



The United States Conference of Mayors

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MAYORS' 2007 10-POINT PLAN:

Mayors, Police Chiefs and Education Leaders

Hold National Summit on At-Risk Youth, Gang Violence, High School Dropouts

Mayors Call for Stronger Partnerships to Help At-Risk Youth

Miami - In response to the recent spike of violent crime in many American cities, The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), led by Conference President **Trenton (NJ) Mayor Douglas H. Palmer**, joined Conference Vice President and host **Miami Mayor Manuel A. Diaz**, along with mayors from around the country, for a **National Summit on At-Risk Youth** in Miami, Florida.

National statistics show that in many U.S. cities, the increase of homicides, armed robberies and aggravated assaults is often attributed to teens, at-risk youth, and a rise in gang activity. To reduce these numbers, mayors, police chiefs, school superintendents and workforce development professionals have come together to share comprehensive **solutions that have already proven successful** in combating school-based violence and youth crime.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Douglas H. Palmer said, "We are here today because America's young people are in real trouble. In fact, the most recent crime statistics show that more and more violent crime is being committed by young people. Additionally, the high school dropout rates in some cities are as high as 50 percent."

"As mayors, police chiefs, and community leaders, we must act now to save our young people and education must be our primary focus to address these serious challenges," Palmer added.

As noted in the *Mayors' 10-Point Plan*, the Conference's legislative agenda which outlines policy recommendations to build *Strong Cities, Strong Families, for a Strong America*, mayors are also calling for stronger federal-local partnerships to expand these programs that keep teens in school and stem the rise of gang violence in America's cities.

Miami Mayor Manuel A. Diaz said, "As mayors, we recognize the seriousness of at-risk youth, gang violence and school violence all over this country. In order to turn the tide and reverse this alarming trend, we must target our resources to proactively ensure that kids stay in school and are prepared for the world of work, and to combat the problems of youth and gang violence."

The At-Risk Youth Summit runs Thursday, March 22 and Friday, March 23 at the Marriott Miami Biscayne Bay Hotel. Topics of discussion include: the national high school dropout rate and causes, high school truancy, school-based violence, parental and community involvement, gang violence, jobless youth, juvenile re-entry after prison, and after school programs.

(more)

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS:

Thursday, March 22nd (Salon F Room)

9:00 a.m.

The Crisis of Minority Youth in Education

A national overview of the status of educational opportunities for at-risk youth, as well as examples, data and suggested strategies to improve school retention and high school graduation rates.

RUSSLYNN ALI
Executive Director
Education Trust West

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Successful High School Dropout Prevention Strategies

The panel will present successful efforts on high school dropout prevention strategies to improve retention, increase graduation rates, and aid in the transition to postsecondary education

THE HONORABLE DANIEL P. MALLOY
Mayor of Stamford

MICHAEL DUGGAN
Executive Director
DOMUS

THE HONORABLE ROBERT DUFFY
Mayor of Rochester

Dr. RUDOLPH F. “RUDY” CREW
Superintendent of Schools
Miami-Dade County

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Combating School-Based Violence and Gang Activity

Moderator:

ALBERT A. PEARSALL, III
Senior Policy Analyst
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)
U.S. Department of Justice

Panel:

TIM QUINN
Chief of Staff
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)
U.S. Department of Justice

BRYAN WILLIAMS
Program Analyst
Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools
U.S. Department of Education

(more)

THE HONORABLE JOHN M. FABRIZI
Mayor of Bridgeport

BRYAN NORWOOD
Chief of Police
City of Bridgeport

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE
State Attorney
Eleventh Judicial Circuit
Miami-Dade County

12:00 p.m.

PRESS CONFERENCE (San Marco Island Room)

12:30 p.m.

The Current State of Gangs in America

A national overview of gang activity and recruitment and its impact on high school dropout and in-school violence rates.

SCOTT DECKER
Director
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Arizona State University

Friday, March 23rd (Salon F Room)

10:00 a.m.

Connecting Youth Offenders to New Opportunities Upon Reentry

THE HONORABLE ERIC J. PERRODIN (Invited)
Mayor of Compton

JOHN TIMONEY
Chief of Police
City of Miami

THE HONORABLE JOHN F. STREET
Mayor of Philadelphia

SALLIE GLICKMAN
CEO
Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board

12:30 p.m.

THE HONORABLE ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor of Los Angeles

1:00 p.m.

At-Risk Youth Roundtable

Teens from the Miami area will share with the Mayors factors that make them “at-risk,” and discuss effective programs that have helped to put them on a path of success.

Moderator

DR. RUDOLPH F. “RUDY” CREW
Superintendent of Schools
Miami-Dade County