



# **The United States Conference of Mayors**

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352  
E-mail: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org) URL: [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

**For Immediate Release  
May 2, 2006**

**Contact: Rhonda Spears Bell**  
[rspears@usmayors.org](mailto:rspears@usmayors.org)  
**(202) 861-6766**

## **2006 JERUSALEM CONFERENCE OF MAYORS TO FOCUS ON ROLE OF HISTORY AND CULTURE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **U.S. Delegation Includes Eight Mayors; Meetings Scheduled with Israeli Leaders**

A delegation of eight U.S. mayors will travel to Israel in early May for the 24th Annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors, which is hosted by Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski. The week-long event is sponsored by the American Jewish Congress-Council for World Jewry, which covers the costs of the mayors' participation, and The U.S. Conference of Mayors, and is conducted in cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Jerusalem, the U.S. delegation will be joined by nearly 30 mayors from cities in South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Included among these are the Mayors of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Prague, Czech Republic; Tbilisi, Georgia; Livorno, Italy; Asuncion, Paraguay; Odessa, Ukraine; and Lusaka, Zambia. The theme of this year's conference is "Mobilizing the Past for a Better Economic Future."

During the May 7-13 event the mayors are scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, President Moshe Katzav, and Foreign Minister Tzippi Livni. They will also participate in several sessions in which Mayor Lupolianski will discuss current issues affecting Jerusalem. Conference sessions will focus on a variety of municipal issues in Israel and the visiting mayors will have several opportunities to discuss their cities and the strategies they employ to address local problems. Included in the conference are visits to several Jerusalem neighborhoods. The mayors will tour both historic and modern sites in Jerusalem, visit Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial, and Yad Sarah, a social services facility in Jerusalem. They will visit a military base and travel to the Sea of Galilee and the Christian holy sites around it, Masada, and the Dead Sea.

The U.S. delegation, chaired by Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, a Trustee of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, includes Scott Avedisian, Mayor of Warwick, RI; John Callahan, Mayor of Bethlehem, PA; Heather Fargo, Mayor of Sacramento, CA; Joe Geller, Mayor of North Bay Village, FL; Shirley Gibson, Mayor of Miami Gardens, FL; Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor of Burnsville, MN; and Carlos Mayans, Mayor of Wichita, KS.

##