of note, and to this point, the FCC will adopt an order and NPRM to pave the way for an auction of the 10 MHz of spectrum in the Upper 700 MHz D-block in the first half of 2011.

The 2010 Broadband Action Agenda focuses on four key goals:

Promote World-Leading Mobile Broadband Infrastructure, Innovation

- Seek to make an additional 500-megahertz (MHz) of spectrum available for mobile broadband within the next ten years.
- Increase opportunities for unlicensed devices and innovative spectrum access models.
- Expand incentives and mechanisms to reallocate or repurpose spectrum to higher-valued uses.

- Improve the transparency of spectrum allocation and utilization.

Accelerate Universal Broadband Access, Adoption, Advance National Purposes Such as Education, Health Care

- Carry out the transformation of the Universal Service Fund over the next ten years to support broadband service.
- Upgrade the E-rate program.
- Reform and upgrade the Rural Health Care Program.
- Create a Connect America Fund to extend broadband service to unserved areas of the nation and to ensure affordable broadband service in high-cost areas where support is necessary.
- Create a Mobility Fund to bring all states to a baseline level of "3G" (or better) wireless coverage.

Foster Competition, Maximize Consumer Benefits Across Broadband Ecosystem

- Enhance broadband and marketplace choices for small businesses and mobile providers by establishing consistent policy frameworks for special access and wholesale wireline competition.
- Improve consumer disclosures and

FCC data collection to better monitor and promote broadband competition.

- Fulfill mandate from Congress to ensure that video navigation devices, such as smart video devices, are available to consumers in the marketplace, spurring innovation in home video devices and driving increased broadband adoption and utilization.

Advance Robust, Secure Public Safety Communications Networks

- Facilitate the creation of a nationwide interoperable public safety wireless broadband network.
- Promote cybersecurity and protect critical communications infrastructure.
- Aid the transition to next-generation 911 and alerting systems.

For specific details, please see the 2010 Broadband Action Agenda at <http://www.broadband.gov/plan/broadband-action-agenda.html> and an implementation schedule at <http://www.broadband.gov/plan/chart-of-key-broadband-action-agenda-items.pdf>.

ABOUT THE MAYOR



Newark Mayor, Former Miami Mayor Tapped as Board of Directors of Multimillion Dollar Philanthropic Foundation

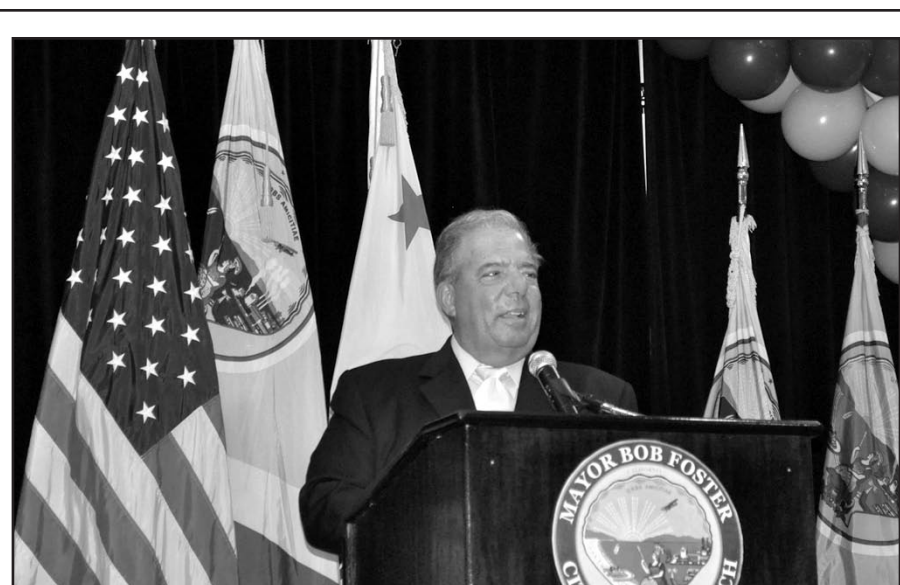
The Bloomberg Family Foundation expanded its philanthropy work into new territory when it announced the first Board of Directors on March 31, drawing on high-profile people in different fields from all over the nation.

Newark (NJ) Mayor **Cory Booker** and former Conference of Mayors President Former Miami Mayor **Manny**

Diaz are among the 19 hand-picked new and innovative board directors for the Foundation. In their roles, Booker and Diaz will bring their expertise to the Foundation in the areas of the arts, education, public health causes and innovation in government.

The Board, which also includes two former Governors, two former Senators, a former U.S. Secretary, artists and Bloomberg's daughters, will not run the organization but will serve in an advisory role and provide oversight.

The brand new board members will be paid stipends and some travel expenses, but Booker will serve as a volunteer because he is currently an elected official.



Long Beach (CA) Mayor Bob Foster was reelected to a second term on April 13 with almost 84 percent of the vote. In commenting on his victory, Foster said, "It is a safer, stronger, and cleaner city today than four years ago. Challenges have arisen and we've met them. We've dealt with problems now, not at some future time. We have laid the foundation for a better future. And we have trained our young people for careers, not simply jobs."



By Ron Thaniel

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced April 13 the availability of \$81.2 million in discretionary resources for the Clean Fuels/Bus and Bus Facilities Program and \$75 million in discretionary resources for the TIGGER program. The discretionary resources are designed to encourage transit projects that promote the usage and development of energy efficient technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants.

The Clean Fuels/Bus and Bus Facilities Program

The Clean Fuels/Bus and Bus Facilities program has a two-fold purpose. First, the program was developed to assist nonattainment and maintenance areas in achieving or maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and CO. The second program purpose is to support emerging clean fuels and advance propulsion technologies for transit buses and markets for those technologies.

Eligible applicants under the Clean Fuels Grant program are recipients in maintenance or non-attainment areas for ozone or CO, which are entities designated to receive federal urbanized

\$156 Million in Sustainability Transit Grants Announced by FTA

formula funds. The FTA will also accept applications from direct recipients, tribes for rural areas, and State Departments of Transportation in attainment areas.

Eligible projects include purchasing or leasing clean fuel buses, constructing or leasing clean fuel bus facilities and related equipment, and projects relating to clean fuel, biodiesel, hybrid electric, or zero emissions technology buses that exhibit equivalent or superior emissions reductions to existing clean fuel or hybrid electric technologies.

TIGGER

The TIGGER program also has a two-fold purpose. First, for capital investments that will assist in reducing the energy consumption of a transit system. And, second, for capital investments that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions of a public transportation system.

The FTA has established a range of funding that will be considered for approval. Each submitted project must request a minimum of \$1,000,000 and must not exceed a maximum of \$25,000,000. Applications for projects less than \$1,000,000 may be applied for if they are part of a consolidated proposal submitted by the State DOT, which in total, meets or exceeds the \$1,000,000 threshold.

Only public transportation agencies or state DOTs may apply for the TIGGER grant.

Eligible expenses must be an eligible capital expense as defined under 49 U.S.C. 5302(a)(1); and the project will assist in the reduction of the energy consumption of a public transportation system and/or the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of a public transportation system.

To view the federal/local matching requirements and funding restrictions for both grants go the Federal Register at http://www.fta.dot.gov/laws/leg_reg_86.html. For proposal specific information contact the appropriate FTA Regional Administrator. For general information on the Clean Fuels/Bus and Bus Facilities Program, contact Juan Morrison, Office of Program Management, at 202-366-7005 or juan.morrison@dot.gov. For general information on the TIGGER grant, contact Walter Kulyk, Office of Mobility Innovation, at 202-366-4995 or walter.kulyk@dot.gov.

Remember the deadlines! Clean Fuels/Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Deadline is June 14, and TIGGER Deadline is August 11.

Clean Fuels/Bus, Bus Facilities Grant Deadline: June 14

Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction Deadline: August 11

President Obama, Senate Democrats Make Financial Regulatory Reform Top Priority

By Eugene T. Lowe

Back from the Easter and Passover recess, and with Health Care Reform behind them, President Barack Obama and Senate Democrats have made the passage of financial regulatory reform their top priority. But the legislation is far from passage with GOP leaders opposed to it. A draft of the bill was approved by the Senate Banking Committee, chaired by Senator Chris Dodd (CT) on March 22 along a party-line vote. At issue is the power that would be given to a consumer protection regu-

lator over products such as mortgages and credit cards.

Last December, the House of Representatives passed legislation (H.R. 4173) that would create a separate, independent Consumer Financial Protection Agency. In that same legislation, Representative Chaka Fattah (PA) offered an amendment that was passed that would create another round of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and provide other mortgage foreclosure prevention funds. The House legislation is largely what the Obama administration wanted.

But Senate Republicans do not like the idea of a new consumer agency with as much power as authorized in the House bill. In a compromise, Dodd accepted a consumer regulator inside the Federal Reserve with a council of financial supervisors that could by two-thirds majority vote overrule decisions of the consumer regulator. Senator Richard Shelby (AL), ranking member of the Banking Committee, has moved the debate up a notch with an idea that the consumer agency be freestanding but with financial regulators having veto power over its actions.

The consumer protection agency is only one of many provisions in the financial reform legislation. In addition to Representatives Fattah's mortgage prevention provision, financial derivatives, and a provision that would put private sector and public sector bonds on the same rating system, are some of the other key measures included in the legislation. As U.S. Mayor goes to print, President Obama has summoned both democrats and republicans to the White House to encourage movement on the legislation in the Senate.

Honolulu a Leader in Energy Savings, "Green" Practices

The city and county of Honolulu was recently recognized as a national leader in conserving energy and promoting "green" practices that help address global climate change. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann with a \$499,000 Climate Showcase Communities grant and two Energy Star building awards for meeting high-energy performance standards at Honolulu Hale (Honolulu's city hall) and the nearby Fasi Municipal Building.

"This grant will go a long way toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil, which is a key component of our nationally recognized 21st Century Ahupuaa City Sustainability Plan," said Hannemann, referring to Honolulu's unique approach to environmental protection, based on traditional Hawaiian concepts of responsible stewardship of natural resources.

EPA Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld, who made the presentation during a March 30 ceremony at Honolulu Hale, said the city has been very effective at leading by example.

"By investing in energy efficiency, residents and businesses will become less reliant on imported energy and will lessen environmental impacts," Blumenfeld said. "President Obama and EPA are committed to improving the nation's energy outlook, through programs like Honolulu's and the use of Energy Star tools to benchmark building energy use."

The Climate Showcase Communities grant will create quantifiable and long-lasting residential greenhouse gas reductions. The approach includes community

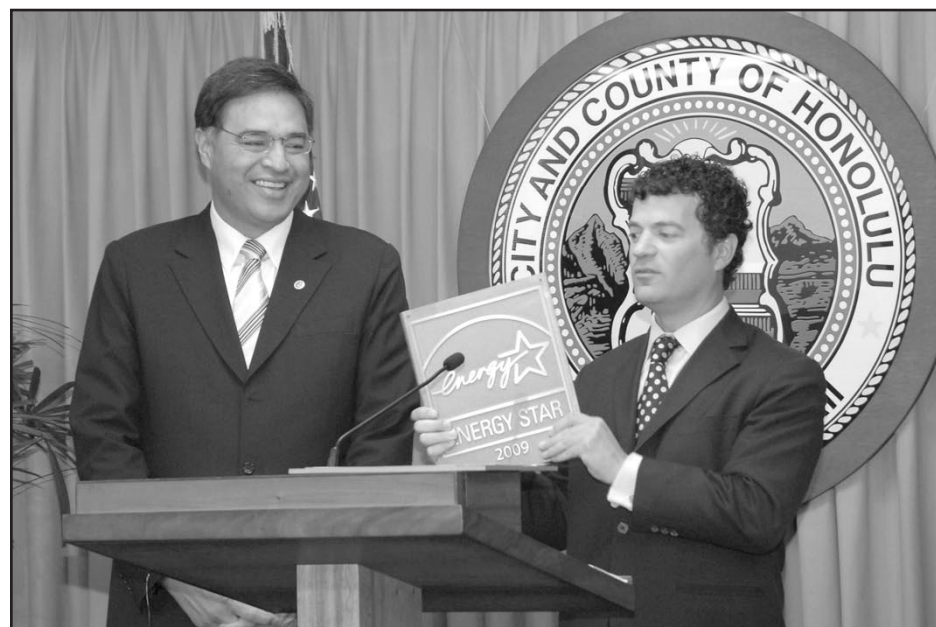
outreach to residents about their energy use, swapping out more than 20,000 incandescent bulbs with more energy-efficient fluorescent and LED bulbs, and the development of a Hawaii-specific residential energy audit. The project will fund energy audit and weatherization "green jobs" training, and will include the installation of 300 whole-house, real-time energy monitors. Among the 300 households that receive monitors, 150 will also be given comprehensive energy audits.

Honolulu Hale and the Fasi Municipal Building are two of the latest buildings in Hawaii to be designated Energy Star Buildings by EPA's Energy Star Program. The buildings met Energy Star's requirements for energy performance, thermal comfort, indoor air quality and lighting levels.

The structures rate in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide for energy performance. Commercial buildings that earn the Energy Star label use an average of 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

To earn its Energy Stars, Honolulu invested approximately \$2.6 million in Honolulu Hale and \$6 million in the Fasi Municipal Building to retrofit the office with more energy efficient lighting and modernize the air conditioning systems. The annual energy savings for these buildings are approximately \$130,000 and \$440,000, respectively. The city's returns on its investments are 20 and 14 years, respectively.

"We appreciate the EPA's recognition of our administration's energy conser-



At right, EPA Regional Administrator Jared Blumenfeld presents Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann with Energy Star award for meeting high-energy standards in city buildings.

vation efforts," Hannemann said. "We work to lead by example. While Honolulu has the smallest carbon footprint of any major American city, we are constantly striving to improve the impact city facilities have on our environment."

Honolulu is planning to use Federal Energy Stimulus funds to implement lighting retrofits at two other city structures: Kapolei Hale and the Administration Building at the Kalihi-Palama Bus Maintenance Facility. Additional energy conservation projects in Honolulu include the installation of photovoltaic systems at the Halawa Corporation Yard and Pearl City Bus Maintenance Facility, and lighting improvements in the Fasi

Civic Center Parking Structure and Neal Blaisdell Center.

Energy Star is a government-backed program helping businesses and consumers protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. More than 8,000 organizations partner with the EPA in the Energy Star program. The overall goal of the Climate Showcase Communities grant program is to create replicable models of sustainable community action that generate cost-effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions while improving the environmental, economic, public health, or social conditions in communities.

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

The Linc Group LLC

The Linc Group is an award-winning provider of integrated facilities management, HVAC and building systems services, lighting and electrical solutions, and other support services to thousands of commercial, government, and residential clients worldwide. We are also a premier provider of comprehensive green solutions designed to help commercial clients attain LEED and ENERGY STAR certification, as well as help residential clients dramatically lower their energy usage and utility bills. Through our innovative processes and methodologies that blend technology, quality standards, communication, and collaboration, we have revolutionized the traditional service delivery industry. With this unprecedented approach to business operations, we have created an infrastructure that truly raises the bar for customer value and service delivery. Collectively, The Linc Group operating companies service more than 37,000 customers in 45 states and 15 international markets. Our proven expertise and comprehensive solutions reduce cost of ownerships; maximize value; increase energy efficiency; and create comfortable, healthy, safe, and productive environments for clients.

*For more Business Council profiles visit
the Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org/buscouncil*

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

Aclara RF Systems Inc.

Aclara RF Systems Inc. is a subsidiary of ESCO Technologies Inc. (NYSE:ESE), and a leading supplier of innovative fixed-network AMI/AMR systems to meet the ever-changing needs of municipal and investor-owned water, gas and electric utilities. Aclara's STAR® Network system delivers actionable intelligence in support of green initiatives and conservation efforts as well as the meter infrastructure. For more information about Aclara RF Systems Inc., visit our website at www.Aclara.com or call 800-969-1057.

*For more Business Council profiles visit
the Conference of Mayors website at usmayors.org/buscouncil*

Rio World Urban Forum Focuses on Problems of Rapidly Growing Cities

By Eugene T. Lowe

Some 21,000 people registered for the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro-Brazil during the week of March 22 – 26. The theme of the meeting was “The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide.” Touted as being one of the most inclusive international gatherings, the forum brought together government leaders, ministers, mayors, diplomats, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, non-governmental and community organizations, professionals, academics, grassroots women organizations, youth and slum dwellers. All attended to participate in dialogues and debate at main plenary and networking events (workshops) that addressed the critical urban problems of the world today. According to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, with over half the world’s population now living in cities, and cities making a disproportionate contribution to climate change, urbanization is one of the “crucial agendas” of our time.

The World Urban Forum was organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, which is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly “to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.” Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, is the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT. The first World Urban Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002, and then in Barcelona in 2004, Vancouver in 2006, and Nanjing in 2008.

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan led the United States delegation that included HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims, and Assistant Secretaries Mercedes Marquez (Community Planning and Development), Raphael Bostic (Policy Development and Research), and John Trasvina (Fair Housing). White House Office of Urban Affairs Director Adolfo Carrion and Special Assistant to the President on Urban Policy Derek Douglas represented the White House. North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays, National League of Cities (NLC) President Riverside (CA) Mayor Ron Loveridge, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Official (NAHRO) Chief Executive Officer Saul Ramirez and National Building Museum President and Executive Director Chase Rynd were some of the other members of the United States delegation. At least 500 people from the United States attended the forum.

HUD Secretary Donovan told the large international audience during the opening ceremony March 22 that he was “honored to lead the U.S. delegation to the World Urban Forum ... to discuss how we can work together to lift the standard of living for billions of people, promote democracy and human rights, and enhance global health, food security and energy efficiency. I believe this forum offers three key opportunities for partnership with our nation – to build our communities more sustainability, to restore security to our housing markets, and to embed innovative and sustainable approaches into the way we plan for disaster.”

President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva welcomed the participants, saying, “Our country is open to good practices from elsewhere and we invite you to visit our cities and let us learn from your experiences.” Tibaijuka in her opening remarks said that only partnerships could work toward a sustainable urban future. “One cannot do it alone. Governments cannot do it alone. Cities, big business and civil society cannot do it alone. We need clear and coherent partnerships and commitments,” she stated. Other speakers at the opening ceremony included the President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni, Third Vice President of Spain Manuel Chavez Gonzalez, Vice President of the Philippines Noli de Casiro, Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes, and Governor of Rio Sergio Cabral.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the U.S. Green Building Council held a workshop March 23, titled “Energy Efficiency and Climate Protection: Challenging Our Assumptions.” HUD Chief of Staff Laurel Blatchford moderated the session. Hays presented an overview of the global importance of cities in addressing climate change. Hays described many of the efforts of his city in energy conservation. “The results have been outstanding and can be duplicated in other cities,” Hays said. Casius Pealer of the US Green Building Council talked about the need for and value of metrics and measurement in addressing climate change. Felipe Augusto Faria, Operational and Legal Manager of Green Building Council, Brazil, described the innovative climate change projects and policies and ongoing challenges across Brazil. He also explained the process and benefits of establishing a national Green Building Council. Cristina Mendonca, Director of the Clinton Climate Initiative in Rio de Janeiro, described some of the climate protection innovative projects and policies and ongoing challenges in Rio de Janeiro. She also



Left to right, Felipe Augusto Faria, Cristina Mendonca, North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays, and Casius Pealer spoke at the Conference of Mayors and Green Building Workshop.

talked about efforts to institutionalize sustainability in local government.

The National League of Cities also held a workshop titled “Building Sustainable Cities as Centers of Diversity, Inclusivity, and Innovation.” The workshop focused on the “importance of social inclusion and equity in building sustainable cities.” There was also a Mayors’ Roundtable that focused on how social inclusion and urban infrastructure can improve access and promote inclusive cities, taking into account the needs of all different urban actors. More than 200 people attended the

session where mayors from around the world discussed challenges and issues unique to their cities. Sonoma County (CA) Board of Supervisor and President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) represented the United States at the Mayors’ Roundtable. She described the public policy issues of Sonoma County where traffic congestion is a major problem. “We are constantly trying to move people around more efficiently,” she said, while keeping sustainability in mind. “We must build a sustainable infrastructure,” Brown said.

MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

The John Buck Company

Established in 1981, The John Buck Company (JBC) is a privately owned, vertically integrated, full-service real estate company headquartered in Chicago with more than 150 employees. JBC has developed, redeveloped and acquired more than 45 properties representing in excess of 33 million square feet of office, retail, hotel and residential projects that have generated more than \$10 billion in cumulative transaction volume. JBC collaborates with several internationally acclaimed architects, and works with industry experts in the fields of development, leasing and property management in both the public and private sectors. JBC’s focus on quality has ensured the retention of an impressive client roster; and a sophisticated yet hands-on approach to commercial real estate has resulted in over 50 real estate industry awards. Clients have access to JBC’s in-house resources in finance, construction management, marketing, leasing, accounting, information systems and management to address a complete set of complex real estate challenges. Through the use of these internal resources, the extensive public and private expertise of key personnel and the utilization of strategic alliances, specialists and outside consultants where beneficial, JBC is able to develop and deliver on a customized strategy for each assignment. Case studies and key personnel information can be found at <http://www.tjbc.com>. For additional inquiries regarding The John Buck Company, please contact Lori Healey at 312-441-4162 or via email at lhealey@tjbc.com.

Special Interests: Community Development, Downtown Development, Economic Development, Housing, Infrastructure, Neighborhood Redevelopment, Parking, Pension Issues, Privatization, Public Works, Real Estate, Retail Development, Transportation, Utilities Issues

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Best Practices

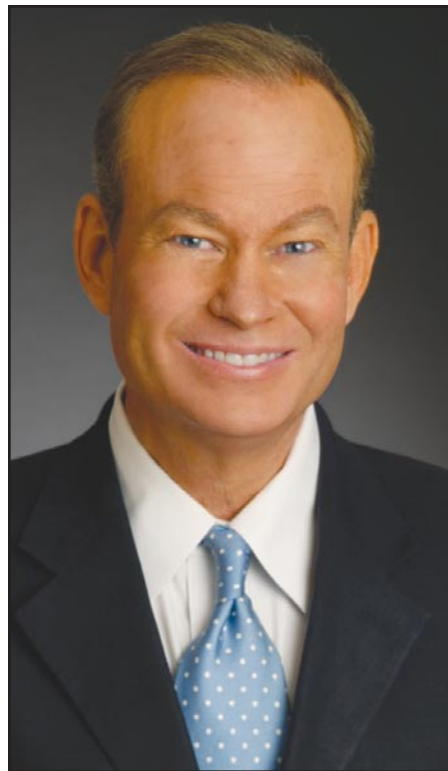
Oklahoma City Revitalizes Historic Hotel, Brownfield Site – Skirvin Hilton Hotel

One of the younger cities in the Midwest, Oklahoma City, was developed literally overnight. In 1928, oil was discovered in Oklahoma City. The increased oil revenues changed the once subtle city into a thriving, large metropolis.

William Balsler Skirvin was one of those fortunate to prosper in the oil and land development in Texas. In 1906, Skirvin and his family moved to Oklahoma City to begin their new lives. Oklahoma City was experiencing a rapid expansion during the early 1900's and Skirvin took the opportunity to invest further in new lands and oil. The possibility of a new luxurious hotel struck Skirvin as a valuable investment in the city.

The Skirvin Hotel opened in 1911 and easily became one of Oklahoma City's finest attractions. The magnificent ten-story building with its red brick laid in Flemish bond pattern separates itself from nearby buildings. The hotel encompassed 250,600 square feet and the property covered 1.45 acres. The hotel would become the jewel of the city that attracted many celebrities, politicians, and the wealthy. It entertained such guests as former President Harry Truman, Actor John Wayne, the international "Hostess with the Mostess" Perle Mesta, along with a number of other celebrities and socialites. The hotel graced the city skyline with its grandeur for the next 70 years before closing in the late 1980's.

The death of William Skirvin in 1944 was the onset of the hotel's downfall. For years until the hotel's closing in 1988, the Skirvin was bought and sold count-



Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett

less times by numerous investors. The decline of the oil industry and the waning downtown area ultimately led to the closure of the hotel.

The years of abandonment caused the Skirvin Hotel to go through a rough deterioration. The lack of maintenance caused much of the asbestos to crumble and be exposed throughout the hotel. The paint that was used throughout the hotel also contained lead. Each of the rooms in the hotel contained mercury thermostats as well. The lead paint and asbestos had to be removed before the



U.S. MAYOR
1620 I Street NW, Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20006

renovation process was allowed to begin to eliminate the pathways for exposures and health threats to workers and public. The air quality in the hotel was poor, containing carcinogens, biological vectors, and toxic substances.

The Skirvin's second chance came after two decades of remaining dormant. On September 28, 1999, the Skirvin Solutions Committee (SSC) was created by then Mayor Kirk Humphreys to address the remediation and renovation of the Skirvin Hotel. The project was continued and completed during the tenure of Mayor Mick Cornett.

Oklahoma City with its many public-private partnerships was able to raise money and interest needed to restore the hotel. Affected residents, downtown workers, and local organizations were consulted throughout the decision-making process including those related to the environmental cleanup that would be necessary to reopen the building. Various federal, state, and private institutions were included in the process as well. The newly renovated and renamed Skirvin Hilton Hotel reopened for business in 2007, bringing back its prestige to the city and re-energizing the downtown area.

A combination of Tax Increment Financing, an Economic Development Initiative grant, the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan fund, tax credits, and private equity were used to finance the project. The total cost for asbestos abatement was roughly \$1,600,000, and additional environmental costs for the project cleanup were about \$719,000. The total project cost an estimated \$56,413,586. The private sector contributed nearly 60 percent of that cost, or about \$36.4 million and public funding resources provided the remaining \$20 million.

The renovation of the hotel generated over 400 construction jobs. After completion, 255 new positions would be created to run the hotel. The renovation of the historic hotel would bring renewed energy to the city and serve as a catalyst for other redevelopment efforts. Since

reopening, a downtown canal has been built, derelict sites cleaned up, arenas and ball parks were constructed which support the Bricktown Entertainment District and enable it to thrive.

The greatest challenge posed to Oklahoma City was overcoming the initial funding gap for the project. The Skirvin Solutions Committee created by the city determined that revitalization of the hotel would not be possible without significant public assistance. Another key was Cornett's continued commitment and understanding of the importance to revitalizing the hotel as an essential part of the downtown area's success. This project was an important milestone in redeveloping the downtown area resulting in increased economic prosperity for the city; projected sales and tax revenues over the next 15 years soared to \$15.5 million for local and \$9.1 million for state.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors will be holding an evening event at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel during the Conference of Mayors 78th Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.



Mayors are invited to submit the "Best Practices" of their cities to U.S. MAYOR. Contact Public Affairs at 202-293-7330 or send eMail to info@usmayors.org