



The United States Conference of Mayors

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For Immediate Release
Wednesday, November 28, 2007

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THE NATION'S MAYORS TO BRING URBAN AGENDA TO IOWA

Des Moines, IA – For the first time ever, the nation's mayors will travel to Iowa on December 1st for both the Heartland Presidential Candidate Forum and the Brown & Black Presidential Forum to stress to Presidential Candidates how important city issues are to the country and a growing number of Americans. With over 85% of people in the United States living in our nation's cities and metro areas, mayors clearly understand how urban issues impact everyday Americans and are calling on candidates to focus on these issues.

Mayors are convinced that despite their geographic location, cities large and small across over the country are plagued by the same challenges including access to healthcare, job creation, affordable housing, immigration, crime and illegal guns, failing public schools and climate protection. The mayors' Ten Point Legislative Plan, *Strong Cities, Strong Families, for a Strong America*, is the Conference's legislative agenda that highlights priorities for cities and urban areas (www.usmayors.org to see Plan).

"For the first time in our history, The United States Conference of Mayors is bringing a bipartisan group of mayors to the Iowa Caucuses. We believe that the issues of Iowa and the city of Des Moines are the same issues that face mayors around the country each and every day. We support Mayor Cownie and the other Iowa mayors as we present to the next President of the United States the challenges and opportunities before us," said U.S. Conference of Mayors Executive Director Tom Cochran.

WHO: Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, USCM President
Des Moines, IA Mayor T.M. Franklin Cownie, Host
Miami, FL Mayor Manny Diaz, USCM Vice President
Los Angeles, CA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Oklahoma City, OK Mayor Mick Cornett
Mary Campos & Wayne Ford, Co-Founders - Brown & Black Presidential Forum
(bbpresforum.org)

WHAT: The Nation's Mayors Will Attend Heartland Presidential Candidate Forum as well as Brown & Black Forum: ***WILL REACT TO CANDIDATES AND SPEAK TO URBAN ISSUES IMPACTING AMERICA'S CITIES***

WHEN: Saturday, December 1, 2007
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (CST)

WHERE: HyVee Hall – Corridor Outside Hall C
730 3rd Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

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 represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.