



**STATEMENT OF DETROIT MAYOR KWAME KILPATRICK ON
TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A BASEBALL STRIKE DEADLINE**

August 16, 2002

“The nation's mayors join millions of disappointed baseball fans today in hoping that a baseball strike can be averted.

“A prolonged baseball strike would have severe economic consequences -- not only for baseball owners and players --but also for thousands of people and small businesses in our cities. A U.S. Conference of Mayors survey found that Major League cities expected to lose an average of \$1.16 million for each home game cancelled as a result of the 1994 strike. This figure includes lost stadium, local tax, and local business revenue. The complete study can be accessed at <http://usmayors.org/uscm/home.asp>.

“As we expressed to both negotiators, Mr. Manfred and Mr. Fehr, when we met with them in January, mayors gladly offer to do anything we can to help the two sides reach an agreement. We urge both sides to continue negotiations and settle their differences quickly for the good of its fans, our cities, and the nation.”

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Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick has been leading the U.S. Conference of Mayors' efforts on professional sports issues. Mayor Kilpatrick, Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels met with Mr. Fehr and Mr. Manfred in January.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors 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.