



U.S. MAYOR

Villaraigosa Hosts Administration on Workforce Training . . . 3

Kautz, Eurocities Promote Climate Protection 5

Mayors Continue Push on Brownfields Redevelopment 6

PRESIDENT OBAMA SAYS STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS "MAY NEED MORE HELP FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT"

By Ed Somers

Debate continues in Washington as to the size and shape of a new job creation package, as well as if and when the bill will move forward.

House leaders are considering moving a bill through the floor before the scheduled December 18 recess, with the Senate indicating that they would more likely act in January after they finish action on the health care bill.

With these discussions taking place on capitol hill, the White House hosted its jobs summit on December 3. Of the approximately 130 participants, the White House invited five mayors from

across the country to attend the meeting and discuss priorities in break out panels:

- Des Moines (IA) Mayor Frank Cownie – Infrastructure
- Detroit (MI) Mayor David Bing – Encouraging Business Competitiveness and Job Creation
- Fresno (CA) Mayor Ashley Swarengin – Preparing Workers and Strengthening Main Street
- Allentown (PA) Mayor Ed Pawlowski – Small Business Job Growth
- San Antonio (TX) Mayor Julián Castro – Innovation and Green Jobs

See **WHITE HOUSE** on page 5



Mayors meet with staff at USCM headquarters to prepare for White House Jobs Summit. Left to right, Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Fresno Mayor Ashley Swarengin, San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro, and Detroit Mayor David Bing.

Photo by Wendy L. Willerson

Palmer Pushes for Additional Job Creation



See **STORY** on page 3

Photo by Wendy L. Willerson

New Mayors Gather at Harvard



See **Story** on page 4

TO THE MAYOR FROM THE CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



December 2, 2009
Washington, DC

New Mayors, Joblessness, Washington Response

New mayors came to our joint JFK School of Politics the week before Thanksgiving to learn from existing mayors, former mayors, practitioners, and experts, just what it is to govern as a mayor of an American city. Former Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell is the new Director of the JFK School. He is doing a great job because he knows what the new mayors need and he is working closely with us to strengthen this great partnership. Typical topics from policing to budgeting were issues discussed. And more than the policy, the new mayors were told over and over that their lives, and the lives of their families, would change once they take the oath and become mayor. They were also told to expect the unexpected because in today's world, more and more, we realize how unexpected things happen when they aren't planned; and the mayor has to step up, face the cameras, represent his or her city and provide that leadership that is so desperately needed during a hurricane, terrorist act, school shooting, police shooting, or anything that causes turmoil among the people of his or her city. Leadership skills are so needed when these events occur.

This new group of mayors is also coming into a situation where the unemployment rate and lack of jobs are causing pain among so many. While the new mayors understand they are inheriting these economic challenges, they recognize that today's joblessness produces an unemployment rate in many cities that is totally unacceptable.

Our organization is taking the leadership, along with other groups, to push for an employment package, a jobs bill, before Congress goes home this year. On December 3, five mayors are in The White House with President Obama at his jobs summit. Congressional leaders are signaling that some legislative action is needed now. Some Congressional members in the House and Senate are facing the fact that voters and unemployed people are angry, disappointed, and frustrated. Bail out of banks and Wall Street has in many areas not brought economic relief to Main Street. The economic pain is being transferred to political demands of incumbent members to deliver on the hope and expectations of the \$787 billion stimulus that has not produced the jobs or stopped the increased unemploy-

ment in many of our metro areas.

The clock ticks away. December brings the fact of adjournment and we are positioned, thanks to the help of our group of mayors led by Vice President Mayor Kautz and others who came into the White House, to present our case for an unemployment package. No doubt the White House will provide some response to this critical issue before the holiday recess. We are poised and ready to continue to push for direct funding to cities this time around.

Copenhagen, Climate Protection, Mayors

The eyes of the world are on Copenhagen, Denmark as heads of State and a usual number of USA mayors join other mayors and come to Copenhagen to pressure their national leaders to act.

Today, The United States Conference of Mayors is well positioned at this international meeting. With over 1,000 mayors signed on to our U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, we deserve the right to stand with our mayors from around the world urging our Presidents, Prime Ministers, Premiers, Kings, and Queens to act.

My visit to Copenhagen earlier this month indicates that the three-day Mayors Summit will be most successful and key to the overall Copenhagen meeting. Mayors from across the globe will join with USA mayors to let the world know that whatever is happening across the globe is also happening at the local level where mayors and their residents in densely populated areas are taking the leadership role for climate protection and economic green job development. Copenhagen Mayor Ritt Bjerregaard has developed a most substantive program for The Copenhagen '09 Mayors Climate Summit. Throughout the fall, Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz has been representing our organization in Brussels and Stockholm where she keynoted the Annual Meeting of Eurocities, telling European allied mayors that mayors throughout the world must "roar like lions" to demand our national governments to act and support our local efforts across the globe. Of course none of this would have been possible without the vision and leadership of our current President Mayor Greg Nickels and we will be proud to stand behind him, as he is our President and Chair of the USCM Delegation to the Copenhagen meetings. We continue to express our deep appreciation for how far we have come over the past four years bringing the total number of USA mayors signed on to our U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to 1,000+ mayors.

Also leading our team effort in Copenhagen will be our Second Vice President

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, as well as the one and only Past President of USCM, Mayor Doug Palmer. Four outstanding mayors who will make us proud are at this historic and most significant meeting in Copenhagen.

January 2010

As this is our last issue of 2009, some comments about 2010. As most of you know, on January 2, as President Nickels leaves office as Seattle's mayor, Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz becomes our 68th President of the United States Conference of Mayors. I, along with staff, will go to Burnsville on January 5 for the inaugural ceremonies at the Performing Arts Center in Burnsville. Six hundred guests are invited to witness the fifth woman in our history be installed as our 68th President of The United States Conference of Mayors. Mayor Kautz will serve the balance of Mayor Nickels' term, which would have ended June 2010, and then her full term from June 2010 to June 2011. Hence, she will preside over our 2010 Winter Meeting, our 2010 Oklahoma City Annual Meeting, our 2011 Winter Meeting, and our 2011 Annual Meeting. She has earned the right to hold the gavel. No mayor in recent history has given so

much and shown such genuine devotion from the bottom of her heart to our great organization.

Her first act as President will be to hold a telephonic conference call with her Executive Committee to ask for a vote to move Mayor Villaraigosa up from Second Vice President to First Vice President. Mayor Kautz wants that done immediately to have a smooth transition and to engage Mayor Villaraigosa as her Vice President.

In these challenging times, Mayor Kautz recognizes it is most important that we have a unified leadership and to that end, she and I will travel to Los Angeles, along with our Past President Doug Palmer and Chief of Staff Ed Somers to be able to lay out our work plan and goals for our members as we convene for our Winter Meeting in Washington next month.

The top issues facing Mayor Kautz and all of us are first, to make sure that Washington provides an adequate and targeted response to the joblessness of our people and the lack of credit access to our small businesses on Main Street. Second, the mammoth transportation bill will be coming at us in full force in

See COCHRAN on page 9



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Trenton Mayor Palmer Pushes Mayors' Call to Action for Targeted Fiscal Assistance, Additional Job-Creation

By Dave Gatton

U.S. Conference of Mayors Past President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer told a national audience of economists and fiscal experts that Congress should enact immediately a targeted fiscal assistance program for local governments and fund job-creating programs to address the growing unemployment rates on Main Street America.

Keynoting a major forum on job creation sponsored by the Economic Policy Institute on November 19 in Washington (DC), Palmer said, "We mayors know, and the American people know, the mission has not yet been accomplished on Main Street. Wall Street may be on the road to recovery, but Main Street still suffers."

Palmer cited Long Beach's unemployment rate of 13.9 percent; Las Vegas' rate of 13.4 percent, and 14.9 percent unemployment in Providence (RI) to demonstrate that many center cities have unemployment rates far above that of their metro region's.

He projected that 86 percent of metros next year will have higher average unemployment rates than in 2009—a projection he called devastating.

In 2012, more than 30 percent of our metros will experience unemployment rates greater than nine percent, and one

in five metros will still have unemployment rates above ten percent.

The vast majority of our nation's unemployed reside in our metropolitan areas and particularly in our central cities, he told the group.

A report issued by The U.S. Conference of Mayors in November indicates that in Georgia, the Atlanta and Augusta metro areas account for 62 percent of the state's unemployed. Atlanta alone has 57 percent of the state's out-of-work residents.

In Arizona, the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas account for 75 percent of the unemployed. Phoenix alone has 62 percent. And in Michigan, Detroit metro accounts for 50 percent of the state's unemployed.

Palmer indicated that this Administration inherited one of the biggest economic messes in history and, today, because of President Obama's leadership, stability has been restored to our financial institutions and industries that "were too big to fail."

"But now, we must have actions to demonstrate the American people are too important to fail," he said.

Mayors Call to Action

Palmer outlined a Call to Action adopted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors Leadership at its October meet-

ing in Seattle this year, and conveyed to the President and his senior economic advisors following the meeting. A delegation of mayors met with Lawrence Summers and other key White House officials in November to discuss their growing concern about joblessness and solutions to address it.

The Mayors' Call to Action includes support for a targeted fiscal assistance program to local governments that could be used for broad governmental purposes such as hiring or retaining public employees, local public works projects, public safety initiatives, environmental clean up, public facilities, and other public purpose projects.

EPI economist Ethan Pollack also called for such assistance by releasing a report estimating that in 2010 local governments would face a \$40 billion budget shortfall.

Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com, said a second infusion of assistance to state and local governments would serve as a necessary insurance policy against a second recession. He indicated the nation could ill afford to slip back into recession while experiencing double digit unemployment rates and a Federal Reserve that has few tools, i.e., lower interest rates with which to fight another economic downturn. "We don't want to go there," he said.

The mayors' job-creating agenda also calls for additional funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, the Community Development Block Grant program, the COPS program, DOT's TIGER grant program, and Summer Youth Jobs. These programs can directly fund cities and counties and could be moved quickly to local jurisdictions to help create jobs.

The Call to Action also encourages the Obama Administration to develop programs to help address the difficulty small businesses have in obtaining credit, and assisting local governments access credit markets.

Press reports indicate that the House of Representatives could move a second jobs package as early as December 18. In the meantime, President Obama is holding a White House Jobs Summit on December 3 to address the unemployment situation.

U.S. Conference of Mayors Metro Economies Chair Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie, along with Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, and Allentown (PA) Mayor Ed Pawlowski, were invited by the White House to participate in the jobs summit.

Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa, Obama Administration Discuss Success of Los Angeles Workforce Training Programs

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa hosted U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and White House Director of Urban Affairs Adolfo Carrion on a tour November 24 of the Los Angeles Trade Technical College and a discussion of the city's successful workforce training programs. The visit was part of the White House Office of Urban Affairs' National Conversation on the Future of America's Cities and Metropolitan Areas, which is examining innovations in workforce development training in urban areas.

"Here in Los Angeles, we understood that preparing our workforce for living wage jobs meant developing a unified system and coordinating various levels of government with non profit and private partners," Villaraigosa said. "We have implemented a strategy that recognizes the high-growth, high-wage industries that will lead our recovery efforts and that provides Angelenos with the tools they need to secure well paying careers.



Left to right, White House Urban Affairs Director Adolfo Carrion, Special Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs Derek Douglas, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

I am proud to be at LA Trade Tech today with our partners from Washington to showcase the types of training programs, the skills and the sectors we are investing in."

Officials from the White House Office of Urban Affairs were interested in how Los Angeles has created a regional workforce development system that coordinates various levels of government and private partners. The Los Angeles Workforce Development Model relies on the following partnerships: private sector employers; organized labor; community-based organizations; faith-based community; city agencies and other public organizations.

The workforce strategy in Los Angeles has demonstrated that by working together through a Systems Collaborative, the city can ensure that the growing economy has a skilled labor force to meet its evolving needs and that Angelenos, especially youth who are out of work and out of school, have the opportunity to train for and secure well paying careers in the city and regional economy. Sectors that are targeted include: health care; construction/green; utilities/green; hospitality; transportation/logistics; security; public sector; and financial services.

New Mayors Gather at Harvard, Learn from Experienced Mayors

By Tom McClimon

"Learn from your other mayors and put their ideas to work in your own community" was one of the messages given to new and newly-elected mayors at a seminar for new mayors held at Harvard University. Eighteen incoming mayors-elect or new mayors from larger cities from across the country gathered at the John F. Kennedy School of Government for a three-day seminar on exercising leadership and promoting effective public policy.

The 18th biennial Seminar on Transition and Leadership for Newly-Elected Mayors, co-sponsored by the Conference of Mayors and the Institute of Politics, was held November 18-20. The newly-elected mayors participated in a number of sessions led by current and former mayors, academicians, and practitioners. Participation is limited to new mayors who represent cities over 75,000 in population. Focusing on training for new city leaders, topics included transitioning from the campaign to city hall, budgeting and finance, ethics, marketing your city and press and public relations.

Participating new and newly-elected mayors were: Linda Balzotti, Brockton (MA); Bryan Baum, Longmont (CO); John Curtis, Provo; John Dickert, Racine (WI); William Flanagan, Fall River; Bill Foster, St. Petersburg; Ted Gatsas, Manchester; Harvey Johnson, Jackson (MS); Tom Norton, Greeley, (CO); Joe O'Brien, Worcester; Judy Paul, Davie (FL); Andre Quintero, El Monte (CA); Todd Rogers, Lakewood, (CA); Robert Sabonjian, Waukegan; Dayne Walling, Flint; Setti Warren, Newton; AC Wharton, Memphis; and Mike Winder, West Valley City, (UT).

Mayors as Faculty

Conference of Mayors President Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels led the list of current and former mayors who participated as faculty members for the program. Nickels challenged the new mayors to "lead by example" particularly when it comes to establishing climate protection policies for their cities. The mayor also encouraged the new mayors to "take other mayors' ideas and trademark them as your own" and to learn from other mayors' best practices.

In addition to Nickels, four other past Conference of Mayors presidents served as faculty members for the program. Past Presidents Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer, Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and former Miami Mayor Manny Diaz served on a panel dealing with challenges brought on by the national economy. Abramson also participated on the "Transitioning from the Campaign to City Hall" session. Additionally, Past President Akron Mayor



Left to right, Institute of Politics Director and former Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, USCM Vice President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, USCM President Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.



Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust and USCM leadership meet with the newly elected mayors.

Donald L. Plusquellic participated in the session on "Marketing and Branding Your City."

Conference Vice President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth Kautz welcomed the new mayors at the opening luncheon by congratulating them to the "most exciting job in the world" and encouraged their participation in The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Other mayors

who served as faculty members were: Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch who participated in the transitioning session; Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and Providence Mayor David Cicilline participated in the marketing and branding session; Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett shared with the mayors his views on press relations; Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro

led the discussion on improving your local education system; and Rochester (NY) Mayor Robert Duffy shared with the new mayors his thoughts on dealing with public safety and police issues.

Philadelphia Mayor Mike Nutter joined with the Conference's leadership of Mayors Nickels and Kautz in a public forum for students and faculty on the challenges faced by cities in today's economic climate.

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and former Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, who is the current director of the Institute of Politics, served as the seminar's moderators.

An evening event was held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, where the mayors and newly-elected mayors were able to view the museum as well as for the first time be able to gather in the family's personal quarters. Dan Fenn, former staff assistant to President John F. Kennedy, and Founding Director of the Library shared with the mayors some of his personal reflections of the past president.

Front page photo caption:

Back row left to right, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Institute of Politics Director and former Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, Worcester (MA) Mayor-Elect Joe O'Brien, Lakewood (CA) Mayor Todd Rogers, West Valley City (UT) Mayor-Elect Mike Winder, Provo (UT) Mayor-Elect John Curtis, Racine (WI) Mayor John Dickert, St. Petersburg (FL) Mayor-Elect Bill Foster, Waukegan (IL) Mayor Robert Sabonjian, and Longmont (CO) Mayor-Elect Bryan Baum. Front row left to right, Brockton (MA) Mayor-Elect Linda Balzotti, Jackson (MS) Mayor Harvey Johnson, El Monte (CA) Mayor-Elect Andre Quintero, Memphis (TN) Mayor A.C. Wharton, Flint (MI) Mayor Dayne Walling, Davie (FL) Mayor-Elect Judy Paul, Greeley (CO) Mayor Tom Norton, and Fall River (MA) Mayor-Elect William Flanagan.



Kautz, Eurocities Lay Groundwork for Climate Protection Action in Copenhagen

By Kay Scrimger

Representing The United States Conference of Mayors, Vice President Burnsville (MN) Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz joined with Eurocities, the organization of European cities of 250,000 and larger, to present "The Stockholm Appeal on Climate Change," November 27 during the Eurocities 2009 General Assembly in Stockholm.

Kautz said, "The Stockholm Appeal is powerful because it signifies the desire of the signatories – Conference of Mayors President Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Eurocities President Jozias van Aartsen, mayor of The Hague, and Stockholm Mayor Sten Nordin – 1) to see the COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen results in an international climate protection agreement; and 2) to urge heads of state in Copenhagen to recognize local governments' major contributions to climate protection."

The Appeal was handed over to representatives of the Obama Administration and the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, who will be part of the negotiations in Copenhagen.

Kautz said, "U.S. mayors gladly stand with our European counterparts in urging international recognition of the



Photo by Rickard Westman

Conference of Mayors Vice President Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, at right, discusses U.S. mayors' climate protection efforts with Stockholm Deputy Mayor Ulla Hamilton and Pedro Ballesteros Torres, Director of the Covenant of Mayors, a group of mayors in the European Union that have pledged to meet stringent climate protection measures within their cities.

critical role local leaders play in climate protection. U.S. mayors have forced our national government to act to combat climate change. Under the leadership of Mayor Greg Nickels, who created the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agree-

ment, pledging to meet or beat the Kyoto goals, more than 1,001 mayors have committed to climate protection strategies in their own communities."

Founded in 1986, Eurocities is a network of major European cities, rep-

resenting more than 140 large cities in over 30 European countries.

Cochran said, "Climate change observes no national boundaries – it affects every person in every nation. Mayors and their cities are the source of the most innovative and effective strategies to protect the environment. The Stockholm Appeal resounds with the message that mayors are central to the great task we face of saving the planet. We are pleased to stand with our European counterparts on this issue, and mayors will continue to use our knowledge and expertise to develop local solutions to our global problems."

Kautz also met with U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden Matthew Barzun, sworn in as Ambassador August 21. They discussed initiatives of the Ambassador in a number of areas, including strengthening business ties between Sweden and the United States, and identified several areas of potential cooperation and collaboration.

Kautz also participated in a panel discussion with five mayors from different European countries, sharing insights and information about local waste to energy, infrastructure, climate protection, and immigration policies.

"On behalf of the Conference of Mayors, I would like to express our appreciation to Eurocities for the invitation to partner with them in the Joint Appeal," Kautz said.

WHITE HOUSE from page 1

While President Obama stressed that the federal budget deficit must be addressed and that a large second stimulus bill should not be expected, there was substantial discussion during the general session and breakout panels on the need for more investment directly in cities and metro areas through key investment programs, as well as the possible need for targeted fiscal relief for both states and local governments.

Cownie, who chairs The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Metro Economies Committee and is a leader for the organization on the jobs initiative, addressed this issue directly with President Obama in the public forum and received acknowledgement from the President saying that, "If you see a complete collapse in state and local government spending on basic needs, that could create a very bad business climate..."

As the President said during the discussion, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided billions in fiscal relief for states through Medicaid and education programs.

However ARRA, did not provide general fiscal relief directly to cities.

Mayors' Agenda

Coming out of its Fall Leadership Meeting in Seattle in early October, the Conference of Mayors has been pushing for a focused jobs package that includes:

- Targeted Fiscal Relief for High Unemployment Cities and Metro Economies
- The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)
- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program at Inflation Adjusted Dollars
- The COPS Program
- Summer Youth Jobs – 2010
- The TIGER Grant Program – Round II
- School Construction
- Small Business Access to Credit
- City Access to Treasury/TARP Credit

The mayors attending the White House Summit highlighted the need to ensure that more of the funding under the next jobs bill goes directly to local governments than under ARRA to ensure that jobs are created quickly.

Fiscal Relief for States, Local Governments Discussion

Statement:

"I would emphasize that we feel that it's important that we get targeted fiscal assistance to local government, whether it is through infrastructure projects... or whether it's Energy Efficiency Block Grants, or Tiger grants, or CDBG. These are all formulas that have worked in the past, and to get money to where people live, where people work, where the GDP is produced in this country, we have to target those kind of opportunities." – Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie.

Response:

"As tough as this financial crisis or recession has been on the federal budget, it has in some cases been worse on state and local government budgets.... Usually, state and local government revenues lag the recovery as a whole. They may need some more help from the federal government, and I think it is important particularly for business leaders here to understand that fact. If you see a complete collapse in state and local government spending on basic needs, that could create a very bad business climate for all of you." – President Barack Obama.

In addition, the White House discussion covered topics such as increasing investment through the creation of infrastructure bank, increasing job readiness training (including the summer youth program), creating green jobs and

reducing energy usage, and increasing small business access to credit.

Following the Summit, President Obama traveled to Allentown where Pawlowski hosted the President at a local jobs forum.

Mayors' Panel on Greening of Brownfields Roundtable: a Matter of Priorities

By Brett Rosenberg

The Brownfields 2009: Sustainable Communities Start Here conference in New Orleans provided a forum for mayors to share their perspectives on redeveloping local brownfield sites. A panel included Southfield (MI) Mayor Brenda Lawrence and several mayors from small southern communities, namely Philadelphia (MS) Mayor James Young, Hayneville (AL) Mayor Helenor Bell, and Yellow Bluff (AL) Mayor Glen McCord. Although the session was ostensibly about using more sustainable, "green" methods to renew their cities' sites, it became clear that there is a gulf between how mayors perceive environmental issues, what resources they have available, and their relationships with their state and federal governments.

Lawrence indicated that Southfield is often able to leverage federal and private resources to advance redevelopment efforts. Although the process can be challenging and time-consuming, Lawrence said that she is confident in her city's abilities when it comes to securing funds, assessing, and redeveloping brownfield sites. "The beauty of the brownfields program is that you can tap into so many resources," she said.

Lawrence cited a couple of Southfield brownfield examples. In one case, the city and developers transformed a blighted, crime-ridden trailer park site into a lively mixed-use commercial development. Early in the redevelopment process, an environmental assessment uncovered evidence that the site



Left to right, Southfield (MI) Mayor Brenda Lawrence, Philadelphia (MS) Mayor James Young, Hayneville (AL) Mayor Helenor Bell and Yellow Bluff (AL) Mayor Glen McCord.

also used to be a landfill, which triggered additional environmental review. Through \$5.2 million in tax increment revenues, \$4.1 million in local and state taxes and other assistance through the national brownfields program, the site now contains multi-family apartments, residences, commercial enterprises and a regional shopping center.

Lawrence also noted that The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement was a catalyst for the development of the Keep Southfield Green Committee. Among the committee's several notable efforts and achievements, Lawrence said that it has been

instrumental in creating more green space on brownfield sites, planting trees throughout the community, and leading a greenhouse gas reduction campaign. In closing, Lawrence said, "As a mayor, I can't tell you how important it is to demonstrate leadership and collaborate to drive the brownfield redevelopment process." She concluded, "With brownfields, you never know what you're going to get, so fasten your seatbelts."

The mayor's comments illustrated the level of sophistication and advantages Southfield and other cities often have when it comes to improving the local environment.

The three mayors from small southern cities had considerably different experiences. Young said that his community of 8,000 people and other central Mississippi cities often miss out on the development opportunities of the northern and southern parts of the state. Young, the first African American mayor of Philadelphia, said, "We're growing, we're processing and we're redeveloping our thought patterns" with regard to going "green" in a down economy. But, he said, "If I want to green our economy, I need access to the same resources as larger communities."

Bell described the process of transforming a historic jail into a museum and souvenir shop. Although the jail project, along Alabama's Civil Rights Trail qualified for an EPA brownfields assessment grant, Bell said that other environmental issues seemed much more pressing, such as updating water infrastructure in such a way that many of the city's 1,100 residents need no longer rely on 60-year old wells for their drinking water. She urged the EPA to consider small towns as it rewrites brownfield and other policies.

McCord expanded on Bell's theme, saying, "Before we can get to a level to green our communities, we need to solve several quality of life issues." According to McCord, Yellow Bluff, a town of 180 residents, lacks many of the environmental amenities most Americans enjoy: safe drinking water, sewers, and good air quality. McCord asked, "Do I try to get sewers for my community or redevelop the old factory?" He and the other southern mayors agreed that more outreach on their part would help their cause, but urged the EPA and other federal agencies to focus more resources on small town America.

Brownfields, Green Job Opportunities Highlighted at Conference

By Virak Kchao

The Brownfields 2009 Conference in New Orleans featured a number of sessions focusing on the linkages between brownfields redevelopment and green jobs. Attendees at green job sessions included non-profit institutions, private industry, city representatives, and schools from across the nation. The sessions created a venue for participants to discuss all aspects of green jobs training including recruitment, course curriculum,

and placement strategies of successful green job training programs.

Staff of successful green job programs attended sessions to share their stories including the keys to successful green job training programs. Speakers discussed how the local community is paramount to establishing a solid foundation for a green jobs training program. They shared how job training programs needed to network with private industry and local government to establishing a good program. This will allow programs

to assess market demand for green job workers and identify various resources available to them. Well-established and new programs were able to communicate with each other on these issues. The goal was that new, upcoming programs learn these lessons early in hopes to run more efficiently and graduate more students.

A concern addressed was the lack of knowledge on the redevelopment of brownfields and green jobs by the public, specifically the younger gen-

eration. The notion of green jobs and brownfields were difficult to incorporate when people had little understanding of the two issues. The best method to help the public understand was holding informational sessions at brownfields sites where speakers can talk about and address any questions relating to green job training and brownfields redevelopment while on the site. Panelists addressed how school culture needed reorganization in a way that implements sustainability education to prepare the younger generation for future green job demands. They suggested that topics such as climate change, water resour-

See GREEN JOBS on page 7

Green Job Training in Bayou at 2009 EPA Brownfield's Conference

By Ted Fischer

The EPA Brownfield's Conference in New Orleans featured interactive sessions and tours that highlighted the transition of the Lower 9th Ward into sustainable homes and ongoing neighborhood revitalization. With the flooding and destruction of homes during Hurricane Katrina, the area is slowly recovering from one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit North America. With homes still missing from its landscape and FEMA trailers lining their streets, much has been done to get the community back up on its feet.

New Orleans has proven even though they may have been dealt rough circumstances, they are rising above the tragedy.

The tour entitled "Green Job Training in the Bayou: NIEHS Job Training Programs at Work" visited The Center for Construction Research and Training that has an apprenticeship program with the Carpenters & Millwright Union in New Orleans' 9th Ward. The tour allowed participants to watch a class in session working on Brownfield clean up methods and the safe use of materials. Students who normally do not have career paths to look forward to, due to lower economic means and societal



One of many "Make It Right Nola" homes built in a community where dense streets and multiple homes once existed. This home, only feet from one of the many breached levees and damaged shipping canal from Hurricane Katrina, can be glimpsed in the background.

pressures, have an opportunity through this program to learn a trade and make a career. In addition to the traditional environmental and construction training,

the program offers students introductory training in green building and weatherization, preparing them to enter the green construction industry.

Also included in the tour was a stop at "Make It Right Nola" green building sites, sponsored by actor Brad Pitt. Two years ago, the Lower 9th Ward was devastated, scattered with remnants of peoples' home, rows of concrete foundations and porch steps leading to nowhere. The only people living on the site were a few pioneering families in FEMA trailers. Today, Make It Right is building the largest, greenest neighborhood of single-family homes in America, while returning the neighborhood to its past. Earning the highest distinction for energy efficiency and sustainability, LEED Platinum, by the US Green Building Council, integrating and aggregating a variety of cutting edge construction materials and techniques, Make It Right Nola is making a difference where others have failed.

The final stop on the tour was at Dillard University's Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DU/DSCEJ) that conducts worker training from a facility near the university's Gentilly campus. DU's campus has two LEED certified buildings under construction and there is a green building site nearby on which DU trainees have worked. The tour featured a stop at both training facilities and an opportunity to learn about effective community outreach that led to local residents training for jobs to help rebuild New Orleans. For more information on the 2009 EPA Brownfield's Conference or the different centers toured, visit the website www.brownfields2009.org

GREEN JOBS from page 6

es, and renewable energy should be incorporated in the curriculum. Students in the classroom, who worked on green projects, advanced their environmental knowledge and benefited themselves in the future. The best way to prepare future green workers is by creating classrooms through high school and local colleges to train students about brownfields and new green technology.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) discussed how initiatives were taking place to address these concerns and how many federal agencies were networking to create a green job community. The EPA is looking to expand to other federal agencies to incorporate green jobs to their existing agendas with a focus on green jobs that employ locals and help communities impacted by brownfields. A workshop allowed

conference participants to witness these issues and successes first hand. They visited the building where classes were held and students trained. They witnessed an in-class session where students were being trained for on-site safety. Participants met with students, trainers, and program leaders to learn about the program. Students were able to share stories of the difficult but very rewarding job training program that has improved their lives. Showing how green jobs are careers rather than just jobs.



Left to right, New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin and Host of the 2009 EPA Brownfield's Conference; Southfield (MI) Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence; and ICMA President Darnell Earley, City Manager, Saginaw (MI).

US Mayoral Delegation Visits Saudi Arabia

By Jocelyn Bogen and Tom McClimon

Five U.S. mayors visited Saudi Arabia, November 5-12 as guests of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington (DC). The Embassy organized and funded the mission of U.S. mayors, assisted by the Conference of Mayors.

Led by Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman, the delegation included mayors Virginia DuPuy, Waco (TX); Timothy J. Davlin, Springfield (IL); Bob Foster, Long Beach (CA); and Scott Smith, Mesa (AZ). Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran accompanied the delegation.

The goal was to give U.S. mayors the opportunity to learn first-hand about the Saudi economy, government, educational system, culture, and people, through meetings with high-ranking Saudi government officials, businesspeople, high school and college students, museum officials, and others.

Coleman said, "The United States and Saudi Arabia are long-time friends and allies. This visit was a remarkable opportunity to learn a great deal about Saudi Arabia's government, economy, educational system, and people. This mission gave U.S. mayors an opportunity to exchange experiences about managing cities in both countries. On behalf of our delegation, I would like to express our great appreciation to the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington (DC) for making this experience possible."

Mayors Meet with Variety of Local, National Government Officials in Riyadh

The delegation spent November 6-8, in the capital, Riyadh, located in the central part of the nation. The work week in Saudi is Saturday through Wednesday. Thus, on Saturday, November 7, the delegation met with a variety of national and local governmental officials, including His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman for the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities.

The mayors met His Excellency Dr. Abdulrahman Albarak, Deputy Chairman of the Consultative Council, and members of several committees (Saudi Parliament), as well as members of several Consultative Council committees. The Consultative Council proposes new laws and amends existing ones. It consists of 150 members, appointed by the King for four-year terms that can be renewed.

Mayors received a presentation from the Ministry of Health, which outlined H1N1 prevention efforts utilized by health officials in preparation for the three million visitors who travel to Mecca in December from all over the globe. The delegation concluded the day with a visit with His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah, Minister of Education.



The delegation, led by Columbus (OH) Mayor Michael Coleman, included mayors Virginia DuPuy, Waco (TX); Timothy J. Davlin, Springfield (IL); Bob Foster, Long Beach (CA); Scott Smith, Mesa (AZ); and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, visited the Athriyah Traditional Village outside Riyadh.

Like other officials with whom the delegation met, His Highness expressed great optimism for the continuing strong U.S.- Saudi relationship, especially as hundreds of students matriculate at U.S. colleges and universities as part of the King Abdullah Scholarship Program.

Sunday: U.S. Embassy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Acting Governor of Riyadh, Mayor of Riyadh

The delegation met on November 8 with The U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James B. Smith at the U.S. Embassy. Consular staff gave an overview of diplomatic issues and gave mayors insights into the current priorities in the region.

In addition, the delegation also met His Royal Highness Prince Dr. Mansour Al Saud, Minister for Development Projects, Municipal and Rural Affairs who provided an insightful discussion on the role of mayors and how spending is allocated through their national government. His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Khoujah, Minister of Culture and Information, discussed the history of cultural exchanges with America and suggested ways mayors can host local Saudi culture exhibitions in their cities.

The last two meetings of the morning were with His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs who briefly discussed the history of U.S.- Saudi diplomatic relations and the role of the Kingdom in working with other middle eastern countries. At the end of the afternoon, the delegation met His Royal Highness Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz, Acting Governor of Riyadh Province.

Development of Economic Cities Projected

The Saudi Arabia Investment General Authority (SAIGA), www.sagia.gov.sa,

gave a detailed presentation on its five-year strategy for investing in "competitive and sustainable economic growth."

Several SAIGA officials, including Seema Khan, Chief Strategy Officer, explained that their goal is to forcefully demonstrate that Saudi is pro-business – "the best place to do business" – the goal is to attract major foreign investment and funding from major international institutions, such as the World Bank; ensure development of a knowledge-based society; and thus be able to establish world class "Economic Cities."

Having gained the authority to cut across and through governmental ministries, SAIGA envisions creation of a multimodal transportation system, dual language literacy (Arabic and English) for 93 percent of Saudis by the year 2025, realization of a streamlined single-government entity for business licensing and attraction of foreign investment, and creation of new cities that each contain an industrial zone, resort area, educational zone, central business district, and residential areas – "in short, 24-hour cities."

The mayors met with officials from the Ministry of Interior for Security Affairs, learning about the Association for Social Awareness and Rehabilitation program for men who had been imprisoned in Guantanamo, Cuba. The delegation heard first-hand from Dr. Hameed K. Al-Shaygi and Dr. Amad Alyami about how the program rehabilitates former Al-Qaeda members and seeks to prevent future terrorist/extremist involvement. Through a question and answer session the delegation members spoke with two of the program participants who shared their experiences since returning, and how the program is assisting them with their reintegration with families, employment and society.

Monday: Eastern Province: Schools, Shiba Oil Field

The delegation traveled to the Eastern Province for Monday meetings, where the mayors met the U.S. Consul General Joseph A. Kenny in Dammam, visited Dhahran Ahliyya Schools in the morning, viewed the Aramco Exhibit, and flew to the Empty Quarter to view the Shiba oil field.

Larger than France or Texas, the Empty Quarter is the largest area covered by sand on earth, considered one of the most remote and isolated regions in the world. Shiba was discovered in 1968 but only developed in the 1990's when horizontal drilling technology emerged. It is a major Saudi oil and natural gas-producing facility.

Tuesday: Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of Jeddah

The last two days were spent in Jeddah, a large seaport in western Saudi, located on the Red Sea. The delegation started the day with a visit to the historic Naseef House. Then they met with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to learn about the range of services offered to businesses in the area, and about business and investment opportunities in Jeddah.

The mayor's met with His Excellency Adel Fakeih, Mayor of Jeddah, who shared with the delegation highlights of The Jeddah Strategic Plan, which outlines the direction for Jeddah's development for the next 20 years.

The delegation visited the Help Center on Wednesday November 11, established in November 1985, to provide broad services and care to children with mental disabilities. Since its founding, the Center has provided services to more than 3,000 children with the goal of encouraging social, communication, and self-help skills.

The mayors then visited His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, the Governor, of Makkah (Mecca) Province, who described a newly started regional project to link the holy sites of Mecca and Medina through rail via Jeddah. This project is designed to facilitate and manage the movement of the three million pilgrims who come to worship annually for hajj.

Throughout the visit to Saudi Arabia the mayors were accompanied by Dr. Abdulmohsen Alyas, Deputy Director of Information, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Washington (DC), and Abdullah A. Alakeel of the Information Office.





By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Hate Crimes Legislation

President Barack Obama on October 28 signed into law important civil rights legislation that expands the definition of a hate crime to include crimes based on a victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. Strongly supported by the Conference of Mayors, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act is included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

In a May 20, 2009, letter to Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the bill's chief sponsor, then Conference of Mayors President Manny Diaz wrote: "The bill serves to strengthen the ability of local, federal, and state governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes based on race, ethnic background, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. Current law does not recognize violent crimes committed because of a person's sexual orientation, gender, or disability as hate crimes. Inclusion of these categories will ensure that all victims of vicious acts of violence are protected by the full strength of this nation's judicial and investigative systems."

When he signed the bill, President Obama acknowledged all of the hard work Kennedy, who succumbed to brain cancer on August 25, had done to make enactment of the bill possible. Members of the Senator's family were present at the signing ceremony.

The bill also:

- removes the current prerequisite that the victim be engaging in a federally-protected activity, like voting or going to school;
- gives federal authorities greater abil-

Update: Congressional, Executive Action on Crime, Homeland Security

- ity to engage in hate crimes investigations that local authorities choose not to pursue;
- provides \$10 million in funding for 2008 and 2009 to help state and local agencies pay for investigating and prosecuting hate crimes; and
- requires the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to track statistics on hate crimes against transgender people (statistics for the other groups are already tracked).

Firefighter Programs Reauthorization

The House passed H.R. 3791 on a 395-31 vote November 18 that would authorize \$11 billion over five years for firefighting programs. The bill would provide \$1 billion per year for the Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) program and \$1.2 billion per year for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER). AFG grants provide fire departments and emergency medical services organizations funds to purchase equipment. SAFER grants are used for hiring and retaining firefighters and emergency response personnel.

The House-passed bill would revise the grant allocation requirements. Career fire departments, volunteer fire departments, and combination career-volunteer departments would each be allotted 25 percent of the funds. The remaining 25 percent would be awarded on a competitive basis to any type of department. Maximum annual awards to departments would be based on the population of the jurisdiction they serve: Those which serve less than 100,000 people would receive up to \$1 million per year; those which serve 100,000 but less than 500,000 would receive up to \$2 million; those which serve 500,000 but less than 1,000,000 people would receive up to \$3 million; those which serve one million but less than 2.5 million would receive up to \$6 million; those which serve 2.5 million people or more



Left to right, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

would receive up to \$9 million.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee is expected to mark up legislation soon.

First Responder Equipment Sustainment

The Federal Emergency Management Agency notified states and other recipients of Homeland Security Grant Program funds on September 22 that these grant funds may be used to pay for "maintenance agreements, user fees, and other sustainment costs as long as the equipment was purchased with FEMA preparedness grant funding and the sustainment costs fall within the performance period of the grant that was used to purchase the equipment." This means that these funds cannot be used to maintain equipment purchased with other funds or during previous performance periods.

State and local officials have registered their strong concerns with FEMA about this. In response, Ohio Representative Mary Jo Kilroy introduced legislation (H.R. 3837) that would amend the Homeland Security Act to permit funds

to be used for maintenance agreements, user fees and sustainment costs and prohibit FEMA from imposing any time limit on grant recipients using these funds to maintain equipment. That legislation was reported out of the House Homeland Security Committee by a voice vote on November 18.

FEMA issued a revised policy on November 20 that states, "Effective immediately, the use of FEMA preparedness grant funds for maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees are allowable under all active and future grant awards, unless otherwise noted. Grantees are reminded to be sensitive to supplanting issues. Maintenance contracts, warranties, repair or replacement costs, upgrades, and user fees previously purchased with State and or local funds cannot be replaced with Federal grant funding."

H.R. 3837 had been expected to move quickly to the House floor, but with the issuance of FEMA's revised policy, Committee leaders now are waiting to get state and local officials' assessment of the impact of that policy.

COCHRAN from page 2

2010. At issue is what we have learned from the distribution of the stimulus funds, and that is that our funding structure for Washington transportation funds is broken and the present system does not meet today's needs as we move goods and services and people to work, school or play in our USA metro areas. Third, we must continue to make certain that our

Energy Block Grants are funded. With over 1,000 mayors now up and running, the Federal Government and the Energy Department cannot walk away. We will continue to insist that our national government provide direct funding to cities for economic green job activity, and to partner with our mayors in our coordinated efforts, which will help our national government immensely in its efforts toward climate protection.

These are three top issues confronting this organization as we begin 2010. No doubt, there will be others. Mayor Kautz, as our new President, needs your help as she leads us during this challenging and yes, exciting era of change that we are facing on so many fronts.

On behalf of all of the staff in Washington, I wish you the happiest holiday ever with your family, loved ones and friends. Rest, relax, be thankful, and be

ready. We will need your help in 2010. We can have many wins for you, your city, and your people if you will come with us. I look forward to seeing you soon - next year - 2010 at the Capital Hilton in Washington (DC) for a meaningful, productive and a fun and enjoyable 68th U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting.

Happy Holidays 2009. Happy New Year 2010.



By Ron Thaniel

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced on December 1 the availability of \$280 million for urban circulator projects such as streetcars, buses, and bus facilities. The money represents the first batch of funding by the Obama Administration for its Livability Initiative, a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"This represents a significant effort to promote livable communities, improve the quality of life for more Americans and create more transportation choices that serve the needs of individual communities," LaHood said. "Fostering the concept of livability in transportation projects will stimulate America's neighborhoods to become safer, healthier and more vibrant."

LaHood made the announcement at the historic Carrollton Car Barn streetcar facility with The U.S. Conference of Mayors Stafford Act Reform Task Force Chair and Poverty, Work and Opportunity Task Force Co-Chair New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin during a tour of the city's Katrina recovery efforts.

DOT Secretary LaHood Announces \$280 Million for Streetcar, Bus Projects

Urban Circulator Grants

Up to \$25 million for each selected project will be available from approximately \$125 million in prior year unallocated Section 5309 funds available now. Eligible projects include streetcars, bus, rapid transit and other eligible fixed guideways. Priority projects will connect destinations and foster the redevelopment of districts into walkable, mixed use, high density environments.

FTA will select projects on the basis of four criteria:

1. **Livability:** Improving the quality of living and working environments in the corridor in which the project is located. Specifically, the availability of existing or planned mixed income housing, including low income housing, within walking distance of the project and the strategies proposed to deliver high quality pedestrian environments will be evaluated.
2. **Sustainability:** Benefitting the environment through implementation of practices beyond the minimum requirements necessary to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act, such as the use of green technologies, energy efficient and sustainable infrastructure and other measures to reduce mobile source pollutants.
3. **Economic Development:** Contributing to the economic development of the corridor in which the project is located over the medium- to long-term. Plans and strategies to strengthen existing or encourage planned

mixed use development that provides local jobs and services within the community, in addition to housing, will be assessed.

4. **Leveraging of Public Investments:** Demonstrating strong collaboration among a broad range of participants and/or integration of transportation with other public investment efforts such as HUD-supported housing investments or EPA-funded brownfields projects.

Bus "Livability" Projects

Funding will be available from up to \$150 million in prior-year unallocated Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facility funds available now. Priority projects will foster the preservation and enhancement of urban and rural communities by providing new mobility options which provide access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and/or which contribute to the redevelopment of neighborhood spaces into walkable, mixed-use, vibrant environments.

A second pot of money totaling \$150 million in unallocated discretionary Bus and Bus Facility funds will be available for projects that will foster the preservation and enhancement of urban and rural communities by providing new mobility options which provide access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and/or contribute to the redevelopment of neighborhoods into pedestrian-friendly vibrant environments. FTA will identify meritorious projects on the basis of three criteria:

1. **Livability:** For Bus Projects, assessment of the impact on livability will focus on the project's ability to improve access to jobs, education, medical services and other necessities; support the independence of the elderly and disabled to remain in and contribute to their communities; or preserve and invigorate town centers.
2. **Sustainability:** FTA will emphasize projects which benefit the environment through activities which support more environmentally sustainable transportation systems; i.e. reducing reliance on automobile travel, improving the pedestrian and walk environment of a community, and use of sustainable design techniques in their planning, construction, and operation.
3. **Leveraging of Public Investments:** Bus projects will also be evaluated based on the degree to which they demonstrate strong collaboration among a broad range of participants and/or integration of transportation with other public investment efforts such as HUD-supported housing investments or EPA-funded brownfields projects.

FTA is publishing two notices of funding availability (NOFAs) the week of December 7, with grantee selections announcements early in 2010.

For additional information, go to the U.S. Department of Transportation's website at www.dot.gov.

Riverside Mayor Loveridge Elected NLC President

By Ed Somers

Thousands of city officials gathered in San Antonio November 10-14 for the National League of Cities' Annual Congress of Cities. The meeting was hosted by San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, and saw Riverside (CA) Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge elected as the new NLC President.

During his acceptance speech on November 14, Loveridge said, "It is in the cities of America where economic development takes place and quality of life is experienced. Cities are the wealth of nations. As cities go, so goes the country. There cannot be a healthy national economy without healthy local economies. Without strong cities and towns,

we cannot have a strong America."

"There are opportunities and resources in Washington. The biggest issues of our time are on the national agenda: the economy, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, health care, climate change and energy independence, transportation and infrastructure, housing, and immigration reform," Loveridge added.

The mayor said, "To move our best interests from the outer rings to the center ring of national legislation and policy, we must also be an effective partner with the Big Seven state and local government associations. In particular, we should work closely with U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Association of Counties."



NLC Officers: left to right, Vice President Charlotte (NC) Council Member James Mitchell Jr., President Riverside (CA) Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge, and Second Vice President Willmar (MN) Mayor Lester Heitke.

Loveridge then focused on the economy saying, "As cities, we must demonstrate leadership in getting our residents back to work and look for ways for our

city and region to compete in the global market place. It is the economy stupid ... and jobs!"

US Mayors Observe World AIDS Day

By Crystal Swann

December 1 marked World AIDS Day, and two decades later, the epidemic continues to grow in the US particularly among specific groups including gay and bisexual men, African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1.1 million people are living with HIV in America, and 20 percent of them do not know it. With these high rates, mayors across the country are taking initiatives to raise the awareness in their communities that the fight against HIV and AIDS isn't over.

In one example, ten US cities participated in the (RED) initiative by adorning public monument and buildings in red. The (RED) initiative is a brand designed to engage business and consumer power to help eliminate AIDS in Africa. The initiative will help fund the work of the Global Fund, the world's leading financier of programs to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Cities Go (RED) for World AIDS Day

- Salt Lake City illuminated the city and county building. Mayor Ralph Becker read the World AIDS Day proclamation right before he switches on the red lights.

- Columbus (OH) city hall and the Columbus Public Health Building both turned (RED) on 11/30 for one full week. Mayor Michael Coleman held a press conference on 11/30 at city hall to speak about this initiative and the building was turned (RED) at the same time. Also, there was a candlelight vigil at 6pm on December 1 at the Columbus Conservatory.
- St. Louis Civil Courts Building was turned (RED) at dusk on World AIDS Day.
- San Francisco Coit Tower and city hall were turned (RED) at dusk on World AIDS Day.
- Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl launched a World AIDS Celebration slated to last all week starting on World AIDS Day. He held a press conference inside the city county building, which was decorated with (RED) banners. The city county building was lit (RED) and the needle on top of the Highmark Building was turned (RED) on 11/30 for the entire week.
- Chicago CNA building displayed AIDS ribbon and FIGHT AIDS in lights.
- Boston Zakim Bridge went (RED) at sunset.
- Baltimore lit the Baltimore Washington Monument (RED) with a candle-

light vigil. Baltimore's theme will be "Stopping AIDS is everyone's business."

- Providence city hall and the Skating Center were turned (RED). Mayor David N. Cicilline and AIDS Care Ocean State held a candlelight vigil in front of the skating center.
- Los Angeles pylons around LAX went (RED) along with the top of the Los Angeles Central Library.
- New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg had the lights to the Brooklyn Bridge turned off to commemorate World AIDS Day.

Worldwide, nearly 33 million people are living with HIV, including 2.1 million children. Everyday, 7,500 more people are infected with HIV worldwide. This year the international World AIDS Day theme, "Universal Access and Human Rights," serves an important reminder that while treatments for HIV/AIDS are available not everyone is receiving them. Global leaders have pledged to work towards universal access to HIV and AIDS treatment, prevention and care, recognizing that these are fundamental human rights.

On World AIDS Day, the United States has unveiled its five-year plan to fight AIDS worldwide. The new plan will



"refocus the nation's overseas AIDS-fighting efforts. The new direction will shift the programs' emphasis toward achieving long-term, sustainable improvements in prevention, treatment, and care." For more information about the plan visit the website www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/133035.pdf.

World AIDS Day continues to be a time to educate, honor, remember, and to inspire people. The mayors' activities across the country did just that and their hard work and leadership are admirable.

Cities Look to Delinquent Taxes, Fees, Fines for Relief

By Jeffrey Bean

From Main Street to Wall Street, nearly every U.S. city has felt the impact of this past year's financial crisis. Simultaneously faced with a deteriorating tax base and growing demands for essential public services, many cities are looking to their delinquent accounts receivable for relief. Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP has been helping its city clientele do just that for over three decades.

"More and more cities are discovering that there are often millions of dollars in delinquent taxes, fees and fines that can be collected with the right plan and resources in place," said Mike Vallandingham, Partner and Chief Marketing Officer of the law firm Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Linebarger Goggan is a Platinum Partner and longtime Business Council Member of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Their



practice is focused on the collection of past due government receivables.

According to Vallandingham, it takes the right combination of operational capacity, experience and good people to drive a successful collection program. And, he added, "In this economic environment, when so many people are unemployed or underemployed, it also takes a respectful and understanding approach to dealing with those who owe our clients money." Often, payment plans are the only answer and Linebarg-

er Goggan can manage those as well.

Vallandingham noted that cities across the country are literally missing out on "free money" in the form of uncollected taxes, traffic citations and parking tickets simply because they are too strapped in terms of the financial and staffing resources it takes to go after it. "I personally do not believe there has ever been a better time for cities to consider a public-private partnership with the right collection firm," said Vallandingham.

When selecting a professional collection firm to partner with, Vallandingham explained that cities should always consider relevant experience and references, a history of success in the public sector, technology and capacity to handle a high volume of accounts and in a secure manner, and the ability and willingness to provide customized solutions to their clients. "While the fees charged should be considered of course, buyer beware - you will definitely get what you pay for and cheaper is rarely better in our industry. Thus, pricing should only be one factor in the evaluation criteria and better yet negotiated with the selected firm," said Vallandingham.

"For many years we heard from mayors throughout the country about how big a problem delinquent accounts receivables, such as taxes, were for cities" said Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. "That's why we were pleased to add Linebarger Goggan as a USCM Platinum Partner in 2007, to help our city members successfully manage this issue and increase the revenue going into their coffers both. It is also a matter of fundamental fairness to the vast majority of Americans who always pay their taxes on time."

More than 500 cities have turned to Linebarger Goggan for help in collecting their delinquent taxes, fees, fines, service charges, and other miscellaneous government debts. The firm has dozens of offices located coast-to-coast. Linebarger Goggan will help its government clients recover nearly \$1 billion this year alone.

For more information about Linebarger Goggan, contact Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland, COO, US Mayor Enterprises at 301-351-4350 or send e-mail to kweyland@usmayors.org.

"The Ambassador of the Great American Songbook" Michael Feinstein to Perform at Winter Gala

By Jocelyn Bogen

Michael Feinstein, a multi-platinum selling, five-time Grammy nominated entertainer and one of the premiere interpreters of American Popular Song, will be performing at the 78th Winter Meeting Gala held at the National Building Museum Thursday, January 21. In addition, the Conference of Mayors and Americans for the Arts will be honoring Feinstein as the 2010 Legendary Artist award for his outstanding leadership in the advancement of the arts.

Feinstein is nationally recognized for his commitment to the American popular song, both celebrating its art and preserving its legacy for the next generation. His 150 plus shows a year have included Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl and major concert halls, as well as the White House and Buckingham Palace.

Feinstein started playing piano by ear when he was five years old. After graduating from high school in Columbus (OH), he worked in local piano lounges for two years, moving to Los Angeles when he was 20. Through the widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant, he was introduced to Ira Gershwin in July 1977. Feinstein became Gershwin's assistant for six years, granting him access to numerous unpublished Gershwin songs, which he has since performed and recorded.

Gershwin's influence provided a solid base upon which Feinstein has not only evolved into a captivating performer, composer and arranger of his own original music, but has also become an unparalleled interpreter of music legends such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Johnny Mercer, Duke Ellington and Harry Warren.

This year, Feinstein earned his fifth Grammy Award nomination for the The Sinatra Project – his latest CD from Concord Records that celebrates the musical sensibilities of "Old Blue Eyes" Frank Sinatra. Feinstein is currently preparing a PBS-TV series, "Michael Feinstein's American Popular Song" – to start airing in 2010 – in which he discovers treasures of the Great American Songbook around the world.

Feinstein will also serve as the Artistic director of the Carmel Performing Arts Center, a \$160 million three-theatre performing arts center in Carmel (IN) that will host an annual international Great American Songbook festival, along with diverse live programming and a museum to house his rare memorabilia and manuscripts.

Note that the night of the Gala has been moved to the evening of Thursday, January 21 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.



Michael Feinstein



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

MAKE PLANS NOW to attend the 78th Winter Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington (DC) January 20-22, 2010

For further information, contact Carol Edwards at 202-293-7330 or visit the website usmayors.org



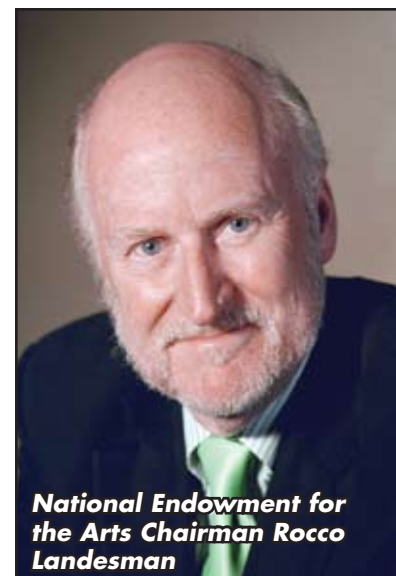
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