



The United States Conference of Mayors

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MAYORS GATHER IN MIAMI FOR FOCUS ON URBAN ISSUES AT 76TH ANNUAL U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ~ JUNE 20 – 23

Miami, FL – In the midst of rising gas prices, increasing food costs, the housing foreclosure crisis and a weakening national economy, the nation's mayors are weighing in on domestic policy issues that impact urban America and metropolitan areas. Led by Conference President and Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer and host Miami (FL) Mayor Manuel A. Diaz, hundreds of mayors have gathered in Miami to push their bipartisan 10-Point Plan, *Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America*.

With approximately 84% of people in the United States living in cities and metropolitan areas, America is an increasingly urban nation. And more than any other level of government, mayors understand how the many key issues before the nation, such as transportation, gas prices and energy, infrastructure, crime, gangs, public schools and clean water impact the lives of everyday Americans.

"While Washington has been asleep on the domestic front, mayors are leading the way on issues most directly affecting people in America's cities," said Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer.

On Friday, the mayors will release a survey showing the relationship between high gas prices and local climate protection efforts. The 132-city survey reveals that nearly nine in ten mayors responding to the survey say that higher fuel prices are having a significant impact on their city budgets. Further, eighty-four percent of the mayors surveyed say energy prices have prompted their cities to consider raising money, retro-fitting buildings and/or using fuel-efficient fleets that reduce energy use as ways to reduce costs.

"This new survey of mayors shows that gas prices are already impacting city budgets, at the same time weaknesses in our overall economy is making it harder for cities to generate local revenues to support climate protection efforts," said Mayor Palmer. "Resource constraints were identified as the largest obstacle to expanding energy efficiency and other climate protection initiatives, which is why mayors have called on Congress and governors to support their efforts."

To date, more than 850 mayors have signed onto the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement – a pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cities; and mayors are also pushing an energy block grant in Congress to help cities achieve their goals and expand their energy conservation efforts. In addition, the Conference is honoring both USCM Advisory Board Chair Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and Carmel (ID) Mayor James Brainard with Climate Protection Awards, sponsored by Walmart, Stores, Inc. for their cutting edge local programs that can serve as models for the rest of the country.

On Saturday, mayors will hear from Presumptive Democratic Nominee Senator Barack Obama (IL), who will address the Conference for the first time.

On Sunday, Former President William Jefferson Clinton will report on the Clinton Foundation's Climate Protection partnership with The United States Conference of Mayors.

On Monday at the business session, mayors will debate and vote on policy recommendations to forward to Congress and the new Presidential Administration. Key resolutions to be considered include: a ban on bottled water in city halls around the country, as well as resolutions on Iran, prisoner re-entry and immigration.

Other confirmed speakers for the meeting include: Senator Bill Nelson (FL), Congressional Urban Caucus Chair Congressman Chaka Fattah (PA), Congressman Danny Davis (IL), FL Governor Charlie Crist, PA Governor Edward Rendell, Toronto, Canada Mayor David Miller, FHA Commissioner Brian Montgomery, Mortgage Bankers Association Chairman Kieran Quinn, National Association of Realtors President Elect Charles McMillan, NeighborWorks America

Director Marietta Rodriguez, White House Interagency Council on Homelessness Philip Mangano and Miami Dade County Schools Superintendent Rudy Crew.

The meeting this year incorporates many green and sustainable practices. This is also the first year that the Conference has had a title sponsor -- TCP -- a global leader in energy efficient lighting.

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.

TCP is the global leader in energy efficient lighting innovations for the professional, specifier and consumer markets. Under the leadership of CEO Ellis Yan, TCP manufactures nearly 1.4 million energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs every day, accounting for a majority of the CFLs sold in the United States and an annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of more than 118 million pounds. A charter member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Council, TCP's commitment to energy efficiency and overall sustainability makes them an ideal company to serve as first-ever title sponsor for USCM's 'green' annual meeting.