U.S. MAYORS TO MEET IN BOSTON ON STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

U.S. Conference of Mayors Hosts Food Policy Task Force Meeting to Discuss Federal and Local Initiatives to Access to Healthy Foods

Washington, D.C. – Boston Mayor Thomas Menino will host a task force meeting in Boston on Thursday, April 19 to discuss federal and local policies impacting access to healthy food in U.S. cities and urban areas.

Chaired by Boston (MA) Mayor Tom Menino and Baltimore (MD) Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) Task Force on Food Policy was established as a vehicle to recognize the lead role mayors are taking in developing strategies related to reducing obesity, increasing access to healthy, affordable food in low-income communities, increasing local food procurement in cities, as well as other strategies for promoting food-related economic development -- from food trucks to small business incubators.

The Task Force meeting will provide a forum for mayors to share what they are doing in their own communities through a round-table discussion about impediments to healthy food retail and how food retail can create jobs and economically revitalize neighborhoods. Mayors will also hear from Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME), as well as officials from The U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Treasury in an effort to understand the federal resources available to cities for food infrastructure development; capacity building for micro-businesses; as well as grocery story retailing.

While the meeting is closed to the media, the luncheon session at the JPNDC Brewery -- where mayors will see local innovative food policy solutions at work -- is OPEN to reporters for photo opportunities and interviews.

WHO: Boston, MA Mayor Thomas Menino, USCM Food Policy Task Force Chair
Baltimore, MD Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, USCM Food Policy Task Force Vice Chair
Indianapolis, IN Mayor Greg Ballard
Cambridge, MA Mayor Henrietta Davis
Patterson, LA Mayor Rodney Grogan
Weymouth, MA Mayor Susan Kay
Madison, WI Mayor Paul Soglin
Providence, RI Mayor Angel Taveras
Newton, MA Mayor Setti Warren
Burlington, VT Mayor Miro Weinberger

WHAT: U.S. Conference of Mayors’ FOOD POLICY TASK FORCE MEETING | Photo Opportunity/Interviews

WHEN: Thursday, April 19 | 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Bella Luna Restaurant – located at JPNDC Brewery Complex | 284 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain | Boston, MA