



NEWS **The United States Conference of Mayors**

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PRESS RELEASE

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U. S. Conference of Mayors Kick-off Largest International Mission on HIV/AIDS in Cape Town, South Africa

U.S. Mayors Continue Four Nation Mission in Namibia, Swaziland, and Uganda

August 29 – September 6, 2003

Cape Town, S. Africa – The U.S. Conference of Mayors, led by Conference President, Hempstead (NY) Mayor James A. Garner, kicked-off its **Mission to Africa** in Cape Town, South Africa last week. This international mission to understand the impact of HIV/AIDS in four African nations is the largest mission undertaken in the 71-year history of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It is the second mission to Africa for the Conference of Mayors and is the beginning of a sustainable presence and partnership with U.S. mayors and African mayors.

The delegation of U.S. mayors began their mission in Cape Town, South Africa and will continue to three other African nations: Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda. The Mission to Africa will focus primarily on the issue of HIV/AIDS in Africa and its impact on economic development and youth development in African cities and nations. This mission allows U.S. mayors to share their experiences with African mayors and build collaborative partnerships between U.S. cities and African cities in response to the devastating impact of the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Conference President Hempstead (NY) Mayor James A. Garner said, "The U.S. Conference of Mayors is making a historic journey into four nations in Africa. As the AIDS epidemic continues to devastate nations of Africa, our goal is to further sustainable efforts in sharing and learning on this issue between U.S. mayors and African mayors."

"Twenty-five years ago, U.S. mayors were faced with the AIDS epidemic and moved forward educating the citizens of our nation on HIV/AIDS and prevention," noted Mayor Garner. "As mayors, we know the

depth of this challenge. We are committed to this cause and know that this mission will be another significant step towards furthering our partnership with African mayors.”

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has demonstrated its commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic through many domestic projects. This mission will link U.S. mayors and their cities with African mayors and their cities in a program to enhance HIV prevention advocacy, policy and program.

In Cape Town, the mayors met with Her Worship, Mayor Nomaindia Mfeketo and members of her executive team to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS in Cape Town and other issues, including transportation, housing, economic development, and infrastructure.

Cape Town Mayor Mfeketo said, “We are pleased to have the U.S. mayors with us [today]. Mayors share best practices and learn from each other. We hope this is the beginning of a sustainable relationship with the U.S. Conference of Mayors.”

The Mission to Africa 2003 is a follow-up to the initial meetings of U.S. and African mayors at the 2nd International Conference of Mayors meeting in Denver, Colorado in June 2003. The participation of three African mayors from Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda at that meeting was a first step in actualizing this partnership.

This delegation of U.S. mayors to cities in Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda will:

- assess the impact of HIV/AIDS in the cities of these nations;
- experience how the African mayors are responding within their context;
- identify where the gaps in services exist; and
- through dialogue, determine how the city-to-city cooperation with U.S. cities and mayors can be mutually beneficial as a learning and resource mobilization tool for citizens in both partnering countries (given the challenges facing minorities and poor communities in the U.S.)

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, through its partnership with United Nations-AMICAALL, **Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level**, is working to spearhead a global effort in increasing responses to HIV/AIDS that reflect local needs and realities and ensure increased capacity and resources at the local level.

UN-AMICAALL’s partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors is an example of how through city-to-city cooperation, mayors are attempting to understand the challenges of HIV/AIDS in African cities.

A final outcome of this visit will be the development of a concrete cooperation plan.

Tom Cochran, the Executive Director of The U.S. Conference of Mayors said, “This four nation mission to Africa is the largest and most comprehensive international mission, ever, in the history of The United States Conference of Mayors. In addition to our meetings in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa, we will have three teams of U.S. mayors on individual missions to Namibia, Uganda, and Swaziland, all happening at the same time. This mission is our continuing commitment to Africa.”

“For over 30 years, through The U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. mayors have been involved in establishing democracy throughout Africa. Our organization is very proud of this heritage,” he added.

The Mission to Africa 2003 is a collaborative effort between The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa (UN-AMICAALL) and is funded partially through the following business partners: The Coca-Cola Company, Motorola, Altria, and Iridium. The Centers for Disease Control also assisted with this initiative.

About the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders:

The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa was created in 1998 out of the concern of African mayors about the impact that HIV/AIDS was having on their communities. Africa is the home of 70 percent of the estimated 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide – or 30 million people. They developed a program of action called **AMICAALL--which stands for the Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level**--as a means to mobilize political commitment, engage local government authorities - mayors, municipal leaders – and support them to work with their citizens and citizens groups, private voluntary organizations, the private sector, national government and the international community to develop programs/services that address the needs of affected households and communities. Nine chapters of the Alliance have now been launched in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, and the Alliance continues to expand.

About The U.S. Conference of Mayors:

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official - the mayor. Founded in 1932, the organization established its headquarters in Washington, D.C. and has remained there as an advocate for U.S. cities. The primary roles of the Conference are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. In addition to its mission within the United States, the Conference of Mayors has created a network of mayors from across the world called the International Conference of Mayors.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors Mission to Africa 2003 delegation consists of the following U.S. Mayors and the Executive Director of the Conference:

Mayor James A. Garner, Hempstead, NY
 Mayors Irma Anderson, Richmond,
 California
 Mayor Victor Ashe, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Mayor C. Jack Ellis, Macon, Georgia
 Mayor Michael A. Guido, Dearborn,
 Michigan
 Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville,
 Minnesota

Mayor Scott King, Gary, Indiana
 Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jackson,
 Mississippi
 Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf, Virginia
 Beach, Virginia
 Mr. Tom Cochran, Conference of Mayors
 Executive Director

Schedule of Events for the Delegation:

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Tuesday, September 2:

6:00-7:30pm (Photo Opportunity) Reception with Mayor of Johannesburg, His Worship Executive Mayor Amos Masondo, U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, Ambassador Cameron R. Hume, and U.S. Consulate General for Johannesburg, Mr. David Dunn.

Location: Intercontinental Sandton Sun & Towers Hotel

****DELEGATION DIVIDES INTO THREE GROUPS****

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

U.S. Mayoral Delegation: U. S. Conference of Mayors President James Garner (Hempstead, NY), Mayor Harvey Johnson (Jackson, MS), Mayor Scott King (Gary, IN), and Tom Cochran, Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors.

Wednesday, September 3:

5:30pm (Photo Opportunity) Reception with Mayor of Windhoek, His Worship Matheus Shikongo, Mayor of Otjiwarongo, His Worship Otto Ipinge, U.S. Ambassador Kevin McGuire and U.S. Mayoral delegation

Location: Kalahari Sands Hotel

Thursday, September 4:

8:00am **Site Visit: Bernard Nordkamp Centre, Katutura**
U.S. Mayors will be briefed on HIV/AIDS information and support center operated by Catholic AIDS Action.

8:40am **Site Visit: Mothers' Voice Grassroots Care Project, Katutura**
U.S. Mayors will be briefed on the community based HIV/AIDS project focusing on poor families and those rejected by families.

11:30am **Press Conference with U.S. Mayors and Namibian Mayors**
Contact: Rhonda Spears (202) 294-6923 (rspears@usmayors.org) - USCM; Ndangi Katoma, Chief: Corporate Communication, City of Windhoek 264-61-2902321 (kaf@windhoekcc.org.na)

Location: Kalahari Sands Hotel, Moringa Room

JINJA AND KAMPALA, UGANDA

U.S. Mayoral Delegation: Mayor Victor Ashe (Knoxville, TN), Mayor C. Jack Ellis (Macon, GA), and Mayor Elizabeth Kautz (Burnsville, MN).

Jinja, Uganda:

Thursday, September 4:

9:30am U.S. Mayors meet with the Mayor of Jinja, His Worship David Wakudumira, along with Mayor George M. Egunyu of Soroti, Mayor Peter Muwanga of Kamuli, Mayor C. Bukyabubi of Iganga, and Mayor Gita Elly of Nkokonjeru.

Location: Jinja Mayor's Parlour (Mayor's Office)

10:00am U.S. Mayors meet with elected councilors, technical staff, AMICAALL HIV/AIDS Local Action Team.

Location: Jinja Council Chambers

11:00am **Site Visit: AIDS Support Organization**, Jinja Branch, TASO, Jinja
U.S. Mayors will interact with TASO clients.

3:30pm **Site Visit: Bethesda Orphanage**
U.S. Mayors will interact with orphans at Bethesda Orphanage

Kampala, Uganda:

Friday, September 5:

8:45am **Site Visit: USAID, Kampala**
U.S. Mayors will be briefed by USAID Mission Director and HIV/AIDS Advisor.

10:00am **Press Conference with U.S. Mayors and Ugandan Mayors**
Contact: Rhonda Spears (202) 294-6923 (rspears@usmayors.org) - USCM; Ron Thaniel (rthaniel@usmayors.org) – USCM; Mathius Nsubbuga, special assistant to the Mayor 256-77-500500

Location: Kampala Mayor's Parlour (Mayor's Office)

MANZINI, SWAZILAND

U.S. Mayoral Delegation: Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf (Virginia Beach, VA), Mayor Irma Anderson (Richmond, CA), Mayor Michael A. Guido (Dearborn, MI).

Wednesday, September 3:

2:00pm **Site Visit: Zondle Orphanage**

6:30pm **(Photo Opportunity)** Reception with National Government Minister for Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Ambassador James D. McGee

Location: Royal Swazi Sun Hotel

Thursday, September 4:

9:00am **U.S. Mayors meet with Swaziland Mayors, including presentations by the Mayor of Lavumisa, His Worship Victor Simelane and Mayor Meyera Oberndorf of Virginia Beach, Virginia**

Facilitated discussion on the experience of managing a U.S. City and discussion on the impact of HIV/AIDS on local developments including economic and youth development.

Location: Royal Swazi Sun Hotel

12:00pm **Press Conference with U.S. Mayors and Swaziland Mayors**

Contact: Rhonda Spears (202) 294-6923 (rspears@usmayors.org) - USCM; Crystal Swann (cswann@usmayors.org) - USCM; Bob Dance U.S. Embassy of Swaziland (dancerl@state.gov)

Location: Royal Swazi Sun Hotel