

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

The U.S. Conference of Mayors
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HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

WHEREAS, access to high quality health care is essential for the healthy development and well-being of America's children; and

WHEREAS, the states across the nation have made great progress in reducing the percentage of uninsured children through the state/federal partnership that was made possible through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); and

WHEREAS, SCHIP was recently strengthened through the positive re-authorization of SCHIP by the President with strong bi-partisan support in Congress; and

WHEREAS, our country's Mayor's know first hand the importance of access to primary care for children and families in their cities because children need to be healthy in order to do well in school and reach their full potential; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the US Conference of Mayors hereby join together to celebrate the progress we have made as a nation through the recent reauthorization of SCHIP which will extend health insurance coverage to 4 million more children and ensure that children have access to health insurance coverage and primary health care, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors dedicate themselves to continue the effort to make sure that all children have health insurance coverage.

**EXPANDING INVESTMENTS IN COORDINATED FULL-DAY LEARNING STRATEGIES
TO ENSURE THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH**

WHEREAS, America's young people are falling behind in today's global economic marketplace, not fully prepared to succeed in a competitive workforce, to safeguard our democracy nor repair our environment; and

WHEREAS, our education system must both build knowledge well as foster creativity, innovation, and critical thinking; and

WHEREAS, quality after-school opportunities are proven to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork by providing life-shaping enrichments; and

WHEREAS, aligning school-day and after-school learning is critical to provide the best learning environment possible for students from the moment they wake until they go to bed; and

WHEREAS, improved coordination of libraries, recreation and parks departments, police, community centers, and youth serving organizations with schools through a strategic planning process will achieve greater accountability toward full healthy development of youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to invest in coordinated full day learning strategies that incorporate academic, social, emotional and physical activities to ensure the well- rounded and healthy development of youth by working with education administrators and local education agencies to integrate community after-school programs and organizations into the school day, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Creating funding opportunities for building city-wide after-school initiatives so all K-12 students can learn from aligned after-school experiences, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Providing support and incentives for professional development training for school and after-school staff and paraprofessionals of schools and after-schools, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, encouraging the development and use of assessments to ensure accountability for high quality programming

and to identify additional supports to achieve measurable outcomes for youth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, investing in intermediaries and public/private partnerships to serve as coordinating entities to promote broad leadership support and ensure efficiency and high quality services; and
Coordinating multiple use of public and private facilities that serve youth to increase participation and access to quality program opportunities.

**SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON MIDDLE-
CLASS WORKING FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, middle-class working families are the backbone of our nation and the stronghold of our economy; and

WHEREAS, as local elected officials it is our responsibility to address the growing economic and social concerns of the middle-class, including education, access to health care, jobs and workforce housing; and

WHEREAS, every American deserves a quality and affordable education, access to quality healthcare, a stable job where they can succeed and affordable housing options; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has launched a White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families, a major initiative targeted at raising the living-standards of American middle-class working families; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will be chaired by Vice President Joe Biden, comprised of top-level administration policy makers, and will conduct outreach sessions with representatives of labor, business and advocacy communities in addition to its regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will work with a wide-array of federal agencies that have responsibility for key issues facing middle-class working families and will expedite administrative reform, propose Executive orders, and develop legislative and policy proposals that will be of special importance to working families; and

WHEREAS, our nation's middle class working families are facing significant challenges and barriers to the American dream and as local elected leaders it is imperative that we work with federal officials to adopt initiatives that ensure the American dream is still achievable; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of the White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families and we support the Task Force's efforts to work throughout the federal government to develop policies to expand education and workforce training, improve work and family balance, restore labor standards and protect working families income and retirement security, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the White House to include Mayors in the Task Force's outreach sessions.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANNUAL MAYORS' "KIDS' DAY" CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, childhood is a time to live, play, and learn; and

WHEREAS, Kids' Day was created in Green Bay in 2003, as a way to show children how special they are to their families, how city government connects to their everyday lives, and how important they are to the future of the city; and

WHEREAS, Kids' Day has been established to take place six months from Christmas on June 25th of every year, achieving resounding success, more activities and greater participation over each of the past six years; and

WHEREAS, all Kids' Day events are provided for free by City staff, community volunteers, and business sponsors to thousands of children each year, including activities such as baseball games, movies, inflatable games, music, fireworks, lunch, swimming, bowling, amusement park rides, ice cream, soda and much, much more; and

WHEREAS, Kids' Day serves to reinforce the City's appreciation of community volunteerism and the hard work of youth in school, educates children about services and connects them to City staff, including department heads, and shows them the love and respect they deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Seventh Annual Mayor's Kids' Day Celebration will take place on June 25, 2009, shortly after the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors proclaims the twenty-fifth of June of every year to be Mayors' Kids' Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges its members to institute Kids' Day recognition and activities in their own cities that honor the contributions of youth within their families and community.

POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- The problems surrounding reducing poverty are inextricably linked and require a multifaceted approach to breaking the cycle of poverty: Where you find one entrenched problem, you likely will find another; and
- Poor housing opportunities are related to poor education opportunities; and
- Poor schools contribute to poor employment opportunities; and
- The nation's dropout crisis is a particularly troubling aspect of the poverty problem; and
- A dead-end, low wage job makes it impossible for families to build assets and financial security: Even full-time work can fail to lift workers out of poverty; and
- It is time for a significant paradigm shift in federal policy, one that empowers mayors and other local leaders to set priorities in their areas with greater accountability for specific outcomes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- A cabinet-rank position to direct, coordinate and promote poverty reduction programs - with special emphasis on universal pre-K education across federal executive agencies and departments - should be created; and
- Funding for universal pre-K and other early childhood programs should be increased to reach all eligible participants. Mayors recognize that student achievement is inextricably linked to early childhood education, health and nutrition, social service supports, and parental involvement; and
- Universal healthcare for children and families -- a comprehensive health insurance benefits package that will provide quality medical, dental, and mental health services for all people - should be established; and

- The federal government should greatly expand financial literacy programs to meet a critical need in this particularly difficult economic climate. The current turmoil in the housing and credit markets underscores the growing need for local financial literacy strategies to educate city residents, at every stage of life, about financial issues; and
- A significant portion of revenues from federally imposed fines, penalties and fees on financial institutions should be used to fund local financial education programs and initiatives.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO COMBAT POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, this national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations that can be accomplished through executive orders and administrative actions that would have an immediate impact on crime and violence in cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the executive orders and administrative actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- The Administration should create a cabinet-level position to direct, coordinate and promote poverty reduction programs across federal executive agencies and departments with special emphasis on universal pre-K education and universal health care. Responsibilities of this position would include; and
- Developing a new federal poverty measure based on the research recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences; this calls for the measure to account for the effect of tax liabilities and credits along with the cash value of in-kind benefits such as Food Stamps and housing subsidies; and
- Ensuring that the poor and economically challenged are fully accounted for in the Census, to guarantee the success of anti-poverty programs; and
- Increasing community-wide awareness and utilization of existing tax credits and programs that benefit the working poor, including Food Stamps and housing tax credits, and increasing opportunities for financial literacy education and asset building; and
- The Administration should appoint to departmental and agency positions key policy-makers with expertise on local poverty issues who can help develop a comprehensive national anti-poverty strategy.

IN SUPPORT OF CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

WHEREAS, regular access to healthy and affordable meals has been proven to be one of the strongest predictors of improved school performance; and

WHEREAS, urban school districts have led the way in developing healthy meal choices for kids, including through efforts to increase the supply of nutritious, locally-grown foods in school cafeterias; and

WHEREAS, among more than 30 million children who eat school food five days a week, 180 days a year, millions of low-income children consume more than 50% of their total weekly caloric intake through school breakfast, lunch and snack programs; and

WHEREAS, these students consume a larger percentage of fruits and vegetables—more than 40%, through school food than any other food group in their diets; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Farm Bill included support for programs that could increase access to health, locally-grown foods, including inter alia a 'buy local' (geographic preference) mandate, funding for Community Food Projects, fresh fruit and vegetable and healthy snack programs, etc.; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to 'buy local' can provide new and vital economic-development opportunities for small businesses, while reducing transport costs, wastage, and the 'carbon footprint' of school food programs; and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors last year passed resolutions calling for implementation of policies to end the nation's childhood hunger crisis as well as funding for obesity prevention measures—both policies that a reauthorized Child Nutrition Act would help address; and

WHEREAS, Senators Tom Harkin and Lisa Murkowski have introduced legislation requiring USDA to establish science-based nutritional standards for foods served in schools that compete with school meal programs; and

WHEREAS, Representative George Miller, among others, has noted that reimbursement rates for school meals have not kept pace with inflation, making it more difficult for schools to provide healthy and nutritious meals that children want to eat—a finding also borne out by a recent survey of school

district directors, 68% of whom expected that the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) reimbursement at the end of the 2007/08 school year would not meet their costs; and

WHEREAS, school lunches are significantly less costly than caloric-equivalent lunches from home—the average price for a school lunch for 2008-09 school year is \$2.08, while the average cost of lunches prepared at home is \$3.80, school lunches playing a role in hunger prevention that is both critical to child health, and cost-effective; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt a budget resolution that includes \$20 billion over five years for the Child Nutrition Reauthorization—and investment that will enable school nutrition programs to meet their goal of providing nutritious, balanced meals to children. This should also include a 35 cent per meal increase in reimbursement rates, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM supports both the simplification of procurement rules pertaining to geographic preferences as well as a broader interpretation of the “buy local” language. USDA’s unduly narrow interpretation of the ‘geographic preferences’ mandate thwarts the clear intent of Congress and prevents school districts from sourcing locally in order to prepare more nourishing school meals; and that USDA should create a ‘Farm to School/Farm to Institution’ division in order to strengthen implementation of ‘buy local,’ with its clear benefits to farmers and small businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM notes the substantial technical challenges associated with scaling up the use of fresh local foods in school cafeterias, and toward that end, supports funding for technical assistance providers to develop best practices on product sourcing, bid specifications, and menu planning, as well as support for evaluation of pilot programs, in collaboration with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USCM commends Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for making the fight against child obesity a priority in reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, for supporting 'buy-local' efforts, and committing to working closely with the Secretary in implementation of these programs.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides support a broad range of community-based programs to combat poverty, provide emergency services to low-income people, empower people to achieve self-sufficiency, and to revitalize low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program helps move low-income populations out of poverty to self-sufficiency by providing a variety of comprehensive, outcome-driven services. These programs include employment, education, youth development, family support, senior services, health care, nutrition, transportation, housing, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies administer CSBG funding and coordinate services for their local areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies help leverage additional federal, state, local, and private resources to develop and provide a coordinated array of resources to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency, ameliorate the causes and manifestations of poverty, and revitalize low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the current economic climate raises the demand for CSBG services, such as Employment Programs to provide job readiness, training, and placement assistance; and

WHEREAS, afterschool Programs to enable working families to maintain employment, reduce absenteeism, and increase workforce productivity, while providing academic support for children, Youth Internship Programs to assist young people with skills building, career exploration, job readiness, and job preparation that help them become successful and productive adults, Youth Leadership to facilitate youth development and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, literacy instruction to provide Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs in reading, writing and mathematics to native English or English-fluent speakers, General Educational Development (GED) programs to prepare students for tests to obtain a high school equivalency diploma, and support to the nation's growing immigrant population to attain English and workplace literacy whereby they can obtain and retain employment and advance in their careers; and

WHEREAS, housing advocacy to help prevent evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness, senior services to foster healthy physical, psychological, and social well-being and promote independent living, healthy families and Family Support to provide case management and promote family stability; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program was authorized under the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, which consolidated 77 anti-poverty grant programs into 9 block grants; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG legislation was amended in 1998 by the Coates Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 and sunset in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration made a major investment in the CSBG program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with a \$1 billion appropriation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize CSBG, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in CSBG reauthorization legislation, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- maintain flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies that meet the unique needs of the targeted communities,
- maintain the focus on community development, neighborhood revitalization, and building capacity of its residents to create their own opportunities and achieve self-sufficiency,
- Protect local control and flexibility for the local community action agencies to develop and implement their comprehensive local plan to address the unique needs of local areas,
- Raise the income eligibility of services to 200 percent of the federal poverty level as permitted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
- Maintain and update the distribution of funds based on current poverty indicators,
- Ensure funding be at an adequate level to support and expand services and programs to meet the needs of the nation's low-income communities, individuals and families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress make a major investment in our nation' slow-income communities, individuals and families by reauthorizing CSBG this year.

REVISING THE FEDERAL MEASURE OF POVERTY

WHEREAS, the federal poverty threshold, was established in 1963-1964 based on the cost of only one of life's necessities, food; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960's families spent about one-third of their income on food, while today food accounts for about one-seventh of an average household's total expenditures while other necessities, particularly housing, account for a larger proportion of family income; and

WHEREAS, the federal poverty threshold has only been adjusted for inflation and is the uniform standard for cities and rural areas alike throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, a single federal standard does not address the different cost of living for families across our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the current federal poverty line no longer represents the income that families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life; and

WHEREAS, the current poverty measure only counts pre-tax cash as the income available to families to meet their needs, thus ignoring the value of tax credits and in-kind benefits; and

WHEREAS, at the request of Congress, the National Academy of Sciences has made specific recommendations for an improved poverty measure that have created a wide consensus for change; and

WHEREAS, an accurate calculation of the federal poverty rate is important to understanding the dimensions of the nation's economic needs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to revise the formula for calculating the federal poverty line so that it better reflects the amount that families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life across America, and that it include non-cash resources that help families meet those needs in its measure of family resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Bureau of the Census revamp its American Community Survey so that it can provide an improved measure of poverty for cities across the nation.

**IMPROVING ACCESS, MEAL QUALITY, AND NUTRITION THROUGH THE
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT (1)**

WHEREAS, Mayor's are committed to the health and well being of the nation's children through the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act; and

WHEREAS, the Child Nutrition programs are the first line of defense to combat childhood hunger, promote healthy eating, provide healthy, nutritious food for the nation's children through the following programs: National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, Afterschool Snack and Meal Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Special Milk Program; and

WHEREAS, millions of children depend on these programs including 32 million children who eat school lunch and 11.2 million who eat school breakfast daily, 8.2 million mothers and children who receive food and nutrition education through WIC, and 2.1 million children who eat summer meals; and

WHEREAS, the most recent USDA data showed that childhood hunger is rising at alarming rates and that 12.6 million children live in households facing a constant struggle against hunger; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control showed that more than 16% of children under 19 are obese; and

WHEREAS, data shows that participation in the National School Lunch Program is increasing across the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong connection between the nation's agricultural production and Child Nutrition programs and the Child Nutrition Reauthorization provides an opportunity to improve these connections while increasing the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables served to children; and

WHEREAS, Child Nutrition programs are an extraordinarily successful, cost effective way to help children, especially those in low income families achieve access to quality nutrition, child care, educational and enrichment activities, while improving their overall health, development and school achievement; and in addition, the adult component of the CACFP

provides needed nutrition assistance to elderly and impaired adults; the federal support for these programs has not kept pace with children's need for these programs, food and transportation cost inflation, the costs of delivering services, and current scientific knowledge about healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living varies widely throughout the country, and standardized federal reimbursement rates have significantly less buying power in areas with high costs of living and federal poverty definitions do not properly measure families' need and therefore deny access to many needy families; and

WHEREAS, excessive rules, regulations and paperwork burdens make administering these programs costly and time consuming; and reducing these requirements while ensuring program integrity can streamline program operations and save money better spent on improved nutrition; and

WHEREAS, a well-conceived, adequately funded reauthorization bill can reduce hunger and food insecurity in America, help reduce childhood overweight and obesity, improve child nutrition and health, and enhance child development and school readiness; and

WHEREAS, Congress has a unique opportunity in the upcoming reauthorization of the CNR to improve access, meal quality, and nutrition for millions of children, particularly low income children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to make a substantial investment of funding in and simplification of program regulations for Child Nutrition Programs during the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to significantly increase all reimbursement rates for Child Nutrition Programs, and provide additional funding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to authorize direct certification of Medicaid recipients as eligible for free meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to allow schools, groups of schools, or entire districts to choose to be reimbursed based on estimates of eligibility rates in exchange for serving all meals for free, and that districts should be able to develop individualized methodology for estimating eligibility rates based on reliable data sources, and subject to USDA approval, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to mandate the creation of new nutritional standards to combat the epidemic of childhood obesity and diet related disease, and continues to allow local jurisdictions to enact standards that are higher than the national standards, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect current WIC income eligibility standards, including allowing adjunctive eligibility to the current state Medicaid level; and give states the option to recertify children for one year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to lower requirements for area eligibility in the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program to serve more low income children, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reinstate the Food Service Equipment Assistance Program to support schools in preparing and serving more fresh food, and support children's connection with agriculture, nutrition and the environment by reducing barriers and providing incentives and funding for school gardens, farm to school, farmers markets and salad bar programs.

EDIBLE GARDENS

WHEREAS, municipal edible gardens increase awareness of and appreciation for local, nutritious foods; and

WHEREAS, mayors applaud First Lady Michelle Obama's White House garden, the first at the White House since Eleanor Roosevelt's victory garden in World War II. The garden is being cultivated by local school children as it grows and produces delicious, healthy vegetables in the White House kitchen for the first family and also for donation to Miriam's Kitchen, which serves the homeless in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, many cities are utilizing parks, city hall land, and municipal community gardens to grow vegetables and herbs that provide food for local food banks and farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, edible gardens provide learning opportunities for Mayors to teach constituents on the benefits of practicing sustainability and how eating locally grown produce can reduce the risk of diet-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members have long practiced sustainability through composting and the use of rain garden programs, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to develop, grow, and maintain edible gardens in parks, city hall land, and municipal community gardens.

SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, cities are on the frontlines of the healthcare crisis with high rates of uninsurance and rapidly escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and

WHEREAS, city governments spend billions of dollars to provide health coverage to millions of employees, dependents, and retirees, and rising health costs affect cities' ability to provide other city services; and

WHEREAS, cities face serious health workforce shortages, particularly among primary care professionals in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, many families and individuals served by city programs have unmet health and mental health needs, complicating city efforts to provide effective services; and

WHEREAS, city public health agencies receive limited federal and state support despite the cost-effectiveness of public health strategies in preventing and addressing chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, nearly 46 million Americans lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, or medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and

WHEREAS, nearly 9 million children lack health insurance coverage and therefore have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and

WHEREAS, millions more Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin if they experience a major illness; and

WHEREAS, health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and

WHEREAS, health costs threaten the global competitiveness of American businesses; and

WHEREAS, our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, there are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, chronic diseases pose the greatest challenge to our health care system and our health care delivery system is not well-organized to prevent and treat them; and

WHEREAS, public hospitals and clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers provide care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, many cities have developed innovative programs to expand access to quality health care, make health services more affordable, and improve health care quality while acknowledging that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year, and substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders and craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, Mayors, as representatives of their citizens, as employers, as health care providers and as partners to small and large businesses who struggle with health care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports and calls for the immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles and agrees that comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; invest in prevention and wellness; improve patient safety and quality of care; assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; and end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care; so that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system.

**IMPROVING ACCESS, MEAL QUALITY, AND NUTRITION THROUGH THE
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT (2)**

WHEREAS, Mayor's are committed to the health and well being of the nation's children through the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act; and

WHEREAS, the Child Nutrition programs are the first line of defense to combat childhood hunger, promote healthy eating, provide healthy, nutritious food for the nation's children through the following programs: National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, Afterschool Snack and Meal Program, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Special Milk Program; and

WHEREAS, millions of children depend on these programs including 32 million children who eat school lunch and 11.2 million who eat school breakfast daily, 8.2 million mothers and children who receive food and nutrition education through WIC, and 2.1 million children who eat summer meals;and

WHEREAS, the most recent USDA data showed that childhood hunger is rising at alarming rates and that 12.6 million children live in households facing a constant struggle against hunger; and

WHEREAS, data shows that participation in the National School Lunch Program is increasing across the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong connection between the nation's agricultural production and Child Nutrition programs and the Child Nutrition Reauthorization provides an opportunity to improve these connections while increasing the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables served to children; and

WHEREAS, Child Nutrition programs are an extraordinarily successful, cost effective way to help children, especially those in low income families achieve access to quality nutrition, child care, educational and enrichment activities, while improving their overall health, development and school achievement; and in addition, the adult component of the CACFP provides needed nutrition assistance to elderly and impaired adults; the federal support for these programs has not kept pace with children's need for these programs, food and transportation

cost inflation, the costs of delivering services, and current scientific knowledge about healthy eating; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living varies widely throughout the country, and standardized federal reimbursement rates have significantly less buying power in areas with high costs of living and federal poverty definitions do not properly measure families' need and therefore deny access to many needy families; and

WHEREAS, excessive rules, regulations and paperwork burdens make administering these programs costly and time consuming; and reducing these requirements while ensuring program integrity can streamline program operations and save money better spent on improved nutrition; and

WHEREAS, a well-conceived, adequately funded reauthorization bill can reduce hunger and food insecurity in America, help reduce childhood overweight and obesity, improve child nutrition and health, and enhance child development and school readiness; and

WHEREAS, Congress has a unique opportunity in the upcoming reauthorization of the CNR to improve access, meal quality, and nutrition for millions of children, particularly low income children; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to make a substantial investment of funding in and simplification of program regulations for Child Nutrition Programs during the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to significantly increase all reimbursement rates, and provide additional funding and adjust eligibility based on the local cost of living, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to protect current WIC income eligibility standards, including allowing adjunctive eligibility to the current state Medicaid level; and give states the option to recertify children for one year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to lower requirements for area eligibility in the

Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program to serve more low income children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reinstate the Food Service Equipment Assistance Program to support schools in preparing and serving more fresh food, and support children's connection with agriculture, nutrition and the environment by reducing barriers and providing incentives and funding for school gardens, farm to school, farmers markets and salad bar programs.

CLOSING THE ADDICTION TREATMENT GAP

WHEREAS, right now more than 23 million Americans suffer from alcohol and drug addiction and need treatment but only one in 10 of them (2.4 million) receives the treatment they need; and

WHEREAS, the gap between the millions of people who need addiction treatment and the few who get it is taking a toll on our health care system. Broadening insurance coverage for treatment programs, increasing public funding for treatment, and achieving greater program efficiency and quality, will alleviate the significant burden that is currently weighing on our health care system; and

WHEREAS, even though addiction is an acknowledged, treatable disease, cost continues to be the number one factor keeping those who want help from the treatment they need. Of those who say they need treatment but do not get it, 31.2 percent say they do not receive treatment because they do not have health insurance coverage and cannot afford to pay for the cost of treatment. Addiction is a health issue and it should be treated and covered as one; and

WHEREAS, untreated addiction taxes our health care system. One out of every 14 hospital stays - an estimated 2.3 million stays a year - is related to substance use disorders. More than 1.7 million emergency department visits a year are associated with drug use. Inpatient, emergency room and total healthcare costs decline by 39 percent, 35 percent and 26 percent respectively after patients who suffer from alcohol or drug addiction receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, untreated addiction is known to result in lost productivity, crime and criminal justice, family and community problems, and even death. In addition to its significant impacts on health and health care costs, it causes an increased demand for public services from child welfare and family support to public safety - undermining the strength of our communities and causing family distress; and

WHEREAS, treating addiction yields significant, proven positive economic benefits. When people are treated for addiction the costs associated with crime, accidents, absenteeism from work, and other areas, are all reduced. In fact, total savings associated with treating addiction can exceed the costs of that treatment by up to 12 to 1, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages that the science of addiction as a preventable and treatable disease drive alcohol and drug policy at a federal, state, and local level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass legislation expanding funding for alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services for all who need them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to repeal discriminatory laws against people with addiction histories who have been in the criminal justice system , including, but not limited to, the ban on welfare assistance and food stamps; access to higher education funding; drivers license restrictions; and employment barriers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges cities to implement alternatives to incarceration programs for non-violent offenders with serious drug and/or alcohol addiction, where treatment would be more effective than incarceration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors stresses the importance of federal, state, and local governments to provide specialized prevention, treatment, and recovery support to veterans returning from active duty - particularly veterans who are suffering from or are at high risk for post traumatic stress syndrome and alcohol and drug problems.

SUPPORT FOR RESPONSE TO H1N1 INFLUENZA

WHEREAS, as of May 27, 2009, cases of H1N1 influenza have been documented in 48 states, with 11 deaths and;

WHEREAS, both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have warned that, in previous pandemics, the virus has come in several waves, diminishing in virulence over the summer and coming back in a mutated, more severe strain in the fall; and

WHEREAS, federal officials have announced plans to procure a vaccine for H1N1, which will take three to six months to produce for the entire U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, vaccination of large numbers of people, monitoring for adverse effects of the vaccine, and keeping track of who has received the vaccine are enormous tasks that will fall to city health departments; and

WHEREAS, the response will also include organizing medical care and other community resources, managing community-wide response efforts, and implementing broader scale measures to mitigate the spread of the virus; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls on the President and the Congress to provide the necessary resources for local health departments to respond to the epidemic of H1N1 influenza.

HOMEGROWN LOCAL FOOD - EXPANDING ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY

WHEREAS, cities across America are increasingly focused on providing equitable food supplies for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, a local food system can support small farms and local jobs, create business opportunities and encourage the re-circulation of financial capital within a city; and

WHEREAS, local foods are typically fresher and healthier than industrial farm products; and

WHEREAS, the ability to grow, sell, and easily obtain a consistent, adequate supply of fresh, local foods can empower families and communities to be more self-sufficient in times of economic and environmental hardship; and

WHEREAS, buying local food can improve air quality and pollution by reducing the amount of transportation and packaging required to bring our food from farm to table; and

WHEREAS, urban populations often suffer higher levels of obesity and other chronic diseases from lack of access to affordable, healthy foods; and

WHEREAS, the growing Local Food movement has awakened a new interest in developing partnerships between cities and local growers; and

WHEREAS, a number of major cities are developing local food policies that encourage community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture within city limits; and

WHEREAS, the First Lady Michelle Obama has raised the profile of developing affordable, sustainable food supplies for urban America by tilling the first vegetable garden at the White House since Eleanor Roosevelt's victory garden during World War II;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Obama Administration to seek out partnerships with Mayors on Local Food initiatives to develop strategies that help urban America develop better access to quality food, including:

- supporting the efforts to allow geographic preferences in local procurement;

- expanding food stamp access at farmers markets;
- including urban agriculture in green jobs strategies;
- increasing consumer education on the benefits of local food; and
- other strategies that help build the knowledge of, interest in, demand for, and access to local food in urban communities.

PRESERVING AND EXPANDING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

WHEREAS, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) has been one of the most important laws for building wealth and revitalizing neighborhoods requiring banks to meet the credit needs of all communities consistent with safety and soundness; and

WHEREAS, CRA encourages banks to respond to a variety of needs in low- and moderate-income communities, which includes the financing of affordable rental housing, sustainable homeownership, small business creation, and economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, banks have made community development loans totaling more than \$407 billion, small business loans of more than \$581 billion in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods from 1996 through 2007; and

WHEREAS, CRA mitigates foreclosures by providing points to banks for foreclosure prevention efforts including counseling and loan modification, and when necessary penalizing banks for making loans that are unfair and deceptive; and

WHEREAS, CRA modernization legislation would bolster the accountability of banks to all communities by requiring CRA exams in the great majority of geographical areas banks serve; and

WHEREAS, an expanded CRA would address racial disparities in lending by requiring CRA exams to explicitly consider lending and services to minorities in addition to low- and moderate-income communities; and

WHEREAS, a strengthened CRA would require federal regulatory agencies to hold more public hearings and meetings when banks merge; and

WHEREAS, a modernized CRA would enhance small business and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data; and

WHEREAS, an expanded CRA would apply CRA to a variety of non-bank institutions including mortgage companies, insurance companies, and investment banks,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass an expanded Community

Reinvestment Act (CRA) that would leverage substantial sums of additional credit and capital for America's working families and communities.

HOUSING

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- While the number of low- and moderate-income families in the U.S., spending more than half their income on housing has increased in recent years, housing assistance as a share of federal discretionary outlays has decreased.
- The current crises in the nation's housing and credit markets have only added to the problems faced by these families, and have intensified the need for the federal government to increase its support for existing programs that ease the housing burden for low-income renters and homeowners alike.
- To attack one of the greatest contributors to the mortgage crisis, there is a need for comprehensive federal legislative and regulatory policies to combat predatory abuses in the mortgage lending market.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- The CDBG formula funding should be doubled to \$8 billion to address needed projects and activities that have been deferred due to past cuts in CDBG funding, and to continue to build on the proven record of this program.
- Full funding of Section 8 should be implemented in an effort to close the gap between those receiving assistance and those needing it. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rental subsidies to low-income renters and assistance to help low-income families.

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO COMBAT POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- A growing and resilient middle class is the foundation of a prosperous city; and
- Good schools, a strong economy which provides well-paying jobs, responsive city services, and safe and supporting neighborhoods are more likely to exist, or are more easily attainable, in cities which have a large or growing middle class; and
- Poverty and the socioeconomic fragmentation it creates are inextricably linked to the ability of the U.S. to remain economically competitive; and
- A comprehensive and multifaceted approach to policy making will have the greatest effect on eliminating poverty in this country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- For the Earned Income Tax Credit, which has lifted nearly five million people out of poverty each year, the tax benefit should be tripled, the eligibility age should be reduced to 21, the benefits to childless adults should be expanded, and the application process should be simplified by making the credit automatic, i.e., by requiring that the Internal Revenue Service automatically generate the credit for all who qualify for it; and
- Funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) should be doubled to \$8 billion, allowing mayors to continue to address the critical affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs of their cities; and
- Funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program should be increased.

SUPPORT FOR THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, geographic concentrations of poverty represent a significant obstacle for lower-income families to access quality education and jobs;

WHEREAS, the concentration of poverty particularly impacts lower-income Latinos and African-Americans as 19 percent of lower-income African-Americans and 14 percent of lower-income Latinos lived in high-poverty neighborhoods in 2000, compared with 6 percent of lower-income whites;

WHEREAS, there is a concentration of public and assisted housing in extremely high poverty neighborhoods that may contribute to the lack of access to quality education and jobs, as evidenced by the fact that 30 percent of the 1.2 million public housing units were in extremely high poverty neighborhoods as of December 2008;

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI program has made significant progress in addressing the problems associated with large public housing developments in communities of concentrated poverty by investing \$6.1 billion of federal funding in the mixed-income rebuilding of 240 public housing communities;

WHEREAS, the problems of concentrated poverty are not unique to communities with distressed public housing, but extends to other neighborhoods with distressed housing stock; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds and supports the creation of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative by the Administration to support a range of transformative interventions in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, which would challenge public, private and nonprofit partners to identify neighborhood interventions that would have the largest return on Federal investments.

**CALLING FOR EXPANDED INITIATIVES TO ASSIST IN THE PRESERVATION
AND RETRO-FIT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has addressed historic preservation issues in earlier policy statements through support of: 1) Historic Homeownership Assistance Act (1998), 2) Conservation Trust Fund (2003), 3) Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit (2007), 4) Historic Preservation Tax Credit (2007), 5) Preserve America Act (2007); and

WHEREAS, historic preservation should be a strong component of sustainable growth strategies of all cities; and

WHEREAS, the sustainability practices associated with historic preservation can provide for more informed policies on sustainable urban design and plan implementation; and

WHEREAS, smart growth strategies centered around the directives of reuse, reinvest, and retro-fit can improve the quality of life for our city's built environment; and

WHEREAS, Historical properties can make or break an entire neighborhood of our cities. Those public properties in a good state of repair can add historical significance and charm to a community allowing for a tangible link to the past from which to learn from as well as build upon. Alternatively, these same assets in good repair can become major liabilities in a state of decay - standing as dangerous nuisances attracting crime and reducing the property values of neighboring structures; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has enacted multiple programs that provide resources for historic preservation in the form of tax credits and grant programs such as the "Save America's Treasures" grant; and

WHEREAS, cities are increasingly having to bare the majority costs of rehabilitating, retro-fitting, and preserving historic properties; and

WHEREAS, many times this cost involves the city taking-on ownership and/or management of an historic property's mortgage; and

WHEREAS, historic properties are not immune to the foreclosure crisis currently gripping the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to pass historic preservation provisions that allow for funds to be directly allocated to cities for the energy efficiency retrofit of public historic properties providing up to 120 percent of costs associated with that activity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress appropriate no less than \$120 million for the Historic Preservation Fund in FY2010 including no less than \$50 million for the "Save America's Treasures" Grant.

IMPORTANCE OF GREENING AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

WHEREAS, nearly 17 percent of a low-income family's earnings are consumed by energy costs; and

WHEREAS, the greening of public housing will not only lower utility costs for low-income families, but also create healthier, more vibrant home environments for families that live in public housing developments; and

WHEREAS, buildings are responsible for almost 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption, with residential housing accounting for more than half of this total; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2005 the residential sector also accounted for 21 percent of U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, a major cause of global warming; and

WHEREAS, green building in public housing will promote environmentally smart site planning near public transportation and other community resources, energy efficiency, water conservation and the use of environmentally beneficial building materials that foster healthier outdoor and indoor environments; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities have already incorporated green building criteria into their affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS, Congress included funding for green building assistance in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), H.R. 1, that passed with strong support from the U.S. Conference of Mayors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to support continuing funding for federal programs that assist local governments implement and expand green building production in their communities, such as those included in ARRA, including the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the Green Retrofit for Multifamily Housing program as well as the extension of the tax credits for energy-efficient improvements to existing homes.

**SUPPORTING H.R. 1677 - THE EMPOWERMENT ZONE, RENEWAL COMMUNITY
AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009**

WHEREAS, the Empowerment Zone, Renewal Community and Enterprise Community Enhancement Act (H.R. 1677) would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to extend and expand the benefits for businesses operating in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise or Renewal Communities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1677 will allow for the extension, until 2015, of key tax credits for businesses who create jobs in America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the tax credits created by H.R. 1677 will help to encourage economic growth in the urban areas that need it most ; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1677 will grant the authority to expand the boundaries of certain empowerment zones and enterprise communities; and

WHEREAS, HR. 1677 will amend the exiting program to increase its effectiveness by allowing carryovers of unused expense allowances for enterprise zone businesses; allowing certain empowerment zone businesses to elect to receive payments in lieu of tax benefits; and allowing federal guarantees and tax exemptions for enterprise zones and renewal communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the Congress to pass H.R. 1677, The Empowerment Zone, Renewal Community and Enterprise Community Enhancement Act of 2009.

**PROPOSING A FEDERAL AID ACCOUNT TO ASSIST CITIES IN CONDUCTING
FULL RANGE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES FOR VACANT AND
ABANDONED PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, over the last ten years, has passed several policy statements on the need for assistance in conducting environmental remediation activities with the Corps of Engineers (2000), waste-to-energy initiatives (2001), childhood lead poisoning prevention (2002), closed military instillation clean-up (2004), MTBE liability (2004), and environmental healthcare support (2007); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has extensive policy on Federal Brownfields programs; and

WHEREAS, environmental remediation is required at many sites in most cities throughout the country that are not on brownfields. In fact, there are thousands of development sites across our nation that do not include any contaminated land but contaminated buildings; and

WHEREAS, past studies conducted by the Conference of Mayors revealed upwards of 20,000 abandoned or underutilized properties covering more than 180,000 acres in cities; and

WHEREAS, indeed, the increase of abandoned and underutilized properties in the U.S. prompted the forming of the USCM Vacant and Abandoned Properties Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Federal aid does exist for the remediation of very specific pollutants such as lead paint, asbestos, and other toxins; but many sites can include multiple remediation requirements that require a 'corrective action plan' addressing all contaminants; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no Federal program that can provide direct aid to cities for environmental remediation activities associated with all contaminant clean-up activities where a brownfield or contaminated land is not involved; and

WHEREAS, cities must address the removal of multiple contaminants from a building before a vacant or abandoned site can be made eligible for development. Many times, this is a front-end cost cities must completely absorb before redevelopment can move forward. As a result, these sites simply remain in their abandoned and dilapidated state degrading communities and creating blight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to authorize a Federal aid program that provides for general environmental remediation funds for redevelopment activities of vacant and abandoned properties involving projects that include both a public and private use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this program be authorized for five years at an annual maximum appropriation level of \$100 million per year.

INCREASING CDBG PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) now in its 35th year is one of the nation's most effective domestic programs, especially with the respect to the flexibility it gives to local elected officials and practitioners to fashion tailored responses to their unique neighborhood revitalization, economic development and affordable housing needs; and

WHEREAS according to national data compiled by HUD, between FY 2005 and 2008 more than 13.6 million persons were benefiting from public improvements made using CDBG funds; and

WHEREAS, during that same period, over 218 thousand jobs were created or retained for activities funded with CDBG funds; and

WHEREAS, CDBG has been - and continues to be - the foundation for community development for low- and moderate-income persons nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2008 alone, according to HUD data, over 95 percent of CDBG funding principally benefitted low- and moderate-income persons; and

WHEREAS, CDBG housing projects assisted 149,254 households, including providing financial assistance to new homeowners and rehabilitation assistance to the elderly and existing homeowners; and

WHEREAS, unlike the private market, CDBG-assisted homeowners have not faced the turmoil of foreclosure due to the diligent underwriting and oversight provided by CDBG grantees; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the 111th congress authorizing \$8 billion in CDBG formula funding for the program beginning in FY 2011, creating a permanent inflation index to increase funding for the program annually, and providing \$5 million in annual technical assistance funds; and

WHEREAS, the federal government FY2010 budget is recommending a formula change to the CDBG program; and

WHEREAS, formula funding has declined over several years, and has been further eroded by new grantees entering the program annually causing less funds to be available for grantees overall,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors supports CDBG formula funding in FY2010 at least at \$4.5 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors supports \$8 billion in formula funding for the CDBG program beginning in FY 2011 , creating a permanent inflation index to increase funding for the program annually, and providing \$5 million in annual technical assistance funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conference of Mayors strongly advises HUD as it considers changes in the CDBG formula to permanently hold harmless cities that would lose funding by formula change.

**ENDORISING RECALIBRATION OF TEN YEAR PLANS TARGETED TO THOSE
EXPERIENCING CHRONIC AND FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness have endorsed and encouraged Mayors to develop and implement Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness for their communities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the partnership with Mayors and County Executives, the private sector, and all other stakeholders, there are more than 1,000 local jurisdictional executives currently partnered in more than 350 Ten Year Plans across the nation which are innovation infused, research and data driven, and shaped by business principles; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness encourages Mayors to adopt national innovations identified through Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness that have led to reductions in chronic and street homelessness, demonstrating the importance of investing in what is field-tested and evidence-based as shown in the first nationally reported data of a 30% decrease in street and chronic homelessness between 2005 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness are designed to be living documents that are reviewed and recalibrated regularly to evaluate their results, to identify emerging at risk subpopulations and issues, and to incorporate the results of new research and field tested, evidence based innovations; and

WHEREAS, among emerging populations identified as experiencing increased homelessness or at increased risk of homelessness are families impacted by the "double trouble" of foreclosures and job losses; and

WHEREAS, with the current foreclosure and unemployment crisis, millions of individuals and families - both homeowners and renters - are in danger of losing their homes and falling into homelessness; and

WHEREAS, research shows that when families are destabilized by falling into homelessness, both the human cost and the cost to public services can increase dramatically; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictional Ten Year Plans ensure that resources are strategically invested with accountability and results to help those families maintain and quickly find stable housing; and

WHEREAS, there are new federal resources to prevent and mitigate foreclosures and abandoned properties, providing opportunities for permanent housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and its 25% setaside for persons below 50% of area median income; and

WHEREAS, there are new targeted and mainstream resources to prevent and end homelessness for individuals, families, and youth through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the FY 2009 federal budget; and

WHEREAS, field-tested, evidence based practices and innovations to prevent and end homelessness through effective engagement, increased access to mainstream benefits, and rapid rehousing strategies continue to emerge; and

WHEREAS, the multiple new federal funding streams provide communities an opportunity to create one-stop strategies to concentrate new resources for individuals and families, increase access, and ensure that eligible individuals secure all available supports.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USCM endorses the jurisdictional recalibration of Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness by Mayors to evaluate the strategies that are preventing and ending homelessness in their communities and ensure resources are targeted to those strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM encourages Mayors to identify what's worked to achieve results within the context of Ten Year Plans, for persons who are chronically homeless, through insights from research, targeted investment, and the adoption of results-oriented strategies and to implement strategies for families that are also based on data, informed by business principles, and advance field-tested and evidence-based initiatives within the context of recalibrated Ten Year Plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM encourages Mayors to include in the recalibrated plans new strategies to address the "double trouble" of foreclosures and job loss to help prevent individuals, families, and youth from falling into homelessness, and strategies to ensure rapid rehousing of persons who are homeless, drawing on proven innovations, including one-stops; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM encourages Mayors to utilize new resources and programs - both mainstream and targeted - to prevent and end homelessness, for individuals, families, and youth, which are included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the FY 2009 federal budget to support these new strategies in their recalibrated Ten Year Plans.

ENDORISING THE NEW FEDERAL HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM AS A KEY STRATEGY IN ENDING HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and the Congress approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes \$1.5 billion for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP); and

WHEREAS, Funding for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program allocated to states, cities, and counties dramatically expands prevention and housing resources for those who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in order to pay rent, make security deposits, pay utility bills, and cover other housing expenses; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that preventing homelessness and shortening the length of time a person is homeless has emotional, physical, and economic benefits for the individual or family and also reduces community economic impact; and

WHEREAS, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program assistance will go to households at risk of homelessness or those who have fallen into the human tragedy of homelessness—many due to the economic crisis “double trouble” of the mortgage/ foreclosure crisis and job loss; and

WHEREAS, HPRP funds target: 1) individuals and families who are currently in housing but are at risk of becoming homeless and need temporary rent or utility assistance to prevent them from becoming homeless or assistance to move to another unit (prevention), and 2) individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness (residing in emergency or transitional shelters or on the street) and need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it (rapid re-housing); and

WHEREAS, HPRP will provide for a variety of stabilization supports, including: short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, including such activities as mediation, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management; and

WHEREAS, These new recovery resources represent funds that will invest formula-driven allocations into locally-designed HPRP plans and strategies to meet the most pressing local needs for temporary financial assistance and stable housing for persons

who are homeless or at risk and thus represent new resources to invest in alignment with the goals and resources of jurisdictional 10 Year Plans to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Cities are utilizing data and research to identify families at the greatest risk of becoming homeless and are able to target outreach and assistance to these at-risk families to prevent their homelessness and the new HPRP data will provide important insights into prevention strategies and rapid rehousing outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 1,000 elected officials through over 350 Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness with support and assistance to Mayors to innovate engagement strategies and one-stop models to expand access and expedite outcomes for homeless and at risk families and individuals, including for Veterans and youth and encourages the investment of HPRP in Ten Year Plan goals and through the adoption of field tested, evidence based innovations to concentrate and focus available resources through strategies including one-stop centers; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-three new sites for a national Rapid Re-Housing for Families Demonstration Program were selected as part of the HUD Homeless Assistance Grants program to serve homeless households with dependent children who are residing on the street or in emergency shelters; and

WHEREAS, Family Rapid Re-Housing pilot initiative awards went to these USCM member cities based on proven experience in providing Rapid Re-Housing, a record of performance, and geographic diversity: San Francisco, CA; Boston, MA; Dayton, OH; Denver, CO; Columbus, OH; Washington, DC; New Orleans, LA; Cincinnati, OH; Portland, OH; Orlando, FL; Richmond, CA; Lancaster, PA; Madison, WI; Phoenix, AZ; Austin, TX; Kalamazoo, MI; Trenton, NJ; Anchorage, AK; Overland Park/Shawnee, KS; and Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Penn Hills, PA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, These new local demonstration programs will offer new evidence of "what works" to end homelessness, and to prevent homelessness among those facing a sudden economic crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Mayors are committed to ensure Recovery Act activities are coordinated with local and regional Ten Year

Plans to End Homelessness encouraged by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the resources of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program directed to jurisdictional officials are an important new asset to jurisdictionally led Ten Year Plan homelessness prevention strategies, including best practices that include coordinated entry, prevention, rapid re-housing, coordinated and tailored services, and linkages to economic opportunities, as well as assure public resources are used as effectively as possible to serve homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the Recovery Act as an important investment in assisting individuals and families at risk of homelessness and need temporary financial aid and individuals and families who are homeless and need financial assistance to secure and retain housing rapidly.

ENDORISING BUSINESS PLANS AND STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to and on the front lines of preventing and ending homelessness for individuals and families in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, well intentioned community responses to homelessness which are based on moral, spiritual, and humanitarian arguments have been insufficient over the past 25 years to create the political and community will necessary to end homelessness for our poorest neighbors; and

WHEREAS, 10 year business plans to end homelessness, innovated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, introduce business principles and practices to local responses to homelessness, ensuring participation of all stakeholders, the investment of resources for results in field tested, evidence based strategies and innovations, and visible, measurable, quantifiable results that end homelessness for our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of business plans has led to the identification of Mayors who are innovating new strategies that are field tested and evidence based and that reduce and end homelessness in cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, those innovations include cost benefit analysis, Community Champions for Ten Year Plans, Housing First/Rapid Rehousing, and Project Homeless Connect, the one-day, one stop for homeless people now established in more than 200 cities; and

WHEREAS, further included among those innovations is the National Summit for Jurisdictional Leaders convened annually by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to provide jurisdictional partners with the rapid dissemination of innovative ideas and measurable results promised by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership created by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 1,000 elected officials with more than 350 Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, first-ever decreases in chronic homelessness were reported nationally in 2008 with data that showed an overall 12% decrease and a 30% decrease in street and chronic homelessness,

as a result of Mayors embracing the business plan approach to end homelessness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors to support and lead the implementation of and investment in jurisdictional Ten Year Business Plans to End Homelessness in partnership with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors commends the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness for innovating the Business Plan Approach to Ending Homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayors will encourage the involvement of leaders of the business community in supporting and implementing their jurisdictional Ten Year Plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors, their 10 Year Plan Leaders, and Community Champions to participate in Council-inspired national and regional events that offer rapid dissemination and peer-to-peer opportunities for jurisdictional leaders to exchange best practices and identify innovations furthering results-oriented Business Plans to End Homelessness.

**PREVENTING AND ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS BY ACCESSING
MAINSTREAM RESOURCES THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S RECOVERY ACT**

WHEREAS, Mayors are committed to preventing and ending homelessness for individuals and families in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are on the front lines of the current economic crisis and the double trouble of foreclosures and job losses impacting our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, many cities across the country have experienced recent increases in family homelessness, even as the numbers of persons experiencing chronic homelessness shows signs of sustaining the 30% national decrease over 2 years that were first reported in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Federal mainstream benefit programs offer a much deeper pool of resources than targeted Federal homeless assistance to prevent and end the homelessness of families; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and the United States Congress have substantially increased mainstream benefits through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), resulting in greater accessibility of those critical resources when they are needed most; and

WHEREAS, ARRA streamlines and increases access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Food Stamp program by increasing the monthly benefit 13.6%, or \$80 per month, per enrolled family, and increases resources that States can use to expand outreach to raise enrollment rates; and

WHEREAS, ARRA increases the amount of Medicaid funds by \$15 billion with resources to help pay for the healthcare of families who are struggling during the economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, ARRA provided a one-time payment of \$250 to every person receiving Social Security, Veterans, and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, ARRA increases the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families to 45% and increases the income eligibility level by \$1,880 for all married couples who file taxes jointly; and

WHEREAS, ARRA sets aside \$10 million in new Community Services Block Grant funds for States to fund benefits screening and enrollment services, presenting a new opportunity to hire staff

solely dedicated to securing benefit resources on behalf people experiencing homelessness, thereby increasing the often minimal participation of homeless people in mainstream benefit programs; and

WHEREAS, ARRA provides critical new resources for youth, including \$70 million for the education of homeless children, \$50 million for Youthbuild, \$97.5 million for youth mentoring, \$250 million for Job Corps, \$1.2 billion for youth employment and training programs, and a tax credit to businesses who hire disconnected youth; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and cities across the country have been encouraged by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to expand access and streamline applications for Federal mainstream benefit programs through their 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness, particularly as a means of better assisting homeless families; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness has brought together 20 federal agencies, 53 governors of states and territories, and over 1,000 elected officials through over 350 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness with support and assistance to States and Cities to innovate engagement strategies and one stop models to expand access and expedite outcomes for homeless and at risk families and individuals, including Veterans and youth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages and supports the increased use of Federal mainstream benefit programs to prevent and end the homelessness of families in cities across the country, and encourages Mayors to invest these new resources targeted to jurisdictions and to preventing and ending homelessness in the context of jurisdictional Ten Year Plans, and to adopt engagement and access innovations including one-stops, virtual applications, and Project Homeless Connect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends President Obama and the United States Congress for passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and for investing billions to protect our vulnerable neighbors.

**PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS THROUGH
INNOVATIVE HOUSING AND SERVICE STRATEGIES**

WHEREAS, the men and women of the armed services have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the American people and we have an obligation to care for them; and

WHEREAS, the VA reports that in 2008, women made up 11 percent of veterans returning from OEF/OIF and overall, women make 7.4% of all veterans, and there are increasing numbers of veterans with children; and

WHEREAS, veterans return to live in both urban and non-urban communities; and

WHEREAS, most veterans return and acclimate and live productive lives in this country; and

WHEREAS, some returning veterans, however, face difficulties in their return related to psychological or physical challenges and disabilities, including PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), which may make them at greater risk for homelessness; and

WHEREAS, some returning veterans face difficulties maintaining or finding employment, leading to economic instability and the risk of homelessness for veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are committed to supporting returning veterans who are at risk of homelessness and currently homeless veterans, and assuring they have the housing, services and economic stability they need to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness advises that each jurisdictional 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness include specific strategies to prevent and end homelessness among veterans and to recognize the importance of targeted VA homeless resources, as well as other federal, state, local and private resources available to support these strategies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently reported that, on any given night, there are 154,000 veterans who are homeless, and this is a decrease from 195,000 veterans that were homeless the VA reported in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2007 Draft VA CHALENG report indicates that two of the top 3 unmet needs for homeless veterans are long-term,

permanent housing and re-entry services for incarcerated veterans; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that diverting veterans from jail and prison through the training of first responders and the through the implementation of Veterans Courts can help prevent them from becoming high risk for homelessness; and

WHEREAS, many communities are beginning to adopt these strategies to support these returning veterans, including Pittsfield, MA; Buffalo, NY; Tulsa, OK; Orange and Santa Clara, CA; and are seeing positive results; and

WHEREAS, a 2000 DOJ report indicates there are about 225,000 incarcerated veterans, about 1% of which are women; and

WHEREAS it has been demonstrated that discharge planning for incarcerated veterans can help prevent high risk veterans from recidivating and from becoming homeless; and

WHEREAS, coordinated reentry veteran-specific services for eligible veterans is required as part of the response to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative FY 2009 Competitive Funding Grant, for which the President's FY 2010 budget proposal calls for an increase to \$75 million to provide counseling, job training, drug treatment and other transitional assistance to former prisoners; and

WHEREAS, the VA now has Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Specialists in all its Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN), and states and local jurisdictions have established incarcerated veteran discharge planning and incarcerated veterans outreach; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2009 Federal Budget funds a new \$10 million HUD-VA-DOL interagency collaboration for veterans in urban and rural communities for housing and appropriate services to prevent veterans and their families from becoming homeless or reduce the length of time veterans and their families are homeless; and

WHEREAS, decreased veteran homelessness corresponds to the creation of permanent supported housing as the primary intervention; and

WHEREAS, HUD VASH (the joint U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program) has provided Section 8 Vouchers for permanent housing and ongoing treatment services to the harder to-serve homeless mentally ill veterans and those suffering from

substance abuse disorders, and enhances the ability of the VA to serve homeless women veterans and veterans' families; and

WHEREAS, ongoing, rigorous evaluation of HUD-VASH indicates that this approach significantly reduces days of homelessness for veterans plagued by serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders, and offers stability and security to those who have served their country; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2009 Federal Budget funds a \$75 million investment for 10,000 new HUD-VASH Vouchers for homeless veterans, veterans at risk of homelessness, and veterans with families, including those returning from OEF/OIF; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the innovation of training first responders in their communities on the issues faced by returning veterans, and the implementation of Veterans Courts to help divert veterans from jails and prisons to help prevent their homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors endorses expansion of resources for outreach to and discharge planning for incarcerated veterans, including endorsing increased funding to \$75 million for the Second Chance Act in the President's 2010 budget proposal, and through the expansion of VA's Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Specialists program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors endorses the new \$10 million HUD-VA-DOL interagency collaboration for urban and rural communities; funding to be used for housing and appropriate services to prevent veterans and their families from becoming homeless or reduce the length of time veterans and their families are homeless; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the HUD-VASH program as an important investment in ending homelessness among veterans; encourages Mayors to develop specific strategies for Veterans and use these resources in the context of their Ten Year Plans; and encourages the Congress to continue to recognize this resource as critical to help end veteran homelessness.

**PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS OF EX-OFFENDERS
THROUGH EXPANSION OF THE SECOND CHANCE ACT
PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, each year more than 650,000 inmates are released from Federal and State prisons and return to their communities and families, and

WHEREAS, state spending on corrections has increased from \$10.6 billion in 1987 to \$44 Billion in 2007, thereby limiting state and local expenditures in other important budget areas; and

WHEREAS, a number of states and localities are experiencing budget shortfalls and are decreasing investments in the state and local correctional systems by reducing the populations in their prisons and jails through early release of inmates; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), almost three out of five inmates returning to society will be charged with new crimes within three years of their release from prison and two out of five will be re-incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, unemployment among ex-prisoners has been estimated at between 25 and 40 percent and studies also show that joblessness among ex-prisoners has been broadly linked to recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, studies show 15% to 25% of prisoners are discharged out of the back doors of prisons and jails into the front doors of homeless programs without supports or services, increasing homelessness with few resources to respond; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative seeks to build upon the innovative and successful state reentry programs, including the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative which provided \$139 million in funding for State governments to develop and implement education, job training, mental health treatment, and substance abuse treatment for serious and violent offenders; and

WHEREAS, the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) is yielding cost savings of over \$31 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative assists states and local government entities in partnership with nonprofit organizations to establish prisoner reentry

demonstration projects that will aid in preventing recidivism and homelessness by providing: education, vocational training, job placement, and housing that is permanent, affordable and linked to health, mental health, employment, and other support services that provide long-term, community-based housing options; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictionally led, community based 10 Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness, encouraged by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, would be assisted in implementation by offering strategies and resources emphasizing the roles for every level of government and community stakeholders in developing Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative alternatives to expensive police/court interventions and prisoner release into homelessness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the increased funding for the Second Chance Act by \$75 million which is included in the President's proposed 2010 budget to expand the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated, including veterans, and supports programs geared toward the rapid re-housing of ex-offenders.

**RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY PHILIP F.
MANGANO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has been partnered with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness ("the Council") under the leadership of its Executive Director Philip F. Mangano since 2002; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Council was revitalized from dormancy, was infused with a vision and strategy shaped by his experience in the field, and reframed the national response to homelessness, ensuring that the federal government worked in an inductive partnership with local communities; and

WHEREAS, with his strategic vision, every level of government and the private sector has been joined in a working partnership that begins in the White House and extends to the streets of local communities, passing through State Houses, City Halls, and County Buildings in a transformational partnership built on increased targeted resources invested in jurisdictional Ten Year Plans that implement innovations that are field-tested and evidence-based; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that no one level of government could solve the problem alone, the Council constellated a national partnership which now includes 20 Federal agencies, 53 Governors of states and territories who have created State Interagency Councils on Homelessness, and more than 1,000 Mayors and County Executives who are partnered in more than 350 strategic Ten Year Plans to end the homelessness of those who are the most vulnerable and disabled on our streets and in our shelters; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors since 2002 has been a strong partner in the creation of strategic Ten Year Plans led by jurisdictional elected officials, shaped by community stakeholders, oriented to business principles and practices, and measured by results in reducing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, over 450 Mayors and other elected officials have signed the *America's Road Home Statement of Principles and Action*, resolving to work together in a national partnership of every level of government and the private sector, with cities and counties and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to identify and adopt innovative initiatives to reduce and end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, his tireless efforts to build partnership have taken him to every state in the U.S., to communities large and small, where he has made more than 1,000 speeches, and met with elected officials, local Chambers of Commerce, United Way chapters, Business Improvement Districts, and people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure targeted federal resources for preventing and ending homelessness increased to record levels for eight consecutive years, nearly doubling between 2000 and 2009 to more than \$5 billion; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure the first documented national decrease in homelessness was achieved, a 30% decrease in street and chronic homelessness and a 12% overall decrease between 2005 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the Council encouraged a consumer oriented approach that involved homeless and formerly homeless people as customers in decision making; and that emphasis led to the identification by consumers of the central antidote to homelessness: housing; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the Council supported a Housing First approach, the rapid rehousing of homeless people with support services as the central strategy of strategic planning; and that approach is now the prevalent strategy to reduce homelessness, not only in the United States, but in countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the Council affirmed, supported, and made visible innovative initiatives that are now central to strategic thinking and planning, wherein innovators from across the nation have offered remedies to cure the disgrace; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the Council has rapidly disseminated these life enhancing and saving ideas through City Focus Groups, State Colloquies, and National Summits, and the extraordinary work of the Council's Regional Coordinators; and the Council's "faculty of innovators," drawn from across the country and beyond, who were central in the disseminating process; and

WHEREAS, in identifying what is achieving results in preventing and ending homelessness, the partnership, investment, and innovation of communities across the country became the focus of an international dialogue under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership the Council worked to move the national dialogue and response from good intentions and well-meaning programs to innovative solutions informed by cost studies and cost benefit analysis documenting the economic impact of homelessness, with the result that nothing has impacted political will more than the Council's encouragement and dissemination of the economic consequences of homelessness; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes and commends Philip F. Mangano for his 29 years of working to prevent and end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the strategic acumen, vision, and leadership that he brings to his work and his consistent and tireless commitment to partnership with elected officials and results for our poorest neighbors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms the results documented from the seven years of his federal service, including to two Presidents as the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, in revitalizing the Council, and through relentless advocacy and expansive partnership with elected officials to advance a bipartisan abolitionist agenda to reduce and end the moral disgrace of homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors conveys its best wishes to Philip F. Mangano as his mission to abolish the human tragedy and long misery of homelessness moves forward.

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the National Community Development Association (NCDA) is a national non-profit organization representing local governments in the area of community development, economic development, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, NCDA was created in 1974 and grew out of the Model Cities Directors Association (created in 1968); and

WHEREAS, since 1974, NCDA has been at the forefront in securing effective and responsive housing and community development programs for local governments; and

WHEREAS, NCDA has been a direct partner with the U.S. Conference of Mayors for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, NCDA supports the guiding principle of local control and local flexibility in administering federal programs; and

WHEREAS, NCDA is committed to the goal of assisting local governments achieve high quality, locally responsive programs for making communities better places in which to live, particularly for low- and moderate-income people;

WHEREAS, NCDA is nationally recognized as the premier training association for community development professionals on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; and

WHEREAS, NCDA has been instrumental in developing national policy and securing increased funding for CDBG, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, HUD's homeless assistance programs, and HUD's economic development programs and strongly supports the Mayors' efforts to double funding for CDBG to \$8 billion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes NCDA's outstanding service to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports its partnership with NCDA and urges Mayors to have their community development departments become actively involved with NCDA through membership and through participation in NCDA conferences and training.

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CRIME

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and police chiefs met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Crime in Philadelphia August 5-6, 2008, to develop an action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors and police chiefs drafted a national action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to investments to prevent and respond to crime; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and police chiefs found that:

- Assuring public safety requires an active partnership between cities and the federal government; and
- While public safety is primarily a local responsibility, the international aspects of the drug trade, gangs, and terrorism underscore the appropriateness of a federal government role in meeting local public safety responsibilities; and
- During the period in which local governments were receiving federal assistance, primarily in the form of police officers provided by the COPS program, crime rates in cities declined, but since then, the number of police officers in cities has declined and cities have seen crime rates ; and
- Today there are fewer police on the streets of our cities than there were prior to the 9/11 attacks, as demonstrated by a survey of 124 cities by the U.S. Conference of Mayors in August 2008 which showed that there are now 8.6 percent fewer officers in those survey cities than there were at the peak of their staffing levels; and
- Cities need sustainable, dependable federal support for local law enforcement - flexible support that allows local officials to respond to locally identified needs and priorities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors and police chiefs in the National Action Agenda on Crime:

- The COPS program should be reinvigorated, but with flexibility that will allow for hiring both additional sworn officers and other kinds of personnel, such as those professionally trained in DNA analysis and forensics. That flexibility should also allow police departments to use the funding for overtime, training, and other purposes which will make the officers on hand as effective as possible.
- The Byrne JAG grant should be fully funded so that it can continue to provide flexible assistance to police departments that can be used for, among other things, purchasing the equipment and technology needed to make prevention and enforcement efforts more efficient and effective.
- Local officials should receive homeland security funds directly and should have the flexibility to use them to meet locally identified priorities. The Department of Homeland Security must recognize the value of allowing these funds to be used for beat officers. It is police officers - in touch with their communities and a presence in them every day - who will gather the intelligence and take the action that will stop terrorist threats in our cities. The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, which for several years provided flexible resources to local police departments, should be reinstated.
- Consideration should be given to transferring responsibility for the administration of homeland security grants benefiting local law enforcement agencies from the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Justice.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a new block grant program, modeled after the Community Development Block Grant, which would provide police departments with flexible funds for prevention, enforcement, and analysis tailored to local needs.
- The federal government operates numerous criminal investigative databases, three of which are extremely important to local police agencies: IAFIS (for fingerprints), NIBIN (for ballistics), and CODIS (for

DNA). The federal government must fully support these databases by maintaining and upgrading them, providing better training, and establishing "best practices" protocols. Every effort should be made to remove bureaucratic impediments to accessing these databases, including the greater use of "certified" private labs to expand capacity and reduce long-term backlogs.

CRIME PREVENTION

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and police chiefs met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Crime in Philadelphia August 5-6, 2008, to develop an action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and police chiefs found that:

- With approximately 700,000 people now being released from U.S. prisons each year - most returning to their home communities - the need for programs to support successful reentry and reduce the incidence of recidivism has grown significantly.
- Youth violence has reached epidemic proportions in many cities. In the August 2009 survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors, half of the survey cities reported an increase in youth violence in the last year. In these cities, the problem most often took the form of gang violence, street crime, school violence, and gun violence.
- The most effective crime prevention strategies have always included the provision of education and jobs for city residents. Education and jobs must be backed up, however, by a range of support services that target at-risk populations with proven programs. Cities must be able to take advantage of best practices in developing their own innovative approaches to local crime problems.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the prevention initiatives called for by the mayors and police chiefs in the National Action Agenda on Crime:

- Successful reentry initiatives require a strong partnership between public and private agencies and should begin at sentencing. Inmates should be provided education, training, and substance abuse treatment while in prison so

that, when they are released to their communities, they have a skill and are prepared to hold a job. There should be minimum standards for release from federal prison: Inmates should be drug-free, possess a high school diploma or its equivalent, and be trained in a specific skill. Further, they should be provided help in finding jobs, housing, and the support they need to reenter their communities successfully.

- The recently-enacted Second Chance Act should be fully funded and its authorization level should be increased significantly when it is renewed.
- If crime prevention efforts are to be successful, the federal government must ensure that substance abuse treatment - both in communities and in correctional facilities - is available on demand.
- The federal government must attach a high priority to preventing youth violence. Successful prevention efforts require strong intergovernmental and public-private partnerships. A public health approach is required at the local level. Both tough enforcement and addressing the root causes of violence among young people are essential. Preventing youth violence requires connecting young people to trusted adults, intervening at the first sign that youth are at risk of violence, restoring youth who have gone down the wrong path, and helping youth to unlearn the culture of violence that exists in too many communities.
- As part of the youth violence prevention effort, the federal government should establish an interagency mechanism to coordinate the youth programs and activities supported by the various federal departments and agencies. Modeled after the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the interagency coordinating mechanism would assure that the various programs are focused on the essentials of violence prevention (described above) and that the outcomes of the programs are sharply defined and measured.
- The federal government should provide cities with funding and technical assistance to encourage similar coordination efforts at the local level. Included in this should be support for the development of local violence prevention plans, approved by the mayor, which respond to locally identified needs.

REAUTHORIZE THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

WHEREAS, The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA) of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5601] provides the major source of federal funding to improve states' juvenile justice systems;

WHEREAS, the JJJPA has provided critical protection to our nation's youth through the Act's core protections, which include keeping youth out of adult jails except in very limited cases; keeping youth out of sight and sound contact with adults in those limited cases; the deinstitutionalization of status offenders such as runaways, truants and others whose behavior would not be criminal if committed by an adult; and the requirement that states address disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system;

WHEREAS, the current authorization of the JJJPA is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the JJJPA has for over 30 years played a critical role in preventing youth involvement with the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, and in diverting youth from further involvement in the juvenile justice system, contributing to youth delinquency being at near historic lows with a 30 percent drop in juvenile arrests from 1996 to 2007 according to the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, violent crimes committed by youth account for only 17 percent of the total violent crime in America; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a 2008 study by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) found that transferring youth to the adult criminal justice system significantly increases future crime; and

WHEREAS incarcerating a young person costs between \$32,000-\$65,000 per year and operating just one bed over a twenty-year period can cost between \$1.25 million and \$1.5 million; and

WHEREAS, there are evidence-based alternatives to incarcerating youth that reduce crime and save money, yielding up to \$13 in cost savings for every dollar spent. Early interventions that prevent high-risk youth from engaging in repeat criminal

offenses can save the public nearly \$5.7 million in costs over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Conference of Mayors passed a resolution requesting that Congress implement better funding methods through the States for addressing youth violence and juvenile justice issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Conference of Mayors encouraged its members to create programs to prevent and reduce violence by implementing parent education initiatives, family support programs, business programs, and faith-based organization enterprises; and

WHEREAS, also in 2007, the Conference of Mayors reiterated its call for better regulation of the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient and successful adults; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act is an essential tool toward not only helping our nation's youth but also preventing crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act this year with specific increased authorization levels and spending flexibility for the Title II Grants, and Title V Grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on other mayors and Congress to support evidence-based youth programs targeting system-involved as well as at-risk youth ages 14 to 25 through community-based outreach and services that link the community as a whole through a media campaign and community mobilization efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a reauthorization shall include adequate support and funding for programs supporting job training, education, employment, housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health services and recreation to help our youth realize their true potential.

**SUPPORT THE YOUTH PRISON REDUCTION THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES,
MENTORING, INTERVENTION, SUPPORT AND EDUCATION ACT
(YOUTH PROMISE ACT)**

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free and law-abiding lives; and

WHEREAS, gang crime has taken a toll on a number of urban communities, and senseless acts of gang-related violence have imposed economic, social, and human costs; and

WHEREAS, the use of a wide range of evidence-based and promising programs, offered under the auspices of a broad-based and informed collaborative of social services, schools and education programs, health and mental health organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, law enforcement, faith-based organizations and other public and private entities working with at-risk youth in a community, has been demonstrated to prevent and reduce youth violence, delinquency, and crime and keep communities safer; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice costs have become overwhelming in many communities throughout the United States, preventing necessary investments in educational, economic development, social, child and family development, mental health, and related services; and

WHEREAS, the investment in evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention programs for children and youth, including quality early childhood programs, comprehensive education programs, including school, summer school, and after school and summer recreational programs, mentoring, health and mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, job training, and other prevention and intervention programs, has been shown to lead to decreased youth arrests, decreased delinquency, lower recidivism, and greater financial savings from an educational, economic, social, and criminal justice perspective; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention practices have been proven to build individual, family and community strength and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, investment in youth and communities holds the promise of making U.S. cities safer and stronger economically, environmentally and socially; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act establishes a PROMISE Advisory Council to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in:

- Assessing and developing standards and evidence-based and promising practices to prevent juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity;
- Collecting data in designated geographic areas to assess the needs and existing resources to prevent and address juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act authorizes grants for local governments in cities throughout this country to:

- Plan, assess and implement plans for evidenced based and promising programs to prevent and intervene in juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activities to redirect involved youth;
- Hire and train law enforcement officers as youth-oriented police to work in collaboration with local PROMISE Coordinating Councils, community-based organizations and youth at risk of or involved in delinquency or criminal street gang activity; and
- Create and expand juvenile witness and victim protection program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the Youth PROMISE Act and calls upon the United States Congress to enact the Youth PROMISE Act in the 111th Congress.

**PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS OF EX-OFFENDERS
THROUGH EXPANSION OF THE SECOND CHANCE ACT
PRISONER REENTRY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, each year more than 650,000 inmates are released from federal and state prisons and return to their communities and families, and

WHEREAS, state spending on corrections has increased from \$10.6 billion in 1987 to \$44 Billion in 2007, thereby limiting state and local expenditures in other important budget areas; and

WHEREAS, a number of states and localities are experiencing budget shortfalls and are decreasing investments in the state and local correctional systems by reducing the populations in their prisons and jails through early release of inmates; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), almost three out of five inmates returning to society will be charged with new crimes within three years of their release from prison and two out of five will be re-incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, unemployment among ex-prisoners has been estimated at between 25 and 40 percent and studies also show that joblessness among ex-prisoners has been broadly linked to recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, studies show 15 percent to 25 percent of prisoners are discharged out of the back doors of prisons and jails into the front doors of homeless programs without supports or services, increasing homelessness with few resources to respond; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative seeks to build upon the innovative and successful state reentry programs, including the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative which provided \$139 million in funding for state governments to develop and implement education, job training, mental health treatment, and substance abuse treatment for serious and violent offenders; and

WHEREAS, the Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) is yielding cost savings of over \$31 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative assists states and local government entities in partnership

with nonprofit organizations to establish prisoner reentry demonstration projects that will aid in preventing recidivism and homelessness by providing: education, vocational training, job placement, and housing that is permanent, affordable and linked to health, mental health, employment, and other support services that provide long-term, community-based housing options; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictionally led, community-based 10 Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness, encouraged by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, would be assisted in implementation by offering strategies and resources emphasizing the roles for every level of government and community stakeholders in developing Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative alternatives to expensive police/court interventions and prisoner release into homelessness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the increased funding for the Second Chance Act by \$75 million which is included in the President's proposed 2010 budget to expand the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated, including veterans, and supports programs geared toward the rapid re-housing of ex-offenders.

ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN REENTRY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on both "Green Jobs" and successful prisoner reentry programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has enacted legislation such as the Clean Energy Act, the Second Chance Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that encourage both prisoner reentry and green jobs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has included funding for "Green Jobs" in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and in funding bills for FY 2009; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution during the 2008 Annual Conference urging mayors to strengthen job training programs to encourage low income residents into this emerging field; and

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore is currently establishing a Green Jobs Creation Coalition, which will identify the needs of businesses, develop training programs, and work to move the City's unemployed and under-employed, including those returning to the community from incarceration, into gainful employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has made the creation of green jobs a priority through adoption of the Chicago Climate Action Plan and has demonstrated the success of ex-offender job training through its fifteen-year-old groundbreaking Greencorps program, which trains disadvantaged Chicagoans with barriers to employment for green jobs, including home energy retrofits, computer repair and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's first "green" reentry center is currently being built by Generations Inc. in southern New Jersey within which ex-offenders will be trained in energy efficiency technology installation, sustainable building practices, and green roof maintenance; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 67.5 percent of prisoners released are rearrested within three years; and

WHEREAS, programs like the Department of Labor's Prisoner Reentry Initiative have shown promising results where only 14 percent of those participating in the Initiative are rearrested

after one year as compared to the national average of 44 percent; and

WHEREAS, allowing ex-offenders to take advantage of job training programs in the growing green jobs field will allow them access to emerging markets with marketable skills and the potential for long term employment, aiding them in successfully reintegrating into society; and

WHEREAS, successful reintegration strategies will help to reduce crime rates by reducing the recidivism rate; and

WHEREAS, the cost of ex-offenders re-offending is not only a substantial burden on our overcrowded prison system, but on our social services because of the effects of families that have been left behind;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Congress to provide incentives to local and state governments that encourage training persons in custody and subject to court supervision in new and emerging fields and assisting them in obtaining jobs in such fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress provide maximum authorized funding for Green Jobs Act Grants especially the "Green Pathways out of Poverty" Program as well as the Second Chance Act Grants for FY2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors further encourage its membership to develop innovative strategies to include ex-offenders in the expanding "green" economy.

GANGS AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and police chiefs met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Crime in Philadelphia August 5-6, 2008, to develop an action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors and police chiefs drafted a national action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to gangs and illegal drugs; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and police chiefs found that:

- Gangs and illegal drugs are inextricably connected and drive crime and violence in cities across the country. The federal government must be fully engaged with state and local authorities if gangs and drugs are to be controlled.
- Gangs are America's domestic terrorists, as evidenced by their illegal gun trafficking, illegal drug distribution, human trafficking, and murders. They have become sophisticated criminal organizations with extensive interstate communications networks that are frequently used to coordinate robust illegal activity.
- Both gangs and the drug trade are national and international in scope. Indeed, there are more gang members in the United States today than there are state and local law enforcement officers.
- Efforts to successfully control gangs and drugs require a strong intergovernmental partnership and a combination of tough enforcement and prevention measures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the initiatives relating to gangs and illegal drugs called for by the mayors and police chiefs in the National Action Agenda on Crime:

- In 2009 and the years ahead the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other federal agencies must approach gangs in the same way that they approach organized crime, and must assign them the same high priority. For most of its 100 years the FBI has placed a high priority on fighting organized crime.

- Together, federal, state and local authorities must respond to the growing problem of youth gangs through stepped-up enforcement and prosecution of the gangs that exist, and through stepped-up prevention and intervention programs that provide young people with alternatives to gang membership and gang violence.
- Federal, state, and local enforcement agencies must work collaboratively to undermine gangs and gang culture. The federal government should establish anti-gang task forces, similar to those that have been established to fight Internet crimes. This would improve intergovernmental collaboration and provide financial assistance to local police departments in areas with substantial gang problems, since officers' salaries and benefits could be reimbursed while they are on federal assignment.
- Both federal and state courts should have the option of sending convicted gang members to federal prisons located in other parts of the country in an effort to disrupt gang members' support systems and to give them an opportunity to separate themselves from the gangs with which they have been affiliated.
- Because the federal government has not been effective in the interdiction of illegal drugs at our borders, it has a constitutional responsibility to help stop the use and sale of drugs in our cities. A federal-state-local partnership specifically focused on this problem is required.
- For years drug courts have demonstrated the ability to help individuals address their drug addiction by providing alternatives to incarceration which combine strict supervision with appropriate treatment and support services. Funding for the drug court program should be increased, along with funding for the treatment and support services essential to the program's success.
- The federal government must recognize and address the onslaught of methamphetamine and prescription drug problems in the country today, including problems associated with trafficking and use.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has supported a cabinet-rank position of Director of National Drug Control Policy in the Executive Office of the President for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Director of National Drug Control Policy is to evaluate, coordinate, and oversee both the international and domestic anti-drug efforts of executive branch agencies and ensure that such efforts sustain and complement state and local anti-drug activities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference has worked closely with the Director of National Drug Control Policy and his office since it was first established in 1988 to develop and implement a comprehensive national action plan to control drugs and reduce drug abuse in this nation; and

WHEREAS, despite all of our best efforts, the problems associated with illegal drugs remain pervasive, wreaking havoc in cities and rural areas throughout the nation and increasing crime and violence; and

WHEREAS, it is time to reassess our national drug control policy to move us toward a truly balanced approach which puts adequate emphasis on prevention and treatment, as well as enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of one of the nation's most prominent police chiefs - R. Gil Kerlikowske of Seattle - to serve as Director of National Drug Control Policy assures that the federal effort will be led by someone who has seen firsthand the devastating impact that illegal drugs can have on our communities and our people and knows what is working and what is not working under our current system,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors commends President Obama for his nomination of Gil Kerlikowske as Director of National Drug Control Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors pledges to work closely with Director Kerlikowske in realigning our national drug control policy so that it responds to the particular problems we face today, notably those along the southwestern border; brings together prosecutors and law enforcement, courts, treatment providers, and prevention programs to exchange information and to work together in a

seamless, comprehensive manner; and increases the emphasis given to prevention and treatment to bring them in balance with that given to enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors believes that, for the seriousness of the threat to the nation now posed by illegal drugs to be fully acknowledged, and for the Director of National Drug Control Policy to be equipped to the fullest extent possible to achieve the position's increasingly vital mission, particularly those aspects of it relating to executive branch agencies, the position of Director should be accorded cabinet rank, and urges the President to consider restoring the position to that rank.

CLOSING THE ADDICTION TREATMENT GAP

WHEREAS, right now more than 23 million Americans suffer from alcohol and drug addiction and need treatment but only one in 10 of them (2.4 million) receives the treatment they need; and

WHEREAS, the gap between the millions of people who need addiction treatment and the few who get it is taking a toll on our health care system. Broadening insurance coverage for treatment programs, increasing public funding for treatment, and achieving greater program efficiency and quality, will alleviate the significant burden that is currently weighing on our health care system; and

WHEREAS, even though addiction is an acknowledged, treatable disease, cost continues to be the number one factor keeping those who want help from the treatment they need. Of those who say they need treatment but do not get it, 31.2 percent say they do not receive treatment because they do not have health insurance coverage and cannot afford to pay for the cost of treatment. Addiction is a health issue and it should be treated and covered as one; and

WHEREAS, untreated addiction taxes our health care system. One out of every 14 hospital stays - an estimated 2.3 million stays a year - is related to substance use disorders. More than 1.7 million emergency department visits a year are associated with drug use. Inpatient, emergency room and total healthcare costs decline by 39 percent, 35 percent and 26 percent respectively after patients who suffer from alcohol or drug addiction receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, untreated addiction is known to result in lost productivity, crime and criminal justice, family and community problems, and even death. In addition to its significant impacts on health and health care costs, it causes an increased demand for public services from child welfare and family support to public safety - undermining the strength of our communities and causing family distress; and

WHEREAS, treating addiction yields significant, proven positive economic benefits. When people are treated for addiction the costs associated with crime, accidents, absenteeism from work, and other areas, are all reduced. In fact, total savings associated with treating addiction can exceed the costs of that treatment by up to 12 to one,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages that the science of addiction as a preventable and treatable disease drive alcohol and drug policy at a federal, state, and local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass legislation expanding funding for alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, and recovery services for all who need them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to repeal discriminatory laws against people with addiction histories who have been in the criminal justice system , including, but not limited to, the ban on welfare assistance and food stamps; access to higher education funding; drivers license restrictions; and employment barriers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges cities to implement alternatives to incarceration programs for non-violent offenders with serious drug and/or alcohol addiction, where treatment would be more effective than incarceration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors stresses the importance of federal, state, and local governments to provide specialized prevention, treatment, and recovery support to veterans returning from active duty - particularly veterans who are suffering from or are at high risk for post traumatic stress syndrome and alcohol and drug problems.

GUN SAFETY

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and police chiefs met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Crime in Philadelphia August 5-6, 2008, to develop an action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors and police chiefs drafted a national action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to gun safety; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and police chiefs found that:

- Local police and federal authorities, backed by common sense gun legislation, must be able to work together to get illegal guns off city streets; and
- Every day in the United States there are 84 deaths involving firearms; 34 of these are homicides. Well over half of these homicides - 56 percent - involve people age 29 and younger;
- Because of the prevalence of military-style assault weapons on our streets, police officers in many of our cities are outgunned; and
- Reasonable changes in laws and regulations would go a long way toward keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and providing law enforcement with tools that will help them solve crimes; and

WHEREAS, since March 2009 a string of mass shootings has occurred in cities across the nation which has left dozens dead, including seven police officers, and this epidemic serves as a stark reminder that the easy availability of guns often turns domestic and personal disputes into acts of murder; and

WHEREAS, among the cities affected are:

- Samson, AL, where 10 people were killed on March 10;
- Oakland, CA where four police officers were killed on March 21;
- Carthage, NC, where eight nursing home residents were killed on March 29;
- Santa Clara, CA, where five family members were killed March 29;

- Binghamton, NY, where 13 people were killed April 3;
- Graham, WA, where five children were killed April 4;
- Pittsburgh, PA, where three police officers were killed April 4; and
- Miami, FL, where in just a few weeks 12 members of three families were killed in three separate incidents,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the guns safety initiatives called for by the mayors and police chiefs in the National Action Agenda on Crime:

- A strengthened, effective ban on military-style assault weapons, such as AK-47s, and their component parts must be reinstated.
- Common sense gun legislation, such as that advocated by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, should be enacted. Such legislation should close the gun show loophole, keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, and no longer permit gun dealers whose licenses are revoked to conduct fire sales.
- Legislation should be enacted which would limit the number of guns a person may purchase in a single transaction or in a month or other specified period of time.
- Law enforcement agencies' access to gun trace data should not be limited in any way by either state or federal law - for example, by any version of the so-called Tiahrt amendment.
- Anyone purchasing a firearm in the United States should be required to go through a background check. Full funding should be provided for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and states should be required to submit records, including those involving persons with serious mental health problems, to the NICS.
- The Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) should be expanded to include ballistic images for all new guns, not just those involved in crimes. The federal government should support the development of new technologies, such as microstamping, which can help solve crimes.

**COMMON SENSE MEASURES IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS
TO FIGHT ILLEGAL GUNS**

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2006 a bipartisan group of fifteen Mayors met in New York City at the Mayor's Summit on Illegal Guns, co-chaired by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, to begin a nationwide effort to fight illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, today, over 350 mayors, representing over 56 million people across the United States, are now members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns; and

WHEREAS, 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns; and

WHEREAS, illegal guns from the United States are posing problems along the U.S.-Mexico border, with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) estimating that at least 90 percent of guns that are recovered at nationwide effort to fight illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, as Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns; and

WHEREAS, given all of this, we support five key measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, including repealing the Tiahrt Amendments and closing four gaps in the federal background check system; and

WHEREAS, the Tiahrt Amendments, which have been inserted into the Department of Justice appropriations bill each year since FY2003, place unnecessarily broad restrictions on access to and use of gun trace data that is compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Congress should repeal the Tiahrt Amendments; and

WHEREAS, licensed gun dealers are required to run criminal background checks on all buyers, but a loophole in the law enables criminals to avoid these checks if they buy from gun-sellers who do not have licenses. Often operating at gun shows, these unlicensed sellers give criminals the opportunity to sidestep the background check system and easily purchase guns. Congress should close the "gun show loophole; and

WHEREAS, the federal government can shut down a gun dealer for selling illegally, but it has nevertheless permitted dealers to sell off their inventory - without conducting background checks. Congress should end such gun dealer firesales; and

WHEREAS, under current law, if a person can't buy guns -because he or she has a criminal record or a history of mental illness - that person cannot sell guns either. But the law fails to require dealers to conduct background checks on their employees, even though they already use the background check system in their stores every day. Congress should require gun store employee background checks; and

WHEREAS, seven years after 9/11, the federal government can stop suspects on terror watch lists from getting on airplanes, but it cannot stop them from buying firearms. Congress should close the "Terror Gap",

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to enact legislation that would prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals by closing serious gaps in the gun background check system. USCM calls on Congress to close the gun show loophole, end the gun dealer fire sales provision, require gun dealers to perform background checks on their employees, and close the terror gap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reject legislative proposals such as the Tiahrt amendment and others that limit our cities' ability to solve and prevent crime in our communities.

**A RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND THE
CONGRESS TO REINSTITITUTE AND MAKE PERMANENT A BAN ON THE SALE OF
ASSAULT WEAPONS**

WHEREAS, cities across the United States are experiencing increased loss of life when police officers and other citizens are gunned down by civilians with handguns and assault weapons; and

WHEREAS, assault weapons pose a danger not only to members of police forces but to the larger communities that are affected by gun violence and victimized by the deadly consequences that stem from the possession and usage of these particularly dangerous firearms, and

WHEREAS, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, a federal law of the United States that included Title XI, Subtitle A, Federal Assault Weapons Ban, was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on September 13, 1994; and

WHEREAS, the federal assault weapons ban expired in 2004 under the Bush Administration; and

WHEREAS, although some states, including the State of California currently ban assault weapons, the illegal transport of these weapons from states and foreign countries continues to be a serious threat to public safety for all United States residents, and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama plans to seek reinstatement of the assault weapons ban in order to stem the violence in our nation's cities and to cut down on the flow of weapons going across the border into Mexico; and

WHEREAS, assault weapons and semiautomatic rifles included in the ban refer to firearms having features that appear useful in military and criminal applications but unnecessary in shooting sports or self-defense that have been developed from fully-automatic firearms into semi-automatic civilian-legal versions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages President Barack Obama and the United States Congress to reinstitute and make permanent a ban on the sale of assault weapons.

**EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO PREVENT AND
RESPOND TO CRIME**

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and police chiefs met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Crime in Philadelphia August 5-6, 2008, to develop an action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors and police chiefs drafted a national action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors and police chiefs drafted a national action agenda on crime; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations that can be accomplished through executive orders and administrative actions that would have an immediate impact on crime and violence in cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the executive orders and administrative actions called for by the mayors and police chiefs in the National Action Agenda on Crime:

- In this, its 100th anniversary year, the FBI should assign more agents, including some of the agents now dedicated to combating terrorism, to combating street crime. Since 9/11, an estimated 1,000 or more FBI agents have been transitioned from traditional crime-fighting to focus on terrorism. A U.S. Conference of Mayors-Zogby poll released in January 2008 showed that Americans are more concerned with crime in their local communities than they are with terrorism. Nearly half (48 percent) say they are more fearful of local crime, compared to 31 percent who worry more about terrorism.
- The Department of Homeland Security should afford local officials more flexibility in the use of homeland security funds, enabling them to better focus those funds on local priorities. In particular, DHS should recognize the value of allowing the funds to be used for beat officers.
- The federal and state governments should not preempt the authority of local governments to enact municipal ordinances relating to gun safety or other aspects of public safety.

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL RESILIENCE

WHEREAS, the floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, terrorist attacks, pandemic influenza and other events of the past few years have demonstrated the vulnerabilities and interdependencies of our communities, cities and regions; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing realization that our citizens, businesses and governments, voluntary and faith-based organizations require more than basic plans for responding to and recovering from significant disruptions by untoward events that are natural, economic, or man-made; and

WHEREAS, there is increased emphasis at the local level that our communities must be able to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover fully and rapidly from significant disruptions with minimum damage to public safety and health, the economy, and local security from any threat or hazard; and

WHEREAS, there is growing acceptance that communities that can withstand loss or damage to life, property and the environment, but also quickly return citizens to work, reopen businesses and schools, and restore other essential services needed for a full and swift economic recovery are recognized as *resilient communities*; and

WHEREAS, resiliency can contribute to economic growth by creating a community that attracts and fosters business development and new residents; and

WHEREAS, there is no commonly accepted national framework for identifying resilient communities or for assisting communities to self-assess and then work toward a state of resilience in a methodical, systematic approach assisted by accepted tools and processes so as to reap the economic and social benefits of becoming resilient, and

WHEREAS, establishing such a common framework is best done, in partnership, at the local, grass-roots level in a broad-based manner that is inclusive of all elements of the community fabric - governmental, private business, associational, non-profit and faith-based - rather than top-driven by the federal government, and

WHEREAS, in many communities and regions across the United States there are initiatives, policies, plans, and technologies

under development at the local level that are realistic, practical, and focused on community needs that have been started by business groups, local or state government officials, research institutions, economic development associations or non-profits but that have not yet been coordinated to achieve a broad-based, grass-roots driven, commonly accepted result,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors hereby supports the establishment of a National Commission on Regional and Community Resilience composed of elected governors, elected mayors, appropriate representatives of national organizations and associations, and representatives of private business to supervise the creation of a common framework for community and regional resilience that meets the needs of our citizens, businesses and governments, voluntary and faith-based organizations at the community level, provides an understanding of and agreed upon terminology for community and regional resilience; examines how communities and regions can collaborate to achieve and sustain cost-effective resilience; and recommends to governments at all levels policies that are required to foster resilient communities.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DREAM ACT

WHEREAS, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (hereinafter referred to as the DREAM Act) was first introduced in the Senate in 2001, subsequently amended through the years but failed eight votes short of reaching cloture on October 24, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act was reintroduced in the 111th Congress on March 26, 2009, and if passed will permit high school graduates who immigrated to the United States before the age of 16 and lived in the country for at least five years prior to the passage of the legislation and are under the age of 35 at the time of enactment, to gain conditional residency; and

WHEREAS, this conditional residency would be contingent upon requiring eligible students to be of "good moral character" and completing either two years of post-secondary education or military service; and

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act is intended for individuals who were brought to the United States as children and who shall not be punished for the alleged transgressions of their parents, deserving to be judged according to their own character and merit regardless of their country of birth or immigrant status; and

WHEREAS, immigrant students lacking legal U.S. residency have no other means of legalizing their status and, therefore, should now be given the chance to obtain legal status and pursue a pathway to citizenship in their adopted homeland; and

WHEREAS, there are no gains in denying these students the opportunity to pursue higher education or military service, and build a brighter future and share in the American dream; and

WHEREAS, federal passage of the DREAM Act would make evident what we already know is true; that the United States of America needs young, educated and hard-working individuals who can integrate into the workforce and contribute to this country's economic development to help the United States compete in the global economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to support the passage of the DREAM Act, which will allow thousands of young students to

realize their educational dreams, and encourage their respective congressional delegates to pass the Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that the United States Congress pass bipartisan legislation to provide eligible students with educational possibilities and a road to legalization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at the 2009 June Conference of Mayors in the Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS

WHEREAS, the country of Haiti was severely impacted by successive hurricane and tropical storm strikes during a compressed period in 2008; and

WHEREAS, already tenuous conditions in Haiti were exacerbated by the magnitude and scale of these natural disasters, and tens of thousands remain homeless and displaced, food shortages continue, malnutrition rates are rising, and joblessness continues to climb in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, these natural disasters have had a devastating effect on infrastructure and essential and public services remain inadequate, including electrical power and clean drinking water, and many areas of the country remain isolated and uninhabitable while many roads and highways remain impassable; and

WHEREAS, these tragic conditions are not conducive to successful repatriation, repatriation under these conditions is inconsistent with our values as a country, and deportations of Haitian nationals were temporarily suspended in the wake of these natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the government of Haiti continues to work towards recovery from these disasters and improve and remediate the exceptionally difficult living conditions that these disasters have caused, yet the people of Haiti continue to suffer under these extreme conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has expressed concerns for nationals of Haiti affected by the recurring natural disasters that have befallen Haiti over several years and their economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration is in the process of formulating an overall Haiti policy and has expressed its continued commitment to working closely with the U.S. Congress, the Government of Haiti, the Organization of American States, the United Nations and the international community to address the humanitarian and security concerns that continue to face the people of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Temporary Protected Status for Haiti and Haitian nationals would provide needed relief to those affected and the Government of Haiti as it works to stabilize

conditions and recover from the damage inflicted by this environmental disaster; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status has been afforded to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in the wake of conditions in those countries resulting from natural disasters, and conditions in Haiti clearly meet the statutory requirements necessary for designation of Temporary Protected Status,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security, with whom such authority lies, to designate Haiti and Haitian nationals for Temporary Protected Status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security to promptly suspend deportations of Haitian nationals.

EQUALITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS FOR GAY AND LESBIAN AMERICANS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution in 1984 calling for the legal protection of gay and lesbian rights at all levels of government, and within two years dozens of cities had adopted anti-discrimination policies or executive orders; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long supported granting the protection of federal hate crimes laws to all citizens, including lesbian and gay communities, and adopted its first resolution calling for increased vigilance in preventing hate crimes in 1991, citing statistics compiled by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; and

WHEREAS, subsequent hate crimes resolutions were adopted by the Conference in 1992 and 1994, designed to strengthen protections for all communities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors, in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has awarded nearly \$12.6 million in HIV/AIDS prevention grants, and the Conference took the lead in issues affecting gay/bisexual men of color, conducting a national HIV prevention needs assessment as well as 48 local HIV prevention projects; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of mayors have been at the forefront of the battle for marriage equality, from the historic leadership of Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco in early 2004 granting marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples, to a paradigm-shifting news conference by Mayor Jerry Sanders of San Diego in 2008, to Mayor Adrian Fenty of Washington DC in 2009 signing legislation to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states; and

WHEREAS, then-Conference President Wellington Webb of Denver spoke on behalf of the nation's mayors at the Millennium March for Gay and Lesbian Rights in 2000 calling for federal action on hate crimes, employment discrimination protection, repeal of don't-ask-don't-tell, and marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, current Conference President Manuel A. Diaz of Miami co-chaired the statewide campaign against marriage discrimination in 2008, and incoming President Greg Nickels of Seattle issued an executive order recognizing same-sex marriages; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a long record of leadership in advancing civil rights and equality for all, answering President Kennedy's call for national mayoral action in support of the civil rights movement at the Honolulu annual meeting in 1963,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, the Uniting American Families Act, and the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports marriage equality for same-sex couples, and the recognition and extension of full equal rights to such unions, including family and medical leave, tax equity, and insurance and retirement benefits, and opposes the enshrinement of discrimination in the federal or state constitutions.

ENERGY

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in local communities and metro areas; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

Federal energy policies need to be updated to meet the future economic and environmental needs of our metro areas and the nation;

- The United States needs to move into the 21st century and develop cleaner methods to utilize its carbon-based energy sources and away from its dependency on foreign oil;
- New technology needs to be developed, alternative energy sources need to be encouraged, and energy conservation needs to be promoted in order to help the nation and its metro economies find new ways to strengthen its economy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on Energy called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to do the following:

- Adopt legislation to promote "decoupling" by utilities (i.e., changes that ensure utilities are indifferent to sales volatility and removing the disincentives to energy efficiency);
- the nation's electric transmission grid to support the introduction of new renewable energy supplies;
- Establish a national renewable portfolio standard to accelerate the development of alternative energy sources;
- Modernize and streamline the Department of Energy to reflect the importance of today's city in the nation's energy priorities.

**FEDERAL POLICY AND LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION
AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering legislation that would increase federal support for long distance transmission of electricity from remote location; and

WHEREAS, transmission is only one of many ways to address the future energy needs; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 already contains generous financial incentives for additional construction of transmission lines as well as backup authority for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve and site transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, numerous bills have been introduced in Congress that would increase the attractiveness to utilities of building new transmission lines, ranging from legislation that would severely limit approval periods by state regulatory commissions on utilities' planned transmission lines and routes to the creation of a new private entity with the power to determine which transmission lines will be built with little or no outside scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency, energy conservation, localized renewable energy production and local smart grid initiatives could bring jobs closer to home, reduce energy consumption and lower consumers bills, and moving clean power generation closer to the demand centers can bring local job benefits and make the electric grid less dependent on long distance transmission; and

WHEREAS, according to studies sponsored by the Union of Concerned Scientists, additional transmission lines into the East Coast could have the effect of undermining regional greenhouse gas initiative restrictions, and increasing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been calling for strong and sustained federal partnership commitments to support city and community-based energy efficiency and conservation initiatives and localized renewable energy development, principally through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors does not support legislation that would divert the

necessary focus from emerging local efforts that seek to reduce electricity demand and lower consumers' bills through energy efficiency and clean distributed local generation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports federal commitments to community-based energy conservation and efficiency initiatives, demand management and localized renewable energy production have been more fully developed and supported with stronger federal funding commitments as well as legislation addressing the nation's broader climate protection challenges through a "cap and trade" and other legislation is enacted.

URGE CONGRESS TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT FEDERAL "GREEN ENERGY BANK" TO FURTHER INCENTIVIZE THE DEPLOYMENT OF LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES TO ADDRESS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CREATE GREEN JOBS

WHEREAS, for many years The U.S. Conference of Mayors has recognized and has lead local and regional efforts to address the economic, social and health impacts that result from the release of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, at the same time, for too many years, the absence of a national energy strategy in the U.S. has translated into enormous economic and social costs as well as weakening our international competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest to transition to a low-carbon economy using commercially deployable technologies that will result in substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, a national transition to a low-carbon economy will result increased economic development, job creation, and allow for our nation to maintain a high standard of living, while preserving and protection our most environmental sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the dearth in private sector investment in low-carbon technologies, national greenhouse gas emission reduction goals may be in jeopardy of not being met, an independent Federal Green Bank capitalized by the Federal Government would serve as a catalyst for private sector investment in low-carbon technologies to help the country transition to a lower carbon economy; and

WHEREAS, an independent Federal Green Energy Bank would provide low cost financing to facilitate the construction of approximately 20 GW (gigawatts) of low-carbon energy on a consistent annual basis, as well as renewable energy infrastructure including smart grid technologies and transmission capacity, and as a result avoid substantial greenhouse gas emissions while mitigating the impact to energy consumers.

WHEREAS, year after year the Conference of Mayors has added its voice to addressing greenhouse gas emissions, and year after year it has been disappointed by Washington's failure to

forthrightly move the nation forward toward a low-carbon economy; and

WHEREAS, with the new Congress and Administration there is a real opportunity to achieve meaningful, national energy and environmental policy reform and transformation, and the Conference of Mayors must take immediate and decisive action to take advantage of this opportunity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for Congress to pass legislation that would establish an independent Federal "Green Energy Bank" or a Federal clean energy financing program that will help speed the deployment of low-carbon technologies so as to mitigate against the worst impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and provide new economic opportunities and job creation in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as soon as possible the Conference of Mayors, present this resolution to Congress and the Administration and establish a working relationship with them to quickly develop and enact legislation establishing a independent Federal "Green Energy Bank"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors continue to advocate for other federal energy-related policies that support energy efficiency, renewable energy and deployment of new energy technology.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT TOOLS TO PROMOTE DEPLOYMENT OF CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND CATALYZE PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and its members have initiated and advocated for policies and programs to address the economic, social and health impacts that result from the release of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a national energy strategy in the U.S. has translated into enormous economic and social costs as well as weakening our international competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, a national transition to a low-carbon economy will result increased economic development and job creation, promote energy independence, and enable our nation to maintain a high standard of living while preserving and protecting our environment; and

WHEREAS, it is in the national interest to more rapidly transition to a low-carbon economy using commercially deployable technologies that will result in substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, investment in the development of clean energy has been impeded by conditions in the economic, financial, and commodity markets that constrain private sector investment; and

WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient private sector investment in low-carbon technologies may jeopardize meeting local, state, and national greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, proposals have been introduced in Congress to create an independent Federal Green Energy Bank and similar financing models, initially capitalized by the Federal government, to provide a market-based catalyst for additional private sector investment in low-carbon technologies through direct, low-cost financing; and

WHEREAS, proponents of this concept estimate that \$50 billion in capital could leverage \$1 trillion in total investment over ten years, produce construction of at least 15 gigawatts each year, reduce annual energy costs by \$22.5 billion, cut carbon emissions by 29.6 million tons, and facilitate creation of up to 1.5 million new and permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, a Federal Green Energy Bank or similar financing model would apply a portfolio approach to mitigate risk and become

self-sustaining, and funds invested would be paid back with interest for reinvestment, yielding ongoing and sustainable benefits with marginal cost to taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass legislation establishing an independent Federal Green Energy Bank or comparable Federal clean energy financing program, in order to promote private sector investment and speed deployment of low-carbon technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors continue to advocate for other federal energy-related policies that support energy efficiency, renewable energy and deployment of new energy technology.

IMPORTANCE OF GREENING AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

WHEREAS, nearly 17 percent of a low-income family's earnings are consumed by energy costs; and

WHEREAS, the greening of public housing will not only lower utility costs for low-income families, but also create healthier, more vibrant home environments for families that live in public housing developments; and

WHEREAS, buildings are responsible for almost 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption, with residential housing accounting for more than half of this total; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2005 the residential sector also accounted for 21 percent of U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, a major cause of global warming; and

WHEREAS, green building in public housing will promote environmentally smart site planning near public transportation and other community resources, energy efficiency, water conservation and the use of environmentally beneficial building materials that foster healthier outdoor and indoor environments; and

WHEREAS, a number of cities have already incorporated green building criteria into their affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS, Congress included funding for green building assistance in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), H.R. 1, that passed with strong support from the U.S. Conference of Mayors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to support continuing funding for federal programs that assist local governments implement and expand green building production in their communities, such as those included in ARRA, including the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the Green Retrofit for Multifamily Housing program as well as the extension of the tax credits for energy-efficient improvements to existing homes.

ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and infrastructure leaders from across the nation met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Infrastructure in New York City August 13-14, 2008, to develop an action agenda for a renewed commitment to America's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations for a new stronger relationship between the nation's mayors and the federal government to ensure that we update the country's antiquated infrastructure in ways that will keep us economically competitive, and do so in ways that are climate and energy centered; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and other leaders found that:

- Federal energy policies need to be reformed and redirected to increase the availability of renewable energy supplies to help cities and metropolitan areas find new ways to power their economies, especially transportation and water systems;
- Such actions are especially crucial to mayors as they seek new and innovative ways to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and promote green jobs and green technologies;
- To date, there has been limited discussion or consideration of federal actions that can help connect renewable energy supplies to our nation's infrastructure systems and networks;
- Today, the amount of gasoline consumed in our transportation sector is about what the U.S. imports;
- There are numerous cities and regions that are planning significant increases in their transit capacities;
- If these streetcar, bus or light rail systems use electricity to power the vehicles, renewable energy supplies can be used to directly substitute for imported oil;
- There are other examples as well where renewable energy supplies could power infrastructure systems or directly substitute for carbon-based fuels in the delivery or operation of these systems; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Infrastructure to renew and strengthen the federal commitment to the nation's Energy and Infrastructure needs:

- Reduce America's dependency on oil in the transportation sector through the broader utilization of electricity in the transportation sector;
- Adopt national portfolio standards requiring utilities to use wind power, solar, geothermal and other renewable power supplies for a share of their generating capacity;
- Diversify America's energy supplies to promote a broad range of energy sources, including but not limited to wind, solar, biomass, nuclear, landfill gas and waste-to-energy;
- Revamp existing federal rules to expedite the development of a new corridor designation process that supports the transmission of renewable energy supplies;
- Promote the development of new transmission lines and other facilities to provide access to renewable energy supplies, including strategies that promote the use of wind and other renewable energy supplies in powering city and metropolitan infrastructure systems;
- Fund research and enact incentives to increase energy storage and production facilities at the user level, promote smart grid policies, and incentivize through pricing the use of renewable energy supplies;
- Renew and extend for longer time federal tax credits for wind power and other renewable power supplies.

**"GREENING" THE TAX CODE AND PROMOTING COORDINATED
FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level", and

WHEREAS, recent scientific studies (the journal Nature) indicate that there is a limit to the amount of carbon dioxide from human sources (1.1 trillion tons) that can be emitted to the air between 2000 and 2050 to avoid an increase in warming of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and that the world has already emitted one-third of that amount in the first nine years of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors through its Mayors Climate Protection Agreement signed by more 945 mayors has committed to the goal of making systematic and substantial reductions over time in greenhouse gas emissions, beginning with the targets set forth in the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors have been instrumental in advocating for creation and funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to develop and implement Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies in more than 1400 cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a national, comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must involve encouraging more compact, mixed-use development that results in fewer vehicle miles driven, coordinated development among alternative forms of transportation, housing and commercial facilities, recycling and redevelopment of brownfields, abandoned properties and other underutilized urbanized land resources as well as more aggressive efforts to preserve the nation's farmland; and

WHEREAS, the nation's tax system often rewards many carbon intensive and/or high carbon emitting industries and development patterns and does little to encourage green commercial development, compact housing, and transit oriented development that can reduce carbon emissions and result in a significantly lower carbon footprint per person, and

WHEREAS, many tax preferences actually encourage consumers to make choices that result in more carbon emissions, especially in

the area of transportation and commercial development, as opposed to fewer carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, few, if any, mechanisms exist that afford cities and their metro areas the opportunity to negotiate green and sustainable development investment strategies that coordinate multiple federal agencies actions in a concerted effort to promote sustainable development within cities and other urbanized places.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to reform and "green" the tax code by eliminating or significantly reducing tax preferences to entities emitting large quantities of greenhouse gases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors call on the Administration and Congress to include in its tax reform package the creation of a Green Zone Investment Tax Credit and Green Housing Tax Credit that will encourage transit-oriented development; mixed-use commercial and multi-family mixed-income housing development; and/or brownfield redevelopment, that can help reduce per capita carbon emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Green Zones shall be approved by the Federal government, as proposed by cities and/or their metro areas, within which Green Zone Investment Tax Credits and other tax preferences such as favorable depreciation schedules, are eligible for use, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mayors also call on the Administration to create a demonstration program in a select number of cities, called the Negotiated Sustainable Development Investment Strategy, wherein key federal government agencies with a city and/or its partners in a metropolitan area, supported by state participation, can formally negotiate local "sustainable development investment strategies" that coordinate multiple federal agency actions and funding, including those of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and others, and commits the agencies to support and fund such coordinated strategies leading to reduced carbon emissions and coordinated investments, including but not limited to designated green zones.

**CALLING ON CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE AN IMPACTFUL SHARE OF GREENHOUSE
GAS AUCTION REVENUES DIRECTLY TO CITIES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities in regards to the distribution of revenues generated from a Federal cap-&-trade system for greenhouse gasses (Resolution No. 64, 2008); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has developed multiple proposals on a cap-&-trade system for carbon and greenhouse gas reduction; two stand-out as having broader support: 1) S3036, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (110th Congress); 2) American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (111th Congress); and

WHEREAS, leading cap-&-trade proposals reduce total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by up to 66% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed market-based programs that reduce greenhouse gas pollution from major sources such as electric utilities, oil companies, and large industrial entities where emissions are capped and tradable permits are given for each ton of pollution released; and

WHEREAS, these tradable permits, or "allowances" can be bought and sold on the open market with an existing reserve of allowances that would be available at an auction; and

WHEREAS, cap-&-trade systems at the Federal level have a history of meeting their goals as the 1990 Clean Air Act contained a cap & trade system for sulfur dioxide to reduce acid rain. 100 percent compliance was achieved through this program. Nitrous oxide emissions have also been curbed through a cap & trade formula; and

WHEREAS, carbon derivatives are now traded in two States: Illinois through Chicago Climate Exchange, plc, and New York through NYMEX Holdings' Green Exchange. There is also a state government cap-&-trade cooperative initiative called the *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative* (RGGI); and

WHEREAS, the research firm, New Carbon Finance projects the U.S. carbon market could reach a value of \$1 trillion by 2020 if Congress passes a Federal cap-&-trade law by 2009; and

WHEREAS, above 70 percent of the world's energy is consumed in or by cities of the world; and

WHEREAS, carbon footprints are largest in cities and cities are the leading centers where efforts to reduce such a footprint are underway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to shape a cap-&-trade system in such a way where no less than 10 percent of greenhouse gas allowance auction proceeds can be directed to cities for the purposes of 1) workforce training initiatives in the renewable and sustainable fields; 2) implement projects and programs to reduce carbon emissions associated with transportation 3) energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon reduction activities, projects and policies.

**CALLING FOR CONGRESS TO AMEND FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT IS
IMPEDING THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE
PERFORMANCE-BASED GREEN BUILDING CODES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution through green building code initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation's energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use, and therefore presents an enormous opportunity for significantly reducing energy costs, improving the environment, improving building operations, and increasing the amount of funds in local economies that are available for expenditure on goods and services other than energy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has vowed to work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

60% in 2010

70% in 2015

80% in 2020

90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate); and

WHEREAS, local governments have been the incubators of innovative green building codes and new green technologies, recognizing that although warming is global, solutions must be local in order to account for specific regional energy needs and methods for addressing them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has instructed the Department of Energy (DOE) to set certain minimum energy efficiency levels for heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment (HVAC) and water heaters in connection with and under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C §§ 6201, *et seq.* (2006) (as amended by the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA), Pub. L. No 100-102 (1987), and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT), Pub. L. 102-486 (1992) while Congress has at the same time recognized that state and local agencies should have "**primary responsibilities**" for the protection of consumers or practices affecting commerce which relate to the implementation of measures likely to conserve, or improve efficiency in the use

of energy, including energy conservation measures and renewable resource energy measures (42 U.S.C § 6325(d)); and

WHEREAS, despite these established roles for local government, a federal district court recently enjoined an innovative performance-based green building code that provided several alternative compliance paths (including LEED® certification) designed to improve building energy efficiency levels by 30%, finding that the performance-based code was preempted by EPCA because it allegedly required the use of HVAC and water heaters that were manufactured at energy efficiency levels in excess of the minimums set by EPCA and the DOE; and

WHEREAS, the minimum energy efficiency standards for HVAC equipment and water heaters set by ECPA and the DOE are at levels that in some cases have not been modified in decades and generally are obsolete, as evidenced by the fact that, according to reports by the HVAC industry, 37% of all HVAC sales in 2007 were of models beyond federal minimum efficiency standards; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have established - or are seeking to establish - similar performance-based building codes based on LEED® or existing energy efficiency programs, the validity of which are called into question by the court's preemption finding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the Congress of the United States to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C §§ 6201, et seq. (2006) (as amended by the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA), Pub. L. No 100-102 (1987), so as to remove preemption barriers in order to allow local governments broader authority in establishing performance-based building codes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports comprehensive reform of federal laws so as to promote the creation, implementation and enforcement of innovative energy efficient green building codes by local governments and municipalities.

**AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY
CHALLENGES AND CREATE NEW JOBS IN AMERICA**

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to solve environmental and energy challenges and create new jobs in America; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

- Addressing our nation's environmental and energy challenges require an expanded partnership between Mayors and the federal government, especially in metropolitan areas which can have the most significant impact on the climate change issues that face the nation;
- These investments will not only help solve our environmental and energy challenges but they will also serve as a catalyst for new jobs in America;
- According to research conducted by Global Insight and The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center, in 2006 there were more than 750,000 Green Jobs in the U.S. economy;
- It is estimated that by 2038, 4.2 million new jobs could be created, if certain policies and investments were made in the United States;
- This could provide as much as 10% of the new job growth in the economy over the next 30 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That The U. S. Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on American Investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to accelerate improvements to the nation through:

- Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the authorized level and move toward a \$4 billion annual funding level;
- Increase federal funding commitments to public transit and non-motorized travel options and allocate available transportation resources directly to metropolitan areas;

- Green the U.S. Tax Code (e.g., incentivize energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy supplies, and transit-oriented development as well as commercial and residential development resulting in lower carbon emissions).

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in local communities and metro areas; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

- While progress is being made in the area of climate change, the goal for the nation must be to create a comprehensive solution to solve this problem;
- One of the solutions is to utilize cities with the tools that ultimately will have the greatest environmental impact and undo the causes of global warming and climate change;
- The Mayors have increasingly called attention to the need for global climate protection, focusing on: renewable energy sources; national standards for climate change; building standards and practices; and alternative transportation options;
- With world scientists warning of the serious implications caused by climate change in the near future, U.S. mayors are leading the national charge to meet the goals of the Kyoto Protocol but action and a partnership with the federal government must take place in order to decrease the impacts of climate change locally and globally; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on Climate Change called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to do the following:

- Establish a national emissions target of 80 percent by 2050;
- Enact "cap and trade" legislation that supports local government initiatives and reduces greenhouse emissions;
- Participate and ratify the United States' commitment to the next Climate Change Accord in Copenhagen 2009.

SUPPORT FOR US ENGAGEMENT IN COP 15 UNFCCC IN COPENHAGEN

WHEREAS, the science is unambiguous that climate change is a clear and present threat to our world and national economy that demands immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, over 940 mayors across the country representing nearly 84 million Americans, have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits to local solutions to address global warming, and calls for strong climate policy; and

WHEREAS, Cities across the country are doing their part to confront the climate crisis by taking local action to reduce the carbon footprints of government operations and the community and have made climate protection a top priority; and

WHEREAS, While many climate solutions must be implemented at the local level to truly succeed cities will need strong support from new international, federal, regional and state policies; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a federal policy framework that utilizes market mechanisms to promote flexibility and foster creative approaches to climate protection; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a cap and trade system as an important component of a suite of complementary policies necessary to meet our climate protection goals and to meaningfully reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has established climate protection as a national and international policy priority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Government to fully engage in international climate protection negotiations beginning with participation in the 15th Conference of Parties United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the US Delegation to Copenhagen to recognize the key role of cities in the global effort against climate change by engaging, empowering, and providing resources to cities throughout the world so that we may continue to deliver effective climate protection initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors recommends that in recognizing the key role that cities will play, a Mayor be selected to join the US delegation to Copenhagen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the US Congress to pass legislation that creates a market for carbon through development of a fair and flexible, economy-wide national cap and trade system as an important first step in participating in an international climate discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that all nations must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions if climate change policy is to be effective; and the U.S. delegation to Copenhagen encourage that any agreement that seeks to cap emissions on the U.S. also seek individual caps on other large industrialized or developing nations, including, but not limited to, those in the EU, China, India, Russia and Brazil.

**SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY
AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is real and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, over 940 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many cities have been implementing innovative strategies at the local level, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reutilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have worked cooperatively with the private sector to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies that have resulted in energy and cost savings while improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, Mayors throughout the nation have been educating their constituents on these issues and through leading by

example have positively influenced change in their citizens behavior and practices; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has held multiple national summits focused on energy, environment and climate change issues that have highlighted these types of innovative programs that Mayors and their local governments have been implementing that have resulted in the reduction of energy use, lower energy costs, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and overall improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, many of these programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities have not been able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in its 2007 Mayors' 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America to support local efforts to improve community energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate the deployment of new technologies, practices and alternative/renewable energy supplies;

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established a new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the U. S. Department of Energy, authorizing \$2 billion annually over five fiscal years in formula grants to cities, counties, and states to develop

energy efficiency strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities over the next eighteen months; and

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from a knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECEBG to help them create better short and long term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to establish a dedicated funding mechanism such as revenues realized by the establishment of a Cap and Trade program for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to ensure that cities have the necessary funds to promote energy saving strategies, promote alternative energy sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environment.

**CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PASS MEANINGFUL CLIMATE PROTECTION
LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, cities house more than half of the world's population and are responsible for more than 80% of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, mayors have the unique opportunity and significant responsibility to implement programs that result in real emissions reductions; and

WHEREAS, cities are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change as increases in temperature, changes in precipitation patterns and storm events, and sea level rise change the way we do business; and

WHEREAS, strong federal climate policy will position this country to be competitive in the global economy, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, federal policy must also enable and provide resources for local action that is critical to global greenhouse gas reductions; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities for the design of a federal cap and trade system to regulate national greenhouse gas emissions, including:

- Setting an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050;
- Avoiding "safety valve" provisions, and instead integrate alternative flexibility measures to help control costs, such as the use of offsets;
- Incorporating an accelerated schedule toward full auctioning of emission allowances;
- Distributing revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection.

WHEREAS, in May 2009, the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES Act); and

WHEREAS, the ACES Act establishes the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Program, including the creation of an economy-wide cap and trade system; and

WHEREAS, the ACES Act does incorporate the following key elements of a cap and trade program, which make progress toward meeting city priorities:

- Pollution caps to reduce total GHG emissions 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050;
- Use of offsets as a cost containment measure;
- Increasing percentage of allowances to be auctioned over time; and
- Considerable provisions for consumer protection

WHEREAS, the ACES Act includes additional key provisions that will enable US cities to more effectively develop and implement local climate protection initiatives, including:

- New energy efficiency standards (codes) for buildings, appliances and industry;
- Building energy performance labeling program to address energy efficiency potential in existing buildings;

WHEREAS, the ACES Act Global Warming Pollution Reduction Program does not currently recognize the key role that local governments play in implementing climate solutions through direct allocation of credits or auction revenues,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon the United States Congress to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 15th Conference of Parties meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the ACES Act in consideration of the critical role that cities must continue to play in advancing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and responding to changing global climate conditions, to include:

- Support for enforcement as well as adoption of local energy and land use codes;
- Eliminate federal and state barriers to local financing programs that use property tax mechanisms to finance efficiency upgrades;
- Allocate federal transportation dollars directly to local governments to support increased investment in transit as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;

- Direct allocation of credits or auction revenues to cities for investment in climate mitigation, through such initiatives as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, as well as adaptation initiatives, consumer protection and workforce development programs.
- Direct some funding achieved through a cap and trade system toward assisting high greenhouse gas emitting generators of electricity and research and development firms, dedicated toward finding cleaner energy solutions;
- Include tax exempt financing for Investor Owned Utilities to finance utility plant retrofits for clean energy.

**PROPOSING A FEDERAL AID ACCOUNT TO ASSIST CITIES IN CONDUCTING
FULL-RANGE ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES FOR VACANT AND
ABANDONED PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, over the last ten years, has passed several policy statements on the need for assistance in conducting environmental remediation activities with the Corps of Engineers (2000), waste-to-energy initiatives (2001), childhood lead poisoning prevention (2002), closed military instillation clean-up (2004), MTBE liability (2004), and environmental healthcare support (2007); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has extensive policy on Federal Brownfields programs; and

WHEREAS, environmental remediation is required at many sites in most cities throughout the country that are not on brownfields. In fact, there are thousands of development sites across our nation that do not include any contaminated land but contaminated buildings; and

WHEREAS, past studies conducted by the Conference of Mayors revealed upwards of 20,000 abandoned or underutilized properties covering more than 180,000 acres in cities; and

WHEREAS, indeed, the increase of abandoned and underutilized properties in the U.S. prompted the forming of the USCM Vacant and Abandoned Properties Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Federal aid does exist for the remediation of very specific pollutants such as lead paint, asbestos, and other toxins; but many sites can include multiple remediation requirements that require a 'corrective action plan' addressing all contaminants; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no Federal program that can provide direct aid to cities for environmental remediation activities associated with all contaminant clean-up activities where a brownfield or contaminated land is not involved; and

WHEREAS, cities must address the removal of multiple contaminants from a building before a vacant or abandoned site can be made eligible for development. Many times, this is a front-end cost cities must completely absorb before redevelopment can move forward. As a result, these sites simply remain in their abandoned and dilapidated state degrading communities and creating blight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to authorize a Federal aid program that provides for general environmental remediation funds for redevelopment activities of vacant and abandoned properties involving projects that include both a public and private use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this program be authorized for five years at an annual maximum appropriation level of \$100 million per year.

**"GREENING" THE TAX CODE AND PROMOTING COORDINATED FEDERAL
INVESTMENT IN CITIES**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level", and

WHEREAS, recent scientific studies (the journal Nature) indicate that there is a limit to the amount of carbon dioxide from human sources (1.1 trillion tons) that can be emitted to the air between 2000 and 2050 to avoid an increase in warming of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and that the world has already emitted one-third of that amount in the first nine years of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors through its Mayors Climate Protection Agreement signed by more 945 mayors has committed to the goal of making systematic and substantial reductions over time in greenhouse gas emissions, beginning with the targets set forth in the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors have been instrumental in advocating for creation and funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to develop and implement Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies in more than 1400 cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a national, comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must involve encouraging more compact, mixed-use development that results in fewer vehicle miles driven, coordinated development among alternative forms of transportation, housing and commercial facilities, recycling and redevelopment of brownfields, abandoned properties and other underutilized urbanized land resources as well as more aggressive efforts to preserve the nation's farmland; and

WHEREAS, the nation's tax system often rewards many carbon intensive and/or high carbon emitting industries and development patterns and does little to encourage green commercial development, compact housing, and transit oriented development that can reduce carbon emissions and result in a significantly lower carbon footprint per person, and

WHEREAS, many tax preferences actually encourage consumers to make choices that result in more carbon emissions, especially in

the area of transportation and commercial development, as opposed to fewer carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, few, if any, mechanisms exist that afford cities and their metro areas the opportunity to negotiate green and sustainable development investment strategies that coordinate multiple federal agencies actions in a concerted effort to promote sustainable development within cities and other urbanized places.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to reform and "green" the tax code by eliminating or significantly reducing tax preferences to entities emitting large quantities of greenhouse gases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors call on the Administration and Congress to include in its tax reform package the creation of a Green Zone Investment Tax Credit and Green Housing Tax Credit that will encourage transit-oriented development; mixed-use commercial and multi-family mixed-income housing development; and/or brownfield redevelopment, that can help reduce per capita carbon emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Green Zones shall be approved by the Federal government, as proposed by cities and/or their metro areas, within which Green Zone Investment Tax Credits and other tax preferences such as favorable depreciation schedules, are eligible for use, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mayors also call on the Administration to create a demonstration program in a select number of cities, called the Negotiated Sustainable Development Investment Strategy, wherein key federal government agencies with a city and/or its partners in a metropolitan area, supported by state participation, can formally negotiate local "sustainable development investment strategies" that coordinate multiple federal agency actions and funding, including those of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and others, and commits the agencies to support and fund such coordinated strategies leading to reduced carbon emissions and coordinated investments, including but not limited to designated green zones.

**CALLING ON CONGRESS TO ALLOCATE AN IMPACTFUL SHARE OF GREENHOUSE
GAS AUCTION REVENUES DIRECTLY TO CITIES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities in regards to the distribution of revenues generated from a Federal cap-&-trade system for greenhouse gasses (Resolution No. 64, 2008); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has developed multiple proposals on a cap-&-trade system for carbon and greenhouse gas reduction; two stand-out as having broader support: 1) S3036, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (110th Congress); 2) American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (111th Congress); and

WHEREAS, leading cap-&-trade proposals reduce total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by up to 66% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed market-based programs that reduce greenhouse gas pollution from major sources such as electric utilities, oil companies, and large industrial entities where emissions are capped and tradable permits are given for each ton of pollution released; and

WHEREAS, these tradable permits, or "allowances" can be bought and sold on the open market with an existing reserve of allowances that would be available at an auction; and

WHEREAS, cap-&-trade systems at the Federal level have a history of meeting their goals as the 1990 Clean Air Act contained a cap & trade system for sulfur dioxide to reduce acid rain. 100 percent compliance was achieved through this program. Nitrous oxide emissions have also been curbed through a cap & trade formula; and

WHEREAS, carbon derivatives are now traded in two States: Illinois through Chicago Climate Exchange, plc, and New York through NYMEX Holdings' Green Exchange. There is also a state government cap-&-trade cooperative initiative called the *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative* (RGGI); and

WHEREAS, the research firm, New Carbon Finance projects the U.S. carbon market could reach a value of \$1 trillion by 2020 if Congress passes a Federal cap-&-trade law by 2009; and

WHEREAS, above 70 percent of the world's energy is consumed in or by cities of the world; and

WHEREAS, carbon footprints are largest in cities and cities are the leading centers where efforts to reduce such a footprint are underway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S.Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to shape a cap-&-trade system in such a way where no less than 10 percent of greenhouse gas allowance auction proceeds can be directed to cities for the purposes of 1) workforce training initiatives in the renewable and sustainable fields; 2) implement projects and programs to reduce carbon emissions associated with transportation 3) energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon reduction activities, projects and policies.

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IMPEDING THE CREATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE
PERFORMANCE-BASED GREEN BUILDING CODES**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution through green building code initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for 39% of the nation's energy use and 72% of U.S. electricity use, and therefore presents an enormous opportunity for significantly reducing energy costs, improving the environment, improving building operations, and increasing the amount of funds in local economies that are available for expenditure on goods and services other than energy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has vowed to work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

60% in 2010

70% in 2015

80% in 2020

90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate); and

WHEREAS, local governments have been the incubators of innovative green building codes and new green technologies, recognizing that although warming is global, solutions must be local in order to account for specific regional energy needs and methods for addressing them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has instructed the Department of Energy (DOE) to set certain minimum energy efficiency levels for heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment (HVAC) and water heaters in connection with and under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C §§ 6201, *et seq.* (2006) (as amended by the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA), Pub. L. No 100-102 (1987), and the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT), Pub. L. 102-486 (1992) while Congress has at the same time recognized that state and local agencies should have "**primary responsibilities**" for the protection of consumers or practices affecting commerce which relate to the implementation

of measures likely to conserve, or improve efficiency in the use of energy, including energy conservation measures and renewable resource energy measures (42 U.S.C § 6325(d)); and

WHEREAS, despite these established roles for local government, a federal district court recently enjoined an innovative performance-based green building code that provided several alternative compliance paths (including LEED® certification) designed to improve building energy efficiency levels by 30%, finding that the performance-based code was preempted by EPCA because it allegedly required the use of HVAC and water heaters that were manufactured at energy efficiency levels in excess of the minimums set by EPCA and the DOE; and

WHEREAS, the minimum energy efficiency standards for HVAC equipment and water heaters set by ECPA and the DOE are at levels that in some cases have not been modified in decades and generally are obsolete, as evidenced by the fact that, according to reports by the HVAC industry, 37% of all HVAC sales in 2007 were of models beyond federal minimum efficiency standards; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have established - or are seeking to establish - similar performance-based building codes based on LEED® or existing energy efficiency programs, the validity of which are called into question by the court's preemption finding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by The U.S. Conference of Mayors acting on behalf of its constituents to call on the Congress of the United States to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C §§ 6201, et seq. (2006) (as amended by the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA), Pub. L. No 100-102 (1987), so as to remove preemption barriers in order to allow local governments broader authority in establishing performance-based building codes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports comprehensive reform of federal laws so as to promote the creation, implementation and enforcement of innovative energy efficient green building codes by local governments and municipalities.

**AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY
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WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to solve environmental and energy challenges and create new jobs in America; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

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- According to research conducted by Global Insight and The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center, in 2006 there were more than 750,000 Green Jobs in the U.S. economy;
- It is estimated that by 2038, 4.2 million new jobs could be created, if certain policies and investments were made in the United States;
- This could provide as much as 10% of the new job growth in the economy over the next 30 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on American Investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to accelerate improvements to the nation through:

- Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the authorized level and move toward a \$4 billion annual funding level;
- Increase federal funding commitments to public transit and non-motorized travel options and allocate available transportation resources directly to metropolitan areas;

- Green the U.S. Tax Code (e.g., incentivize energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy supplies, and transit-oriented development as well as commercial and residential development resulting in lower carbon emissions).

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in local communities and metro areas; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

- While progress is being made in the area of climate change, the goal for the nation must be to create a comprehensive solution to solve this problem;
- One of the solutions is to utilize cities with the tools that ultimately will have the greatest environmental impact and undo the causes of global warming and climate change;
- The Mayors have increasingly called attention to the need for global climate protection, focusing on: renewable energy sources; national standards for climate change; building standards and practices; and alternative transportation options;
- With world scientists warning of the serious implications caused by climate change in the near future, U.S. mayors are leading the national charge to meet the goals of the Kyoto Protocol but action and a partnership with the federal government must take place in order to decrease the impacts of climate change locally and globally; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on Climate Change called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to do the following:

- Establish a national emissions target of 80 percent by 2050;
- Enact "cap and trade" legislation that supports local government initiatives and reduces greenhouse emissions;
- Participate and ratify the United States' commitment to the next Climate Change Accord in Copenhagen 2009.

SUPPORT FOR U.S. ENGAGEMENT IN COP 15 UNFCCC IN COPENHAGEN

WHEREAS, the science is unambiguous that climate change is a clear and present threat to our world and national economy that demands immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, over 940 mayors across the country representing nearly 84 million Americans, have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits to local solutions to address global warming, and calls for strong climate policy; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country are doing their part to confront the climate crisis by taking local action to reduce the carbon footprints of government operations and the community and have made climate protection a top priority; and

WHEREAS, while many climate solutions must be implemented at the local level to truly succeed cities will need strong support from new international, federal, regional and state policies; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a federal policy framework that utilizes market mechanisms to promote flexibility and foster creative approaches to climate protection; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a cap and trade system as an important component of a suite of complementary policies necessary to meet our climate protection goals and to meaningfully reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has established climate protection as a national and international policy priority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Government to fully engage in international climate protection negotiations beginning with participation in the 15th Conference of Parties United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the US Delegation to Copenhagen to recognize the key role of cities in the global effort against climate change by engaging, empowering, and providing resources to cities

throughout the world so that we may continue to deliver effective climate protection initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that in recognizing the key role that cities will play, a Mayor be selected to join the US delegation to Copenhagen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that creates a market for carbon through development of a fair and flexible, economy-wide national cap and trade system as an important first step in participating in an international climate discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that all nations must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions if climate change policy is to be effective; and the U.S. delegation to Copenhagen encourage that any agreement that seeks to cap emissions on the U.S. also seek individual caps on other large industrialized or developing nations, including, but not limited to, those in the EU, China, India, Russia and Brazil.

**SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY
AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is real and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, over 940 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, the nation has faced unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, many cities have been implementing innovative strategies at the local level, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reutilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have worked cooperatively with the private sector to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies that have resulted in energy and cost savings while improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, Mayors throughout the nation have been educating their constituents on these issues and through leading by example have

positively influenced change in their citizens behavior and practices; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has held multiple national summits focused on energy, environment and climate change issues that have highlighted these types of innovative programs that Mayors and their local governments have been implementing that have resulted in the reduction of energy use, lower energy costs, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and overall improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, many of these programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities have not been able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in its 2007 Mayors' 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families for a Strong America to support local efforts to improve community energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate the deployment of new technologies, practices and alternative/renewable energy supplies;

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established a new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the U. S. Department of Energy, authorizing \$2 billion annually over five fiscal years in formula grants to cities, counties, and states to develop energy efficiency strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided \$3.2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities over the next eighteen months; and

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from a knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECSBG to help them create better short and long term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to establish a dedicated funding mechanism such as revenues realized by the establishment of a Cap and Trade program for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to ensure that cities have the necessary funds to promote energy saving strategies, promote alternative energy sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the environment.

REGULATION OF TAXI FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, in December 2007, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission promulgated rules that required new taxicabs, except those that are wheelchair accessible, put in service beginning on October 1, 2008, to achieve at least 25 City miles per gallon (MPG), and those put in service beginning October 1, 2009, to achieve at least 30 City miles per gallon; and

WHEREAS, in August 2008, the City of Seattle passed an ordinance that requires new taxicabs, except those that are wheelchair accessible, put in service following the effective date of the ordinance to meet fuel efficiency standards defined in rules to be promulgated in May 2009; and

WHEREAS, a local industry group in New York, the Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade, sued the City of New York, claiming that the MPG rules were preempted under the Federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as well as the Federal Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, setting stricter fuel economy and emissions standards for taxis and other for-hire vehicles will have a significant environmental and economic impact, as many of these vehicles run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, traveling in excess of 80,000 miles per year compared to an average passenger car that is only driven 15,000 miles per year; and

WHEREAS, requiring greener taxis can provide many environmental and health benefits; and

WHEREAS, increased fuel economy also leads to less money spent on fuel,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts by Congressman Nadler and the New York Congressional delegation to amend both the Environmental Policy and Conservation Act and the Clean air Act to allow taxi regulators across the country to set fuel economy and emissions standards for vehicles they regulate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amendments would apply to taxicabs and other vehicles operated for hire pursuant to an operating license, permit or other authorization issued by a state or policy subdivision and providing local transportation for a fare determined primarily on the basis of time and/or distance traveled.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and infrastructure leaders from across the nation met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Infrastructure in New York City August 13-14, 2008, to develop an action agenda for a renewed commitment to America's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations for a new stronger relationship between the nation's mayors and the federal government to ensure that we update the country's antiquated infrastructure in ways that will keep us economically competitive, and do so in ways that are climate and energy centered; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and other leaders found that:

- Local Government invests greatly in the nation's water and sewer infrastructure to keep citizens safe and the United States economically competitive. The Federal Government needs to renew its partnership with local government to protect this critical infrastructure;
- Local Government is responsible for the vast majority of investment in water and sewer infrastructure, spending over \$1.25 trillion from 1956 through 2005 (\$85 billion in 2005 alone);
- Meanwhile, the federal contribution over this period was about 7% (\$91 Billion) with \$56 billion provided to cities from 1972 through 1990 in the form of wastewater construction grants;
- These construction grants, which helped cities comply with the regulations of the Clean Water Act, were phased out by 1990 and replaced by the State Revolving Fund Loan Program which has steadily been cut over the years;
- Despite the tremendous investment by local government, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there still is a \$500 billion "needs gap" to meet our water and wastewater infrastructure needs and to comply with current environmental mandates;
- A recent report by the Cadmus Group for The U.S. Conference of Mayors, determined that Water and Wastewater Infrastructure investment stimulates the nation's economy and creates jobs;

- For every one dollar of water and sewer infrastructure investment, it is estimated that Gross Domestic Product increases by \$6.35 in the long-term. For each additional dollar spent on operating and maintaining water and sewer industry, the increase of revenue or economic output for all industries is increased by \$2.62 in that year;
- In addition, for every one job added in water and sewer creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy to support that job; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Infrastructure to renew and strengthen the federal commitment to the nation's water and wastewater needs:

- Remove Private Activity Bonds for water/wastewater infrastructure from State Volume Caps;
- Fully fund federally-passed environmental mandates and court-ordered consent decrees applicable to water and wastewater systems (e.g., combined-sewer and wet weather overflow issues);
- Place priority on funding rehabilitation of aging infrastructure (leaking pipes are a concern for most cities who can lose anywhere from 5-40% of their water), improvements that protect water and sewer infrastructure from catastrophic events, and ensure source water availability (35% of cities in a Conference of Mayors survey do not know where their water supply will come from by 2025);
- Allocate an additional \$50 billion over 10 years in this way: \$3 billion annually in grants to cities to comply with sewer overflow infrastructure; and \$2 billion annually in additional SRF loan funding for rehabilitation of aging infrastructure, protection of water and sewer infrastructure, and promote source water availability;
- Address future infrastructure needs through a mix of funding sources;
- Increase program/policy flexibility to allow cities to undertake locally-designed strategies, emphasizing green infrastructure and other flexible and innovative solutions;
- Plan for and fund infrastructure improvements related to climate change, including adapting to events such as droughts, floods, and rising sea levels.

**ENSURING FAIR AND EQUITABLE USE OF AND COMPENSATION
FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, increasing public investment in our nation's water infrastructure system is critical to meet existing and future demands, ensure water supply reliability, and comply with more stringent drinking water quality standards; and

WHEREAS, an August 2008 report by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that for every one dollar invested in public water and sewer infrastructure services, approximately \$8.97 are added to the national economy; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the American Society of Civil Engineers estimate that the Nation faces up to a \$1 trillion dollar funding gap in drinking and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, local governments already invest approximately \$82 billion a year or more, over 90% of the total funding available for drinking water and sewer services; and

WHEREAS, sustained negative economic conditions in the United States are significantly impacting the ability of local and city governments to maintain funding for the essential public services they provide; and

WHEREAS, up to 40% of bottled water on the market comes from already treated municipal water systems, and the bottled water industry generated \$15 billion in sales in 2006 from U.S. consumers; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 USCM study found that purchasing some of the cheapest bottled water from city retailers can cost local consumers from 1,000 to over 4,000 times per unit volume than the equivalent amount of municipal tap water; and

WHEREAS, cities incur costs as a result of allowing water bottling operations to use municipal water systems that are difficult to quantify; including but not limited to waste management costs, the economic impact of exporting water out of local watersheds, the loss of confidence in public water systems, and the impact of water bottling in communities experiencing drought conditions;

WHEREAS, bottled water is a non-essential use of an essential and shared public resource;

WHEREAS, a 2007 national city water survey conducted by USCM staff noted that, 'the growing interest in local government to integrate asset management approaches to public infrastructure is consistent with the desire to maximize the prudent application of taxes and revenues raised from rate-payers for these services'; and

WHEREAS, some cities in the United States have adopted progressive pricing structures for water that prioritize equitable and affordable access for people - particularly low-income residents and other vulnerable populations - while incentivizing water conservation and cross-subsidization by large commercial users;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors will study current pricing structures for sales of municipal water for water bottling to evaluate how cities can be appropriately compensated for that use, and how best to allocate revenues from these sales to support municipal water systems.

**CALLING ON CONGRESS TO PASS MEANINGFUL CLIMATE PROTECTION
LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, cities house more than half of the world's population and are responsible for more than 80% of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, mayors have the unique opportunity and significant responsibility to implement programs that result in real emissions reductions; and

WHEREAS, cities are also the first responders to the impacts of climate change as increases in temperature, changes in precipitation patterns and storm events, and sea level rise change the way we do business; and

WHEREAS, strong federal climate policy will position this country to be competitive in the global economy, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, federal policy must also enable and provide resources for local action that is critical to global greenhouse gas reductions; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on city priorities for the design of a federal cap and trade system to regulate national greenhouse gas emissions, including:

- Setting an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions that results in real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the scientific consensus, or 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2050;
- Avoiding "safety valve" provisions, and instead integrate alternative flexibility measures to help control costs, such as the use of offsets;
- Incorporating an accelerated schedule toward full auctioning of emission allowances;
- Distributing revenues generated by a cap and trade program to recognize the important role that local governments play in climate protection.

WHEREAS, in May 2009, the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES Act); and

WHEREAS, the ACES Act establishes the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Program, including the creation of an economy-wide cap and trade system; and

WHEREAS, the ACES Act does incorporate the following key elements of a cap and trade program, which make progress toward meeting city priorities:

- Pollution caps to reduce total GHG emissions 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050;
- Use of offsets as a cost containment measure;
- Increasing percentage of allowances to be auctioned over time; and
- Considerable provisions for consumer protection

WHEREAS, the ACES Act includes additional key provisions that will enable US cities to more effectively develop and implement local climate protection initiatives, including:

- New energy efficiency standards (codes) for buildings, appliances and industry;
- Building energy performance labeling program to address energy efficiency potential in existing buildings;

WHEREAS, the ACES Act Global Warming Pollution Reduction Program does not currently recognize the key role that local governments play in implementing climate solutions through direct allocation of credits or auction revenues,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls upon the United States Congress to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 15th Conference of Parties meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the ACES Act in consideration of the critical role that cities must continue to play in advancing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and responding to changing global climate conditions, to include:

- Support for enforcement as well as adoption of local energy and land use codes;
- Eliminate federal and state barriers to local financing programs that use property tax mechanisms to finance efficiency upgrades;
- Allocate federal transportation dollars directly to local governments to support increased investment in transit as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;

- Direct allocation of credits or auction revenues to cities for investment in climate mitigation, through such initiatives as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, as well as adaptation initiatives, consumer protection and workforce development programs.
- Direct some funding achieved through a cap and trade system toward assisting high greenhouse gas emitting generators of electricity and research and development firms, dedicated toward finding cleaner energy solutions;
- Include tax exempt financing for Investor Owned Utilities to finance utility plant retrofits for clean energy.

**COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT AND HIS ADMINISTRATION'S
REENGAGEMENT WITH THE AMERICAS**

WHEREAS, during the first 100 days of his Administration President Obama has demonstrated a distinct and renewed commitment to hemispheric dialogue with engagement among the countries of the hemisphere that is focused on building and encouraging strong democracies, where basic fairness, social equality, and a deep respect for human rights and the rule of law consistent with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, are guiding principles for strong, transparent governance and a thriving civil society that respond to the challenges of poverty, inequality and social exclusion in the hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, this renewed commitment was personally demonstrated by President Obama in his own participation and policy pronouncements during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, which took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in March 2009; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and President Felipe Calderon of Mexico committed to a new approach in our countries' bilateral relationship based on comprehensive engagement and shared responsibility during President Obama's state visit to Mexico in April 2009 where they discussed the important issues of clean energy, climate change, cooperation on drug and arms trafficking, and shared security challenges; and

WHEREAS, in "an important first step toward a new day in relations and building partnerships with and among the countries and people of the Hemisphere" during March 2009 Vice-President Joseph Biden attended the Progressive Governance Conference at Viña del Mar, Chile where he met with Latin American and European heads of state and then met in San Jose, Costa Rica with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and heads of state and foreign ministers of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed the Administration's commitment to build on the Meridá Initiative begun in 2008 under the Bush administration and geared to assist Mexico and Central American countries to cooperatively confront the threat of drug trafficking to the hemisphere during her visit to Mexico in March 2009, and visited the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic to discuss stability, security, assistance, bilateral development and cooperative efforts to combat drug trafficking before

accompanying the President at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in April; and

WHEREAS, these important visits to six countries during the first 100 days of the Administration included three multilateral meetings and took place to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern, including United States' aid to the region, drug trafficking, the global economic downturn, international financial issues, economic development, human rights, security, immigration and other issues of mutual interest with the intent of strengthening ties in pursuit of productive and respectful relations; and

WHEREAS, mayors of the Americas have joined together for successive years in 2006, 2007 and 2008 in Miami and Chicago to renew the Inter-American dialogue with roundtable discussions of matters of mutual interest including public safety and security, energy, the environment, poverty reduction, city design, globalization, competitiveness and education, among others,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors congratulates and commends the distinct and prompt engagement of the President and his Administration with our neighboring countries throughout the hemisphere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors pledges its partnership in this effort and its continued contribution to hemispheric dialogue in promoting the interests of the United States and its cities with mayoral and city-based discussions and forums.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**THE UNDERMINING OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC CITY GOVERNANCE
IN VENEZUELA**

WHEREAS, freely-elected mayors in Venezuela have been subjected to intimidation and persecution for standing in opposition to the ruling administration and national assembly; and

WHEREAS, these mayors and their families have been threatened such that the freely-elected Mayor of Maracaibo, Manuel Rosales, was forced into hiding and has been granted political asylum in Peru; and

WHEREAS, the freely-elected Mayor of Caracas, Antonio Ledezma, who defeated a pro-government incumbent, was blocked from entry to City Hall by supporters of the ruling national government following a transparent and lawful election in November 2008, and the Venezuela National Guard has prevented Mayor Ledezma from convening city council meetings, in contrast to those led by the previous pro-government mayor; and

WHEREAS, legislation recently passed by Venezuela's National Assembly, reorganizes the government of the city of Caracas without city resident consent and creates a new Caracas municipal authority that controls the Caracas municipal budget and the city's 7,000 city employees, and this law has the effect of eliminating most of the responsibilities of the elected office of the Mayor, and gives control of an opposition-run city to an official appointed by the national executive; and

WHEREAS, Article 31 of the Venezuelan Constitution of 2000 places the capital city of Caracas under the political control of an elected mayor, and the ruling administration and national assembly are promulgating laws that undermine the constitutional authority of freely-elected opposition mayors and governors while legal proceedings are brought against leaders of the political opposition; and

WHEREAS, the President of Venezuela has named a vice president of his ruling party as the new executive with authority over Venezuela's capital city, and the elected mayor of Caracas has been subordinated to a city official appointed by the President; and

WHEREAS, such actions are directly limiting the authority of freely-elected political opponents and undermine constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms of speech and expression in Venezuela, and these actions must be clearly viewed as attacks

on constitutional government and popular electoral expressions of citizen sovereignty, and

WHEREAS, such behavior undermines the rule of law and the principles of lawful, independent, local electoral processes in city governance, freely-elected city and local democratic governance; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 in solidarity with the democratic aspirations of the people of Venezuela, the United States Conference of Mayors highlighted and condemned the summary disqualification of 400 otherwise-eligible candidates for elected office by the administrative act of a government agency without affording due juridical process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of the undermining of democratic governance and the principle of freely- and independently-elected city officials, governments and administrations in Venezuela; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors unequivocally condemns the intimidation and persecution of freely-elected mayors in Venezuela who stand in political opposition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this policy resolution be presented to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the United States Department of State and that representations be made to the official representatives of the Government of Venezuela in the United States.

SUPPORT FOR U.S. ENGAGEMENT IN COP 15 UNFCCC IN COPENHAGEN

WHEREAS, the science is unambiguous that climate change is a clear and present threat to our world and national economy that demands immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, over 940 mayors across the country representing nearly 84 million Americans, have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits to local solutions to address global warming, and calls for strong climate policy; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country are doing their part to confront the climate crisis by taking local action to reduce the carbon footprints of government operations and the community and have made climate protection a top priority; and

WHEREAS, while many climate solutions must be implemented at the local level to truly succeed, cities will need strong support from new international, federal, regional and state policies; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a federal policy framework that utilizes market mechanisms to promote flexibility and foster creative approaches to climate protection; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a cap and trade system as an important component of a suite of complementary policies necessary to meet our climate protection goals and to meaningfully reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has established climate protection as a national and international policy priority;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Government to fully engage in international climate protection negotiations beginning with participation in the 15th Conference of Parties United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the US Delegation to Copenhagen to recognize the key role of cities in the global effort against climate change by engaging, empowering, and providing resources to cities throughout the world so that we may continue to deliver effective climate protection initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that in recognizing the key role that cities will play, a Mayor be selected to join the US delegation to Copenhagen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the US Congress to pass legislation that creates a market for carbon through development of a fair and flexible, economy-wide national cap and trade system as an important first step in participating in an international climate discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that all nations must reduce their greenhouse gas emissions if climate change policy is to be effective; and the U.S. delegation to Copenhagen encourage that any agreement that seeks to cap emissions on the U.S. also seek individual caps on other large industrialized or developing nations, including, but not limited to, those in the EU, China, India, Russia and Brazil.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIAN NATIONALS

WHEREAS, the country of Haiti was severely impacted by successive hurricane and tropical storm strikes during a compressed period in 2008; and

WHEREAS, already tenuous conditions in Haiti were exacerbated by the magnitude and scale of these natural disasters, and tens of thousands remain homeless and displaced, food shortages continue, malnutrition rates are rising, and joblessness continues to climb in Haiti; and

WHEREAS, these natural disasters have had a devastating effect on infrastructure and essential and public services remain inadequate, including electrical power and clean drinking water, and many areas of the country remain isolated and uninhabitable while many roads and highways remain impassable; and

WHEREAS, these tragic conditions are not conducive to successful repatriation, repatriation under these conditions is inconsistent with our values as a country, and deportations of Haitian nationals were temporarily suspended in the wake of these natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the government of Haiti continues to work towards recovery from these disasters and improve and remediate the exceptionally difficult living conditions that these disasters have caused, yet the people of Haiti continue to suffer under these extreme conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has expressed concerns for nationals of Haiti affected by the recurring natural disasters that have befallen Haiti over several years and their economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration is in the process of formulating an overall Haiti policy and has expressed its continued commitment to working closely with the U.S. Congress, the Government of Haiti, the Organization of American States, the United Nations and the international community to address the humanitarian and security concerns that continue to face the people of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Temporary Protected Status for Haiti and Haitian nationals would provide needed relief to those affected and the Government of Haiti as it works to stabilize

conditions and recover from the damage inflicted by this environmental disaster; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status has been afforded to El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in the wake of conditions in those countries resulting from natural disasters, and conditions in Haiti clearly meet the statutory requirements necessary for designation of Temporary Protected Status,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security, with whom such authority lies, to designate Haiti and Haitian nationals for Temporary Protected Status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security to promptly suspend deportations of Haitian nationals.

**AFFIRMING THE ROLE OF CITIES IN ACHIEVEMENT OF A PEACEFUL
WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY 2020**

WHEREAS, as long as nuclear weapons exist, cities around the world will be vulnerable to instantaneous devastation on a scale exceeding even that experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors 2004 resolution unanimously calling on the 2005 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty(NPT)to commence negotiation on the elimination of nuclear weapons was not heeded; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2009 in Prague, President Barack Obama stated, "One nuclear weapon exploded in one city -- be it New York or Moscow, Islamabad or Mumbai, Tokyo or Tel Aviv, Paris or Prague -- could kill hundreds of thousands of people. And no matter where it happens, there is no end to what the consequences might be -- for our global safety, our security, our society, our economy, to our ultimate survival," and went on to declare the commitment of the United States to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons;" and

WHEREAS, the October 2007 Final Declaration of the 2nd World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments noted, "that for the first time in the history of humankind, the majority of the world's population now resides in cities," embraced the Mayors for Peace "Cities Are Not Targets!" demand, and endorsed "the Mayors for Peace campaign, which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction;" and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors, in 2007, unanimously adopted a resolution "calling on all nations and all world powers to prohibit the use of any weapon of mass destruction against cities;" and in 2008 unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020, recommending that the U.S. Government urgently consider the Mayors for Peace "Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol" as a direct means of fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, thereby meeting the 1996 finding by the International Court of Justice that all states are obligated to "pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;" and

WHEREAS, the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, established in June 2008 as a joint initiative of the Australian and Japanese Governments, aims to reinvigorate international efforts on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, in the context of both the 2010 NPT Review Conference and beyond, and to that end will publish a major report no later than January 2010; and has already held public meetings in Sydney, Washington, Santiago, and Beijing, and will hold public meetings later this year in Moscow and Hiroshima;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament to adopt 2020 as the target date for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, and calls upon the Commission to recognize the importance of city and citizen level movements for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and to incorporate in its report the contribution these movements can make to the achievement of a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors welcomes enthusiastically the new leadership and multilateralism that the United States is demonstrating toward achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, and calls on President Obama to announce at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference the initiation of good faith multilateral negotiations on an international agreement to abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at the 2010 June Conference of Mayors in Oklahoma City.

STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as of April 2009, the unemployment rate was 8.9 percent – the highest it has been in a quarter century – and almost double the 4.9 percent rate prior to the onset of the recession; and

WHEREAS, now in its seventeenth month, the current recession is already significantly longer than the two previous recessions the nation experienced in 1990-91 and 2001; and

WHEREAS, the current recession is the longest since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), the law creating the nation's largest program for providing skills training, was due for reauthorization in 2003; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization of WIA is crucial to meet the growing needs of the American worker – both those who have lost their jobs and those whose skills need to be upgraded to meet the increasing demands of the economy; and

WHEREAS, WIA is critical to fueling the economic development of our nation's cities; enabling local workforce areas to provide job training to workers while they are laid off, as well as continue to meet the demand of local businesses for a skilled workforce while the struggling economy recovers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Employment and Training Administration's Workforce Investment Act Non-Experimental Net Impact Evaluation jobseekers enrolled as WIA adult customers earn roughly \$400 to \$600 more per quarter than their peers for up to four years after enrollment; and

WHEREAS, WIA's current funding for the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth funding streams is \$3.25 billion, a 26 percent decrease in funding since the legislation was enacted; and

WHEREAS, as the unemployment rate continues to rise, demand for WIA services will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, Congress has acknowledged the importance of investing in job training in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), which allocated nearly \$4 billion for job training through formula grants for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth training programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by significantly increasing its funding to \$8.35 billion, which is consistent with maintaining current funding for WIA programs at 2000 levels (adjusted for inflation), sustaining the levels included in ARRA, and ensuring a continued strong Summer Youth program to address the crisis in youth employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by:

- Improving regional and private-sector coordination, and expanding outreach to immigrants;
 - Providing incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
 - Providing additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades;
 - Enlisting regional employers as partners having a vested interest in the success of workforce development programs;
- and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- Encourage employees (especially within large businesses) to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools, particularly those with lower college placement rates;
- Work with educators and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to regional workforce trends;
- Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify key regional job trends;
- Support federal and state standards-based education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to ensure a significant reinvestment in all youth entering the labor force, including those young people with low educational attainment and poor connections to work, Congress should strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by including an enhanced Summer Jobs Initiative to bring immediate and long-term benefits to teen workers, their communities and the business sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that public workforce development resources are accessible to all workers in need of assistance—including adults and youth who have been subject to decreasing investments by the Department of Labor, as well as low-income workers, whose access to Pell grants has been restricted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that strong local authority and flexibility for local elected officials and their Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) remain at the core of the reauthorization of WIA, so that the system will allow for development of programs that are informed by in-depth knowledge of the local business community, hiring and training needs of local and regional businesses, and the promotion of greater accountability as policies are designed to reflect local trends.

COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- A large segment of the population in local communities is not prepared to meet the rapidly changing demands of the 21st century workplace, due to inadequate education, low skill levels and other barriers of poverty; and
- Eleven million Americans are unable to read a bus schedule or fill out a job application; and
- The largest growing segment of our youth labor force is largely minority and immigrant youth, and they are largely located in metro regions with high concentrations of poverty; and
- The nation's growing unemployment rate is a reflection of a deeply distressed economy in which job opportunities are dwindling amid continuing turmoil in the housing, credit, and financial sectors; and
- In this new era of global competition, America's economic health depends on the availability of a skilled workforce with the knowledge and ability to adapt to an ever-changing economy; and
- A sustained commitment to local workforce development programs that produce measurable results is crucial to ensuring our continued competitiveness in the 21st century global economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- Timely reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and full funding of its programs to ensure a significant investment in lifelong learning for every American is needed; and
- The workforce system should partner with education agencies to implement multiple pathways to the world of work and careers in high school, so that we can prepare students for first jobs in high-skill, high-wage careers, and increase their opportunities for further education; and

- A new summer youth employment initiative that provides program funding directly to cities and urban counties should be developed. Well-organized summer jobs programs bring both immediate and long-term benefits to teen workers, their communities and the business sector.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S YOUTH

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's young people; and

WHEREAS, mayors know how early work experience and educational enrichment opportunities lead to academic improvement for millions of at-risk youth, and youth who work are more apt to stay in school, finish high school, and pursue post-secondary education and/or vocational training; and

WHEREAS, the labor market for the nation's teens has deteriorated considerably since 2000, when 45% of U.S. teens had summer jobs, to the historic low of only 32.7% in the summer of 2008; and

WHEREAS, matching the youth unemployment crisis is the nation's troubling dropout or poor graduation rate: only about half (53%) of all young people in the nation's 50 largest cities are graduating from high school on time; nationwide one in three high school students fail to graduate with a diploma and nearly fifty percent (50%) of African-American and Hispanic youth are not completing high school on time; and

WHEREAS, by 2010 the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults as 41 million new workers enter the workforce begin to replace 76 million retiring workers; and

WHEREAS, millions of young people are being left behind, disconnected from school and the world of work, and unable to participate in the U.S. and global economy; and

WHEREAS, only a significant sustained reinvestment in all youth, but most especially young people with low educational attainment and poor connections to work, will reconnect them to the economic mainstream; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) provides the nation's only comprehensive youth system to improve the education and training prospects for at-risk in-school and out-of-school youth; and

WHEREAS, WIA was up for renewal in 2003, but reauthorization has stalled in Congress; and

WHEREAS, at-risk youth have been severely underserved since 2000 with the elimination of a separate funding stream for a summer jobs program; and

WHEREAS, a well-organized federally-funded stand-alone summer jobs program brings immediate and long-term benefits to teen workers, their local communities, and the business sector; and

WHEREAS, developing skills to be productive workers, learning about various industries, and participating in the adult world of work are all important aspects of cultivating the next generation of workers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor's WIA Youth Opportunity Grants represented a major commitment to addressing these conditions and increasing the long-term employability of youth living in the poorest communities in our country; and

WHEREAS, the authorization for the Youth Opportunity Grants ended in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration made a major investment in youth through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with a one-time \$1.2 billion appropriation for WIA youth activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to make a sustained major investment in our nation's youth to address the unmet needs of youth who have been adversely affected since 2000 and particularly during this economic downturn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this regular investment provides funding for a new stand-alone non-means tested Summer Jobs initiative to generate summer jobs and learning opportunities for at-risk youth who are in-school and out-of-school which includes:

- Promoting career exploration across a variety of industries and fields helping young people learn more about their interests, aptitudes and the ways these can be applied in the local labor market; and
- Providing internships allowing students to combine academic and employment pursuits; and
- Encouraging summer work experiences that include education and training in areas of financial literacy, work-readiness, post-secondary education, career exploration and health awareness; and

- Developing connections to local school curricula so lessons learned at work relate to academics; and
- Developing training for youth supervisors; and
- Ensuring summer work experiences are appropriate, fulfilling and lead to jobs of the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in WIA reauthorization legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- Maintain separate authorizations and appropriations for all WIA employment and training formula program; and
- Continue its commitment to a strong Summer Jobs program, by providing \$3.84 billion in funding in FY2010 appropriations legislation for summer and year round youth activities which is equivalent to FY2000 funding levels (adjusted for inflation), sustaining the levels included in ARRA and answering Senator Kennedy's call for an additional \$2 billion in youth funding; and
- Add youth joblessness as a criterion for determining the funding formula for youth activities; and
- Provide flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies, including summer jobs,
- Provide training and apprenticeship programs that prepare young people for jobs in a green economy; and
- Authorize and provide separate appropriation for a stand-alone summer jobs program; and
- Retain services to both in-school and out-of-school youth,
- Preserve in-school youth programs and in-school services for 14 and 15 year olds; and
- Maintain the focus on youth development; and
- Ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth be available for both in-school and out-of-school youth, particularly those in high poverty communities and that it must be funded only in excess of the \$1 billion dedicated for the youth formula program; and
- Raise the age for eligibility of services under the WIA youth formula program to 24; and
- Streamline the eligibility determination process and expand income and group eligibility requirements so that youth who already qualify for other federal programs may also qualify for WIA; and
- Amend accountability and performance measures that would provide incentives for programs to serve young people with low academic or basic skills and allow for longer periods of program participation and services that will lead to greater successful outcomes; and
- Maintain local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) and local Youth Councils (YC); and

- Protect local control and flexibility for the local WIBs and YCs to develop and implement their comprehensive local plan to address the workforce development needs of the local area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any authorization and appropriation for new programs not be made at the expense of the current formula grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any change in the youth formula allocation and any formula for new programs like the Youth Challenge Grants be substantially weighted to reflect the population to which the funds are targeted, such as high school drop outs, court-involved youth, and youth aging out of foster care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to incorporate lessons learned from the Youth Opportunity (YO) Grant program into WIA reauthorization and incorporate the YO philosophy of long term, comprehensive support focused on youth development into all youth workforce policies and programs.

**SUPPORT THE YOUTH PRISON REDUCTION THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES,
MENTORING, INTERVENTION, SUPPORT AND EDUCATION ACT
(YOUTH PROMISE ACT)**

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free and law-abiding lives; and

WHEREAS, gang crime has taken a toll on a number of urban communities, and senseless acts of gang-related violence have imposed economic, social and human costs; and

WHEREAS, the use of a wide range of evidence-based and promising programs, offered under the auspices of a broad-based and informed collaborative of social services, schools and education programs, health and mental health organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, law enforcement, faith-based organizations and other public and private entities working with at-risk youth in a community, has been demonstrated to prevent and reduce youth violence, delinquency and crime and keep communities safer; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice costs have become overwhelming in many communities throughout the United States, preventing necessary investments in educational, economic development, social, child and family development, mental health, and related services; and

WHEREAS, the investment in evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention programs for children and youth, including quality early childhood programs, comprehensive education programs including school, summer school, and after school and summer recreational programs, mentoring, health and mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, job training and other prevention and intervention programs, has been shown to lead to decreased youth arrests, decreased delinquency, lower recidivism, and greater financial savings from an educational, economic, social and criminal justice perspective; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention practices have been proven to build individual, family and community strength and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, investment in youth and communities holds the promise of making U.S. cities safer and stronger economically, environmentally and socially; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act establishes a PROMISE Advisory Council to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in:

- Assessing and developing standards and evidence-based and promising practices to prevent juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity; and
- Collecting data in designated geographic areas to assess the needs and existing resources to prevent and address juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act authorizes grants for local governments in cities throughout this country to:

- Plan, assess and implement plans for evidenced-based and promising programs to prevent and intervene in juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activities to redirect involved youth; and
- Hire and train law enforcement officers as youth-oriented police to work in collaboration with local PROMISE Coordinating Councils, community-based organizations and youth at risk of or involved in delinquency or criminal street gang activity; and
- Create and expand juvenile witness and victim protection programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the Youth PROMISE Act and calls upon the United States Congress to enact the Youth PROMISE Act in the 111th Congress.

**SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN JOBS THROUGH
GREEN JOBS TRAINING**

WHEREAS, "green building" and other sustainable practices will support growth in all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, Congress has funded at least nine programs totaling \$25.5 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in which energy efficiency, public building retrofit, renewable energy, weatherization, upgrades to the electrical grid and green workforce development play an essential role; and

WHEREAS, Congress has included \$20 billion in tax incentives to encourage conservation and support development of wind, solar and other renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering several bills to limit carbon emissions, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering regulating carbon emissions using its existing authority, causing the relative value of energy efficiency and renewably-generated electricity to increase; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-eight states have already instituted portfolio standards, another five have established renewable energy goals, and Congress is considering creating a nationwide renewable energy standard, which would produce further development of clean energy resources; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) has passed several resolutions calling on all levels of government to pursue environmentally sustainable municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, one of the most essential elements of a "green" economy will involve increasing the production of energy from sustainable sources and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of energy policies based on energy efficiency and on renewable sources will not only help our economy, but will do so in a healthy and clean way, saving our cities billions in ancillary costs such as health care, infrastructure decay, climate change mitigation and waste management; and

WHEREAS, green jobs and sustainable methods of producing energy make-up an increasing percentage of the economy; and

WHEREAS, the extensive federal investment in the green sector will require a skilled green workforce to support the quickly growing green economy; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause for increased recidivism, poverty and crime is a lack of jobs that pay a livable wage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the \$125 million authorized for Green Jobs Training programs passed in the Green Jobs Act for FY 2009 as stated in H.R. 1781; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to allocate additional funding for the development of new green businesses and workforce development programs for the new energy economy in further climate change, energy and workforce development legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funding allocated to green jobs training should build on the current workforce development structure established in the Workforce Investment Act and give priority to programs aimed at training dislocated workers, minority and at-risk youth, and ex-offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the federal government to 1) expand labor market data collection systems and analysis to track and predict the demand for Green Jobs throughout the green sector to allow workforce development entities to train workers in fields where they are found to be most needed; 2) create a centralized resource center for Green Jobs to allow cities to discuss best practices and learn from one another; 3) facilitate policy coordination and sharing of information between the affected agencies; 4) create incentive and recognition systems for exemplary green employers; and 5) produce early non-qualitative analysis of green job training and random assignment evaluation for early assessment and accountability of Green Jobs training programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the USCM should take steps to better implement and increase the opportunities for Green Jobs development in their cities such as: 1) track local demand for green jobs through data collection and analysis; 2) expand the local green economy by investing in green technology such as instituting solar alternative power initiatives that increase the number of solar cells attached to our power grids, implementing energy efficiency capital improvements, retrofitting state-owned buildings and making use of other

energy forms such as wind power or geothermal; 3) work with the business community to form Green Jobs councils in our cities that can best direct human resources to growing green industries; 4) create standards to accurately assess green jobs, employers and processes; and 5) create incentive and recognition systems for exemplary green employers.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY
CHALLENGES AND CREATE NEW JOBS IN AMERICA**

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations to solve environmental and energy challenges and create new jobs in America; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

- Addressing our nation's environmental and energy challenges require an expanded partnership between Mayors and the federal government, especially in metropolitan areas which can have the most significant impact on the climate change issues that face the nation;
- These investments will not only help solve our environmental and energy challenges but they will also serve as a catalyst for new jobs in America;
- According to research conducted by Global Insight and The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center, in 2006 there were more than 750,000 Green Jobs in the U.S. economy;
- It is estimated that by 2038, 4.2 million new jobs could be created, if certain policies and investments were made in the United States;
- This could provide as much as 10% of the new job growth in the economy over the next 30 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on American Investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to accelerate improvements to the nation through:

- Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the authorized level and move toward a \$4 billion annual funding level; and
- Increase federal funding commitments to public transit and non-motorized travel options and allocate available transportation resources directly to metropolitan areas; and

- Green the U.S. Tax Code (e.g., incentivize energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy supplies, and transit-oriented development as well as commercial and residential development resulting in lower carbon emissions).

ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN REENTRY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on both "Green Jobs" and successful prisoner reentry programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has enacted legislation such as the Clean Energy Act, the Second Chance Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that encourage both prisoner reentry and green jobs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has included funding for "Green Jobs" in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and in funding bills for FY2009; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution during the 2008 Annual Conference urging mayors to strengthen job training programs to encourage low income residents into this emerging field; and

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore is currently establishing a Green Jobs Creation Coalition, which will identify the needs of businesses, develop training programs, and work to move the City's unemployed and under-employed, including those returning to the community from incarceration, into gainful employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has made the creation of green jobs a priority through adoption of the Chicago Climate Action Plan and has demonstrated the success of ex-offender job training through its fifteen-year-old groundbreaking Greencorps program, which trains disadvantaged Chicagoans with barriers to employment for green jobs, including home energy retrofits, computer repair and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's first 'green' reentry center is currently being built by Generations Inc. in southern New Jersey within which ex-offenders will be trained in energy efficiency technology installation, sustainable building practices and green roof maintenance; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 67.5% of prisoners released are rearrested within 3 years; and

WHEREAS, programs like the U.S. Department of Labor's Prisoner Reentry Initiative have shown promising results where only 14% of those participating in the Initiative are rearrested after one year as compared to the national average of 44%; and

WHEREAS, allowing ex-offenders to take advantage of job training programs in the growing green jobs field will allow them access into emerging markets with marketable skills and the potential for long term employment, aiding them in successfully reintegrating into society; and

WHEREAS, successful reintegration strategies will help to reduce crime rates by reducing the recidivism rate; and

WHEREAS, the cost of ex-offenders re-offending is not only a substantial burden on our overcrowded prison system, but on our social services because of the effects of families that have been left behind,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Congress to provide incentives to local and state governments that encourage training persons in custody and subject to court supervision in new and emerging fields and assisting them in obtaining jobs in such fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Congress provide maximum authorized funding for Green Jobs Act Grants especially the "Green Pathways out of Poverty" Program as well as the Second Chance Act Grants for FY2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors further encourage its membership to develop innovative strategies to include ex-offenders in the expanding 'green' economy.

MAKING GREEN SCHOOLS A REALITY

WHEREAS, more than twenty percent of America - including our students, faculty, staff, and administrators - spends their day in a school building; and

WHEREAS, America's nearly 100,000 K-12 public schools are in desperate need of rehabilitation with school-infrastructure needs exceeding \$250 billion, according to a 2008 study released by the American Federation of Teachers; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 The United States Conference of Mayors led the green schools movement by passing a seminal resolution to ensure that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 Members of Congress have joined the bipartisan Congressional Green Schools Caucus in the House of Representatives, formed in 2007 with the aim of raising awareness of the benefits of green schools, leading the federal policy discussion in various forums and creating legislative opportunities for the collective efforts of the caucus members; and

WHEREAS, given the significant role of state legislation in addressing public school infrastructure, six state lawmakers launched the "50 For 50" Green Schools Caucus Initiative in 2008 to encourage and support the formation of a green schools caucus in every state legislature in the country within two years; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the country have urged their respective governors to join them in a commitment to advance green schools, working to ensure that the appropriated State Fiscal Stabilization funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 are dedicated to green school modernization efforts; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as daylighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design -- all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cleaner indoor air quality -- a key emphasis of green schools -- have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher retention rates; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by using the built environment as a context for learning, encouraging environmental literacy and hands-on, project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools using tools like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system significantly improve human, environmental, and economic health; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools focus on low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, sustainable purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, schools embody our hopes and aspirations for the future and we make an important statement about our dedication to that future by building, repairing, and operating our schools in the most responsible and sustainable way possible,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reconfirms its commitment to the goal that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses and is dedicated to working toward the passage of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187), which would provide billions of dollars in funding to schools for much-needed green school repairs, retrofits, and modernizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to commit additional research funding to *evaluate, understand and enhance* the environmental, economic and health benefits of green schools.

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, mayors are increasing their interest and engagement in education; and

WHEREAS, cities are beginning to redefine their roles in education; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called for mayoral takeover of big-city school districts at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' National Forum on Education on March 31, 2009, saying mayoral control produces real progress in the sense of innovation and the stability and strong leadership needed to overhaul urban schools; and

WHEREAS, Education Secretary Arne Duncan has called for major reform in the No Child Left Behind Act including rigorous national academic standards, better data management systems, better student assessments, improved teacher quality and a less punitive focus on accountability for student achievement; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million students live in cities with formal mayoral control and over 50 million do not; and

WHEREAS, mayoral involvement includes both mayors with and without control of their school districts; and

WHEREAS, 6,000 of the country's 95,000 schools are labeled as needing restructuring or corrective action because of low test scores; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called for many of the controversial initiatives that districts with mayoral control typically push heavily for such as charter schools, accountability based on rigorous testing standards, and merit pay for teachers; and

WHEREAS, Congress has provided \$140 billion for education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requiring that drastic reforms are made to the education system throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, urban districts turn to mayoral control following long periods of lagging achievement and dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, districts under mayoral control have shown the greatest academic improvements in low performing schools; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control has led to increased spending in support services in their district budgets; and

WHEREAS, mayoral engagement leads to new visions in education for a city's student population; and

WHEREAS, mayors use their bully pulpit to build civic capacity among stakeholders across government, non-profit, and business sectors to create education initiatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges state and local governments to encourage the engagement of mayors in education in both circumstances where there is mayoral control and informal mayoral engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes and supports the rightful role of mayors to do what needs to be done to promote the interests of public school students and parents, and the schools, align the efforts of the city and the school system, and improve the lives, education outcomes and opportunities of the children who attend public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports mayoral leadership and involvement in education that makes a positive difference in the quality of teaching and learning in the city's schools, whether through direct forms of involvement or informal means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports a myriad of choices in selecting the level of mayoral leadership and involvement in education including utilization of the bully pulpit to build political support for education improvement that provides the impetus school districts need to speed reforms; fostering greater student achievement; providing greater visibility to important issues which forces decisions to be made; creating programs when needed; increasing public participation; working to enhance funding and resources; and setting new priorities when necessary.

ENDORISING THE PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION PLAN

WHEREAS, President Obama announced a comprehensive plan for public education on March 9, 2009, with a focus on (1) early childhood education, (2) reform, innovation, and investment in elementary and secondary education, and (3) restoring America's leadership in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan conferred with the mayors at the Mayors' National Forum on Education on March 31, 2009, and called for committed action in support of the President's plan, which is closely aligned with longstanding policy priorities of The U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Duncan has strongly backed mayoral control of large urban school districts to provide effective and sustainable leadership, and clear accountability for improving student success and closing the achievement gap,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the President's education plan, as presented by the Secretary of Education to the Mayors' National Forum on Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to support a comprehensive and seamless set of services for children from birth through age 5, high standards across all publicly funded early learning settings, new programs to improve opportunities and outcomes, parental engagement in their child's early learning and development, enhancement of the early education workforce, and the availability of high-quality, affordable preschool for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the President's plan to recruit, prepare, and reward outstanding teachers for new levels of excellence by investing in a national effort to prepare and reward outstanding teachers, recruiting the best and brightest to the field of teaching, challenging school districts to remove ineffective teachers from the classroom, and using rewards and incentives to keep talented teachers in the schools that need them the most; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports innovation and excellence in America's schools, including the President's plan for state-of-the-art assessment and accountability systems that provide timely and useful information about the learning and progress of individual

students, growth of high-quality charter schools and rigorous accountability for all charter schools, and reform of the traditional school calendar and structure of the school day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the goal of the nation achieving the highest proportion of students graduating from college in the world by 2020, and the goal that all Americans should be prepared to enroll in at least one year of higher education or job training to better prepare our workforce for a 21st century economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the President's plan to increase higher education access and success by restructuring and dramatically expanding college financial aid, address college completion and strengthen the higher education pipeline to ensure that more students succeed and complete their degree, and invest in community colleges to equip a greater share of young people and adults with high-demand skills and education for emerging industries.

**POLICY REVIEW TO REDUCE THE HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATE AND
PROVIDE MORE ENGAGING EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to a meaningful education and a high school diploma for all youth; and

Whereas, joy in learning, confidence in one's abilities, and interest in lifelong education are important social values; and

WHEREAS, only about half of young people in urban communities graduate from high school on time and nearly 50% of African-American and Latino youth do not complete high school; and

WHEREAS, the high school drop-out rate has not reduced in recent years; and

WHEREAS, a renewed policy examination is needed in order to determine causes and solutions for the high school drop-out crisis; and

WHEREAS, a number of sources for such an examination exist, including the work of America's Promise, the Dellums Commission Report of the Joint Center for an examination of international policies and practices,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Education to undertake a wide-ranging study of those policies and practices which may enhance the educational experience and completion rates of all U.S. high school students, particularly those groups which are currently most likely to drop out in the U.S.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report whether high school students retained in the same grade for more than one year are more likely to drop out; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report whether homeless and foster youth are more likely than others to drop out of high school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report on the impact of early punitive grading, testing and suspension policies on the likelihood of African-American and Latino students leaving school without a diploma; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report of the educational practices of other countries, including Denmark and Finland, which have higher literacy rates and lower high school drop-out rates than the U.S., with regard to the age at which they begin reading instruction, and their general approach to child development and happiness with school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report on the impact of providing wraparound services, such as health centers, service learning, small learning communities, sport and art activities, and caring adult advocates on the likelihood of students experiencing school satisfaction and earning their diplomas on time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of Education engage the people of the U.S. in a dynamic dialogue about what policies are likely to lead to student engagement, school completion, equitable school experiences, and joyful lifelong learning.

**EXPANDING INVESTMENTS IN COORDINATED FULL-DAY LEARNING
STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH**

WHEREAS, America's young people are falling behind in today's global economic marketplace, not fully prepared to succeed in a competitive workforce, to safeguard our democracy nor repair our environment; and

WHEREAS, our education system must both build knowledge as well as foster creativity, innovation, and critical thinking; and

WHEREAS, quality after-school opportunities are proven to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork by providing life-shaping enrichments; and

WHEREAS, aligning school-day and after-school learning is critical to provide the best learning environment possible for students from the moment they wake until they go to bed; and

WHEREAS, improved coordination of libraries, recreation and parks departments, police, community centers, and youth serving organizations with schools through a strategic planning process will achieve greater accountability toward full healthy development of youth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to invest in coordinated full day learning strategies that incorporate academic, social, emotional and physical activities to ensure the well-rounded and healthy development of youth by:

- Working with education administrators and local education agencies to integrate community after-school programs and organizations into the school day; and
- Creating funding opportunities for building city-wide after-school initiatives so all K-12 students can learn from aligned after-school experiences; and
- Providing support and incentives for professional development training for school and after-school staff and paraprofessionals of schools and after-schools; and
- Encouraging the development and use of assessments to ensure accountability for high quality programming and to identify additional supports to achieve measurable outcomes for youth; and
- Investing in intermediaries and public/private partnerships to serve as coordinating entities to promote broad

leadership support and ensure efficiency and high quality services; and

- Coordinating multiple use of public and private facilities that serve youth to increase participation and access to quality program opportunities.

**EXPANDING SCHOOL CHOICE THROUGH INCREASED SUPPORT FOR HIGH
QUALITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, today, there are more than 4,600 public charter schools serving over 1.4 million students and families in 40 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008-2009 school year 426 new public charter schools opened, further expanding the portfolio of public school choice nationwide; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools serve a disproportionate and increasing number of poor and minority students (over 60%), providing a critically needed educational alternative in our most underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools are often shortchanged on public funding, nationally receiving only 78% in average per-pupil funding compared with their district counterparts; and

WHEREAS, many public charter schools are helping to increase academic performance, graduation rates and college matriculation; and

WHEREAS, school choice has strong public support with over 75% of registered voters favoring giving parents more options when choosing a public school for their children and supporting the lifting of state caps on the number of charter schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the contribution of public charter schools in expanding high quality educational options and urges the federal government to strengthen its investment in high quality public charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports lifting state caps on the number of charter schools to address the demand as evident by the 375,000 children and families currently on charter school waiting lists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports public school funding to follow the child, closing the funding gap between traditional and public charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports funding facilities for public charter schools to alleviate the crippling financial burden on charter schools to

finance capital expenditures out of their limited operational budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors increase accountability and oversight to ensure all public charter schools are providing a high quality alternative to traditional public schools.

SUPPORTING FAMILY LITERACY

WHEREAS, the correlation between income and education has been clearly documented; low education levels combined with low income lead to higher mortality and poorer health, higher incarceration and lower workforce participation; and

WHEREAS, tens of millions of American adults are unable to apply basic reading, writing, and math skills in adult life contexts and millions more are only marginally literate; and
WHEREAS, one in five American workers reads at an eighth-grade level or below; and

WHEREAS, in professions such as health care, retail trade, construction and transportation where employment is rapidly increasing, there will be a greater demand for a better educated, more prepared workforce; and

WHEREAS, the gap between workforce skills and the demands of a 21st century economy will increase exponentially and the cost to the economy in lower productivity and lost production will be astronomical; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants, comprising of more than 35 million residents born outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, eighteen percent of U.S. households speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, family literacy is a proven intergenerational approach that improves the literacy, language and life skills of both parents and children; and

WHEREAS, family literacy programs offer the promise for helping to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, family literacy programs:

- are a unique and holistic approach that support families most in need, provide a comprehensive, integrated intergeneration literacy program of services that integrates: early childhood education, adult education for parents, and interactive literacy activities between parents and their children; and training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children; and

WHEREAS, children who grow up in "literacy rich" households - environments where they observe the people around them using their reading, writing and communication skills have a demonstrated head start in school; and

WHEREAS, research establishes that children participating in family literacy programs come to school better prepared, attend school more regularly, achieve higher standardized test scores in reading, language, and math, and are more likely to complete their education; and

WHEREAS, children whose parents are involved, do better in school and are much more likely to succeed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that federal, state, and local governments expand their support for family literacy programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to authorize and designate appropriations for family literacy programs.

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO COMBAT POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24, 2008 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- A growing and resilient middle class is the foundation of a prosperous city; and
- Good schools, a strong economy which provides well-paying jobs, responsive city services, and safe and supporting neighborhoods are more likely to exist, or are more easily attainable, in cities which have a large or growing middle class; and
- Poverty and the socioeconomic fragmentation it creates are inextricably linked to the ability of the U.S. to remain economically competitive; and
- A comprehensive and multifaceted approach to policy making will have the greatest effect on eliminating poverty in this country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- For the Earned Income Tax Credit, which has lifted nearly five million people out of poverty each year, the tax benefit should be tripled, the eligibility age should be reduced to 21, the benefits to childless adults should be expanded, and the application process should be simplified by making the credit automatic, i.e., by requiring that the Internal Revenue Service automatically generate the credit for all who qualify for it; and
- Funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) should be doubled to \$8 billion, allowing mayors to continue to address the critical affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs of their cities; and
- Funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program should be increased.

POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24, 2008 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- The problems surrounding reducing poverty are inextricably linked and require a multifaceted approach to breaking the cycle of poverty: Where you find one entrenched problem, you likely will find another; and
- Poor housing opportunities are related to poor education opportunities; and
- Poor schools contribute to poor employment opportunities; and
- The nation's dropout crisis is a particularly troubling aspect of the poverty problem; and
- A dead-end, low wage job makes it impossible for families to build assets and financial security: Even full-time work can fail to lift workers out of poverty; and
- It is time for a significant paradigm shift in federal policy, one that empowers mayors and other local leaders to set priorities in their areas with greater accountability for specific outcomes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- A cabinet-rank position to direct, coordinate and promote poverty reduction programs - with special emphasis on universal pre-K education across federal executive agencies and departments - should be created; and
- Funding for universal pre-K and other early childhood programs should be increased to reach all eligible participants. Mayors recognize that student achievement is inextricably linked to early childhood education, health and nutrition, social service supports, and parental involvement; and
- Universal healthcare for children and families - a comprehensive health insurance benefits package that will provide quality medical, dental, and mental health services for all people - should be established; and

- The federal government should greatly expand financial literacy programs to meet a critical need in this particularly difficult economic climate. The current turmoil in the housing and credit markets underscores the growing need for local financial literacy strategies to educate city residents, at every stage of life, about financial issues; and
- A significant portion of revenues from federally imposed fines, penalties and fees on financial institutions should be used to fund local financial education programs and initiatives.

**REQUIRE THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO BE CALCULATED BY THE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE WORKING FAMILIES
AND INDIVIDUALS**

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families, originally approved by Congress in 1975 to offset the burden of social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work; and

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's largest wage support for low-income workers; and

WHEREAS, cities are the economic engines of this country, and mayors are responsible for leading local and regional economic growth and the Earned Income Tax Credit provides working families who struggle to stay above the poverty line with a tax credit that makes a difference to their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, when the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit, creating household revenue for low-income heads of families; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for EITC, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return, and must either seek community tax preparation services, or pay for a tax preparation service, creating a disincentive to requesting the EITC; and

WHEREAS, the website of the Internal Revenue is sufficiently complicated and requires up to 30 minutes to utilize the online tool to calculate EITC, thereby reducing its effectiveness to families who do not have access to broadband; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of households fail to see revenue from the EITC to which they would be otherwise entitled, if access to EITC were made easier,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the process of applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit by requiring the Internal Revenue Service to provide the calculation for EITC, so that the benefits available to lower income families and individuals will be increased, simplified, and easier to access.

**SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON MIDDLE-
CLASS WORKING FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, middle-class working families are the backbone of our nation and the stronghold of our economy; and

WHEREAS, as local elected officials it is our responsibility to address the growing economic and social concerns of the middle-class, including education, access to health care, jobs and workforce housing; and

WHEREAS, every American deserves a quality and affordable education, access to quality healthcare, a stable job where they can succeed and affordable housing options; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has launched a White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families, a major initiative targeted at raising the living-standards of American middle-class working families; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will be chaired by Vice President Joe Biden, comprised of top-level administration policy makers, and will conduct outreach sessions with representatives of labor, business and advocacy communities in addition to its regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will work with a wide-array of federal agencies that have responsibility for key issues facing middle-class working families and will expedite administrative reform, propose Executive Orders, and develop legislative and policy proposals that will be of special importance to working families; and

WHEREAS, our nation's middle class working families are facing significant challenges and barriers to the American dream and as local elected leaders it is imperative that we work with federal officials to adopt initiatives that ensure the American dream is still achievable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of the White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families and we support the Task Force's efforts to work throughout the federal government to develop policies to expand education and workforce training, improve work and family balance, restore labor standards and protect working families income and retirement security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the White House to include Mayors in the Task Force's outreach sessions.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides flexible federal funding to states and localities to support a broad range of community-based programs to combat poverty, provide emergency services to low-income people, empower people to achieve self-sufficiency, and to revitalize low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program helps move low-income populations out of poverty to self-sufficiency by providing a variety of comprehensive, outcome-driven services. These programs include employment, education, youth development, family support, senior services, health care, nutrition, transportation, housing, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies administer CSBG funding and coordinate services for their local areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies help leverage additional federal, state, local, and private resources to develop and provide a coordinated array of resources to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency, ameliorate the causes and manifestations of poverty, and revitalize low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the current economic climate raises the demand for CSBG services, such as:

- Employment Programs to provide job readiness, training, and placement assistance,
- Afterschool Programs to enable working families to maintain employment, reduce absenteeism, and increase workforce productivity, while providing academic support for children,
- Youth Internship Programs to assist young people with skills building, career exploration, job readiness, and job preparation that help them become successful and productive adults,
- Youth Leadership to facilitate youth development and civic engagement,
- Literacy Instruction to provide Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs in reading, writing and mathematics to native English or English-fluent speakers, General Educational Development (GED) programs to prepare students for tests to obtain a high school equivalency diploma, and support to

the nation's growing immigrant population to attain English and workplace literacy whereby they can obtain and retain employment and advance in their careers,

- Housing Advocacy to help prevent evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness,
- Senior Services to foster healthy physical, psychological, and social well-being and promote independent living,
- Healthy Families and Family Support to provide case management and promote family stability; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program was authorized under the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, which consolidated 77 anti-poverty grant programs into 9 block grants; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG legislation was amended in 1998 by the Coates Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 and sunset in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration made a major investment in the CSBG program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with a \$1 billion appropriation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize CSBG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in CSBG reauthorization legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- Maintain flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies that meet the unique needs of the targeted communities,
- Maintain the focus on community development, neighborhood revitalization, and building capacity of its residents to create their own opportunities and achieve self-sufficiency,
- Protect local control and flexibility for the local Community Action Agencies to develop and implement their comprehensive local plan to address the unique needs of local areas,
- Raise the income eligibility of services to 200 percent of the federal poverty level as permitted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
- Maintain and update the distribution of funds based on current poverty indicators,
- Ensure funding be at an adequate level to support and expand services and programs to meet the needs of the nation's low-income communities, individuals and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress make a major investment in our nation's low-income communities, individuals and families by reauthorizing CSBG this year.

ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM

WHEREAS, volunteers make an invaluable difference in cities across the country by helping to solve problems, strengthen communities, improve lives, connect others, and transform their own lives; and

WHEREAS, cities and metropolitan areas can play a critical role in the national movement to increase community service and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, over 60 million Americans already donate over 8 billion hours of service each year; and

WHEREAS, volunteering provides numerous personal benefits to those who serve, such as a sense of pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that volunteering also provides health benefits to those who serve, such as lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression; and

WHEREAS, the call for volunteers is greater than ever before even as our nation's economic crisis forces charities and non-profit organizations to cut back; and

WHEREAS, city employees already contribute through combined charity campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Mayors around the country are already taking actions to increase volunteerism among their employees and community; and

WHEREAS, Mayors have a unique role to play in highlighting the importance of volunteerism to the health and well-being of the greater community; and

WHEREAS, numerous volunteer opportunities are available around the community, whether through non-profit or city-sponsored events; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Edward Kennedy Serve America Act, renewing our nation's commitment to encouraging service among all age groups; and

WHEREAS, volunteers can play an integral role in community efforts in a number of areas, including helping the poor,

improving education, encouraging energy efficiency,
strengthening access to health care; and assisting veterans;

WHEREAS, that residents eager to volunteer in cities all over
the country should be able to find meaningful opportunities to
give back to their community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of
Mayors encourages and supports the efforts of volunteers
throughout the country who strive to improve their communities
in small and large ways every day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors
congratulates Senator Kennedy on the passage of the Serve
America Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges
local elected officials to encourage volunteerism among their
employees and promote volunteer opportunities in their
community.

**SUPPORT THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF URBAN AFFAIRS TO INFLUENCE
FEDERAL POLICY REINFORCING THE ABILITY OF METROPOLITAN REGIONS
TO THRIVE**

WHEREAS, the top 100 metro areas generate 75 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, two-thirds of our jobs and nearly 80 percent of our patents, making them the center of national economic recovery and long-term prosperity; and

WHEREAS, 42 of our metro areas now rank among the world's 100 largest economies, highlighting the need to promote strong cities as the backbone of regional growth; and

WHEREAS, each major area of domestic policy—economic, social, and environmental—presents important opportunities for policy integration and to grow sustainable metropolitan areas.

WHEREAS, the federal government should strategically combine transportation, housing, energy, environmental, and anti-poverty policies in order to strengthen metropolitan regions; and

WHEREAS, Mayors who lead efforts to foster regional cooperation between city and county governments are strengthening the ability of cities to remain competitive; and

WHEREAS, President Obama established the Office of Urban Affairs by Executive Order on February 19, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the new office has a unique opportunity to engage metropolitan leaders and institutions in a new kind of partnership with the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the office will serve as a critical voice for Mayors focusing on metropolicy and sustainability issues which cut across multiple agencies; and

WHEREAS, the office will facilitate the development of inter-agency cooperation and policy development around key issues such as transportation, energy, workforce, housing and economic development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of the White House Office of Urban Affairs to advocate and implement an agenda within the Obama Administration that strengthens the ability of metropolitan areas to thrive by creating policies and resources that enhance

and incentivize regional cooperation and strategies between cities and their neighboring jurisdictions, facilitate integrated solutions to our nation's most complex challenges, and better empower (rather than stifles) cities and their metro areas to adopt innovative solutions to achieve the goals of competitiveness, sustainability and inclusion by creating policies and resources that enhance and incentivize regional cooperation with cities as central assets of metropolitan regions.

LOCAL FISCAL EMERGENCY AND STABILIZATION

WHEREAS, our cities are facing serious declines in the existing sources of revenues to meet obligations and rising challenges as a result of the unprecedented financial and economic crisis permeating every corner and neighborhood of this Nation; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this decline, cities must address staggering unemployment and home foreclosures, deepening consumer hardship, and extensive business and retail retrenchment; and

WHEREAS, cities are experiencing ever greater demands by their residents on basic services and essential safety net programs with drastically reduced revenue resources and the likelihood that this decline in revenues will continue for several years; and

WHEREAS, President Obama saw the urgency of establishing the White House Office of Urban Affairs to ensure that Federal policies are examined for their impact on urban communities, and that Federal resources meet the critical needs of our cities, which given the current crisis, requires a tireless commitment by the Administration and its urban policy team; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government has, in the past, utilized revenue mechanisms and program flexibility to assist state and local governments in meeting new challenges; most recently, for example, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided for a State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to minimize reductions in education and other essential public services for both state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, woefully insufficient funding has been made available to local governments through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, thereby leaving many cities to face ever-escalating challenges without appropriately sufficient support from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, this Fund has only provided a partial solution to mitigating even more cutbacks by local governments to essential public services and safety net programs during this time of national economic emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Administration, through its Office of Urban Policy, work in close partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to develop a clearly focused strategic plan of action with timetables and resource commitments to ensure that our cities have the financial and economic tools, and program funding and flexibility to sustain the essential public services and safety net programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Congress and the Administration, working with bipartisan urgency, provide for a Local Fiscal Emergency and Stabilization program account to ensure that sufficient funding is available to help restore the essential public services and safety net programs, which form the fabric of the our cities' responsibilities to the citizens and residents of this Nation.

FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has recognized the importance of greater public investments in our nation's infrastructure to develop, revitalize, repair, and replace multi-modal transportation networks, transit, roads, bridges, rail, drinking water and wastewater systems, the electric grid, and other large-scale capital projects; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure by the American Society of Civil Engineers - which assigned a cumulative grade of "D" to the nation's infrastructure, with the worst categorical grades afflicting drinking water, inland waterways, roads, and wastewater systems - noted a 5-year investment need of \$2.2 trillion; and

WHEREAS, it is evident that critical public infrastructure resources, such as public transit facilities, are dangerously underfunded; that a significant share of the nation's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and that current funding for drinking and wastewater systems are significantly less than what is needed to even maintain them in their currently poor conditions, much less meet increasingly stringent standards to protect public health and our environment; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the Federal government to make long-term capital investments in critical infrastructure is impeded by current budget and program processes; and

WHEREAS, decisions about large-scale capital project expenditures should be made through a merit-based process that includes an evaluation of national and regional return on investment; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called for the creation of a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank to address infrastructure challenges, expand and enhance existing federal infrastructure investments, and foster coordination through state, municipal, and private co-investments; and

WHEREAS, establishing an infrastructure bank would provide critical financing for infrastructure projects across the nation that promise significant national and regional benefit, creating numerous new jobs and stimulating immediate and long-term economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the President's Budget Proposal blueprint requests \$5 billion for the infrastructure bank in fiscal year 2010, and anticipates that it will receive \$25.2 billion through 2019; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recently contemplated creating a "Federal Reserve of Infrastructure," which would use seed money from the Federal government to establish an independent board to provide capital project grants to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, legislation was introduced in the 110th Congress to create an independent national bank that would identify, evaluate and help finance infrastructure projects of substantial regional and national significance; and

WHEREAS, a new Federal infrastructure bank is a model that could not only help rebuild our public works, but also assist with restoring vitality to bond markets necessary for the long-term health of our nation's economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports enactment of legislation to create a new, streamlined Federal Infrastructure Bank necessary to help revitalize the nation's public works and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate \$5 billion in fiscal year 2010, as requested by the President, and such funds as may be authorized in future years.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**"GREENING" THE TAX CODE AND PROMOTING COORDINATED FEDERAL
INVESTMENT IN CITIES**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level", and

WHEREAS, recent scientific studies (the journal Nature) indicate that there is a limit to the amount of carbon dioxide from human sources (1.1 trillion tons) that can be emitted to the air between 2000 and 2050 to avoid an increase in warming of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, and that the world has already emitted one-third of that amount in the first nine years of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors through its Mayors Climate Protection Agreement signed by more 945 mayors has committed to the goal of making systematic and substantial reductions over time in greenhouse gas emissions, beginning with the targets set forth in the Kyoto Protocol; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors have been instrumental in advocating for creation and funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to develop and implement Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies in more than 1400 cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, a national, comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must involve encouraging more compact, mixed-use development that results in fewer vehicle miles driven, coordinated development among alternative forms of transportation, housing and commercial facilities, recycling and redevelopment of brownfields, abandoned properties and other underutilized urbanized land resources as well as more aggressive efforts to preserve the nation's farmland; and

WHEREAS, the nation's tax system often rewards many carbon intensive and/or high carbon emitting industries and development patterns and does little to encourage green commercial development, compact housing, and transit oriented development that can reduce carbon emissions and result in a significantly lower carbon footprint per person, and

WHEREAS, many tax preferences actually encourage consumers to make choices that result in more carbon emissions, especially in the area of transportation and commercial development, as opposed to fewer carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, few, if any, mechanisms exist that afford cities and their metro areas the opportunity to negotiate green and sustainable development investment strategies that coordinate multiple federal agencies actions in a concerted effort to promote sustainable development within cities and other urbanized places.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to reform and "green" the tax code by eliminating or significantly reducing tax preferences to entities emitting large quantities of greenhouse gases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the nation's mayors call on the Administration and Congress to include in its tax reform package the creation of a Green Zone Investment Tax Credit and Green Housing Tax Credit that will encourage transit-oriented development; mixed-use commercial and multi-family mixed-income housing development; and/or brownfield redevelopment, that can help reduce per capita carbon emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Green Zones shall be approved by the Federal government, as proposed by cities and/or their metro areas, within which Green Zone Investment Tax Credits and other tax preferences such as favorable depreciation schedules, are eligible for use, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the mayors also call on the Administration to create a demonstration program in a select number of cities, called the Negotiated Sustainable Development Investment Strategy, wherein key federal government agencies with a city and/or its partners in a metropolitan area, supported by state participation, can formally negotiate local "sustainable development investment strategies" that coordinate multiple federal agency actions and funding, including those of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and others, and commits the agencies to support and fund such coordinated strategies leading to reduced carbon emissions and coordinated investments, including but not limited to designated green zones.

**URGING CONGRESS TO ADOPT H.R. 710 TO ACCOMPLISH THE DUAL
OBJECTIVES OF INJECTING ADDITIONAL CAPITAL INTO THE NATIONAL
BANKING SYSTEM WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PROVIDING RELIEF TO PUBLIC
EMPLOYEE DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, financial markets experienced a deep and broad correction in 2008 which impacts even well diversified investment portfolios; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of a healthy and functioning banking system and recapitalization of U.S. banks is a necessary precondition to any recovery; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments and their defined benefit retirement systems are under financial pressure as a result of the current economic environment; and

WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent of state and local government employees participate in defined benefit retirement systems; and

WHEREAS, recent under-performance of financial markets has resulted in increased funding obligations for public retirement systems; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 710 proposes to channel funds from long term and readily accessible sources of private capital – public pension funds – to banks which can leverage that capital in ways which support federal efforts to right the economy; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 710 proposes to secure additional Tier I capital for the United States banking system by providing authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to guaranty certain new preferred stock investments made by public retirement systems acting in a collective fashion; and

WHEREAS, the target rate proposed by H.R. 710 is a federally guaranteed investment return of 8.5 % for new issues of preferred stock; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 710 will help to offset investment losses suffered by public pension funds, which otherwise must look to local governments and taxpayers, already strained by the current economic crisis, to cover their obligations to millions of public employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt H.R. 710 or similar legislation which would accomplish the simultaneous objective of providing relief to financial institutions, public pension plans, and their sponsors.

SOLUTIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL SURETY BOND CRISIS

WHEREAS, cities issue revenue bonds to raise capital for needed public projects; and

WHEREAS, these bonds are payable from various revenue sources of the cities; and

WHEREAS, purchasers of these bonds usually require them to be secured by a debt service reserve fund, requiring the city to pledge those assets as additional security for the repayment of the bonds only to be used if the primary revenue source for the repayment of the bonds is not sufficient to pay the debt service on the bonds; and

WHEREAS, over the years insurance companies who insure municipal bonds also began providing surety bonds for debt service reserve funds so that instead of having to take the debt service out of the proceeds of the bond or finding other money, the city could pay a premium to one of the bond insurers and deposit a surety bond into the reserve fund; and

WHEREAS, the use of surety bonds to fund reserve funds became a very common practice, with thousands of outstanding bonds issued by cities secured in this manner; and

WHEREAS, the provider of the surety bond have been required to maintain certain ratings from national rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's but have received varying degrees of rating downgrades, so that not one single bond insurance company is rated AAA by both of these rating agencies, creating deficiencies in the reserve funds and threatening to put the bonds in technical default; and

WHEREAS, if the deficiencies are not remedied, the municipal issuer is left with trying come up with cash to restore the required balance in its reserve fund, a difficult to impossible task; and

WHEREAS, any unnecessary funding which cities would need to allocate to address this crisis would negate the increase in resources that a City derives from the Recovery Act;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress and the Obama Administration to work

directly with Mayors to immediately address this problem and develop workable solutions as soon as possible.

**PLAN TO ALLOW CITIES TO ACCESS TRADITIONAL MARKET INTEREST RATES
FOR BONDS**

WHEREAS, Deteriorating conditions in the credit markets have severely diminished the ability of cities to access traditional sources of funding for projects that meet critical local needs; consequently, many municipal projects today are in jeopardy or are being delayed, with prospects for their future realization highly uncertain; and

WHEREAS, Municipal projects provide important, effective economic stimulus and are worthy of partnership with the federal government; civic projects instantly create and cause the retention of multiple thousands of jobs in many different industries; city projects often include partnerships with the private sector that create a leveraging of mutual interests and maximum economic benefit for the greater community; many city projects are transit oriented, which spurs additional economic benefit; moreover, when projects involve the enhancement of development of public mass transit, they result in reduced highway congestion, reduced air pollution, and reduced dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, Projects supported by municipal bonds are vetted locally, approved in elections by local voters, and administered locally, conditions that promote the highest level of transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, Recently passed amendments to the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) legislation that are contained in F.R. 384, Section 402, clarify the authority of the U.S. Treasury regarding municipal securities; exercising the authority to directly purchase such bonds, and/or provide credit enhancements fro them, would provide an opportunity to realize immediate, significant contributions to our economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Directly purchasing municipal securities at appropriate interest rates, or providing credit enhancements that allow cities access to traditional market interest rates for bonds, would give the federal government the opportunity to be repaid, with interest, the entire sum it furnishes through the partnership; in result in a significant tax reduction for local taxpayers in the form of dramatically reduced publicly funded interest costs; and

WHEREAS, Working together to construct an efficient application of the authorization provided in H.R. 384, Section 402, would greatly enhance our country's progress toward economic recovery; now therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the US Conference of Mayors hereby respectfully urge U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner to implement a plan that will allow cities affected by the credit crisis to access traditional market interest rates for bonds.

**ABILITY OF CITIES TO ACCESS APPROPRIATE FINANCING FOR CRITICALLY
NEEDED MUNICIPAL BONDS**

WHEREAS, Deteriorating conditions in the credit markets have severely diminished the ability of cities to access traditional sources of funding for projects that meet critical local needs; consequently, many municipal projects today are in jeopardy or are being delayed, with prospects for their future realization highly uncertain; and

WHEREAS, Municipal projects provide important, effective economic stimulus and are worthy of partnership with the federal government; civic projects instantly create and cause the retention of multiple thousands of jobs in many different industries; city projects often include partnerships with the private sector that create a leveraging of mutual interests and maximum economic benefit for the greater community; many city projects are transit oriented, which spurs additional economic benefit; moreover, when projects involve the enhancement of development of public mass transit, they result in reduced highway congestion, reduced air pollution, and reduced dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, Projects supported by municipal bonds are vetted locally, approved in elections by local voters, and administered locally, conditions that promote the highest level of transparency and accountability; and

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WHEREAS, Directly purchasing municipal securities at appropriate interest rates, or providing credit enhancements that allow cities access to traditional market interest rates for bonds, would give the federal government the opportunity to be repaid, with interest, the entire sum it furnishes through the partnership; in result in a significant tax reduction for local taxpayers in the form of dramatically reduced publicly funded interest costs; and

WHEREAS, Working together to construct an efficient application of the authorization provided in H.R. 384, Section 402, would greatly enhance our country's progress toward economic recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress enact legislation facilitating the ability of cities to access appropriate financing for critically needed municipal projects.

**SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT TO PROTECT
MUNICIPALITIES AND AFFILIATED PUBLIC ENTITIES**

WHEREAS, the United States Senate and House of Representatives have both passed legislation to make the federal False Claims Act (FCA) more stringent, and these bills would apply to local governments and their affiliated public entities, such as public hospitals and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the FCA already allows the federal government to recover punitive treble damages plus additional harsh per claim penalties against recipients of federal funding who violate its provisions, including local governments and their affiliated entities; and

WHEREAS, the FCA also empowers private citizens to bring "whistleblower"/relator lawsuits on behalf of the government and share in the recovery; and

WHEREAS, the FCA was designed to protect taxpayers from private contractors who were overcharging the government during the Civil War, but its use against local government threatens to hurt the taxpayers it was designed to protect; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Supreme Court held that even though States are exempt from private lawsuits under the FCA, localities are fully subject to them; and

WHEREAS, this Supreme Court decision left local governments to face potentially crippling or even bankrupting lawsuits under the FCA, unfairly burdening local taxpayers and recipients of services, who ultimately suffer as a result of local government liability; and

WHEREAS, for example, in one FCA case brought against Westchester County, NY, a private relator alleged that the county made false certifications totaling \$52 million, but with treble damages, the County is at risk for over \$150 million in damages even before any per claim monetary penalties; and

WHEREAS, in another FCA case against Santa Clara County, CA, a private citizen has alleged more than \$400 million in false billing by the Department of Children and Family Services, but with treble damages, the County faces potential liability of \$1.2 billion even before any per claim penalties; and

WHEREAS, improper billing that occurs as a small component of the complex relationships among local, State and federal governments should certainly be addressed, but it is most often not the result of fraud or malicious behavior, and the federal remedy should not seriously threaten public services and the fiscal stability of local government; and

WHEREAS, in addition to facing the threat of harsh civil penalties and treble damages, local governments also spend years defending against meritless "whistleblower" lawsuits at taxpayer expense; and

WHEREAS, one way that localities have successfully defended against these lawsuits has been by use of the defense that the information on which the relator's complaint is based has already been publicly disclosed, which is known as the "public disclosure defense"; and

WHEREAS, some of the bills that have been circulating in Congress would essentially remove the public disclosure defense for localities; and

WHEREAS, if localities are to continue to be subject to private actions under the FCA, there is a need for the public disclosure defense to not only be maintained for them, but also clarified to state that publication in local and state reports and audits satisfies the defense, as evidenced by a split on this issue in United States Circuit Courts and the fact that the Supreme Court has invited further briefing on the issue; and

WHEREAS, publication in local and state reports and audits should satisfy the public disclosure defense because otherwise the FCA would serve as an undesirable disincentive for public entities to conduct self-audits and share those audits with the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the False Claims Act to protect the essential public services provided by local governments and their affiliated public entities, including public hospitals, school districts, and other public entities, from the crippling liability of the False Claims Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to ideally exempt local governments and their

affiliated public entities from relator lawsuits altogether, so that these entities are treated on par with States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to, at a minimum, either remove or substantially lower the harsh per claim civil penalties and treble damages that can be leveled against local public entities and local taxpayers under the FCA, and maintain the public disclosure defense for local public entities while clarifying that disclosure in state and local audits satisfies the defense; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that, in the alternative, if the above measures are not feasible, then other measures be taken that will mitigate the impact of the FCA on local governments and their affiliated public entities.

**REQUIRE THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO BE CALCULATED BY THE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE WORKING FAMILIES
AND INDIVIDUALS**

WHEREAS, The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families, originally approved by Congress in 1975 to offset the burden of social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work; and,

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's largest wage support for low-income workers; and,

WHEREAS, cities are the economic engines of this country, and mayors are responsible for leading local and regional economic growth and the Earned Income Tax Credit provides working families who struggle to stay above the poverty line with a tax credit that makes a difference to their quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, when the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit, creating household revenue for low-income heads of families; and,

WHEREAS, to qualify for EITC, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return, and must either seek community tax preparation services, or pay for a tax preparation service, creating a disincentive to requesting the EITC; and,

WHEREAS, the website of the Internal Revenue is sufficiently complicated and requires up to 30 minutes to utilize the online tool to calculate EITC, thereby reducing its effectiveness to families who do not have access to broadband; and,

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of households fail to see revenue from the EITC to which they would be otherwise entitled, if access to EITC were made easier,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the process of applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit by requiring the Internal Revenue Service to provide the calculation for EITC, so that the benefits available to lower income families and

individuals will be increased, simplified, and easier to access.

SUPPORT FOR MAYORS' NATIONAL DOLLAR WISE CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' Council for the New American City established the Mayors' National Dollar Wise Campaign: Financial Education for America in 2004 to invite the nation's mayors to make their citizens' financial literacy a top priority; and

WHEREAS, Dollar Wise encourages and helps mayors strengthen existing financial education efforts in their cities and to forge these efforts into a more effective, year-round coalition of organizations supported by the mayor's office; and

WHEREAS, each year mayors and cities across America participate in Dollar Wise Week, which provides them an opportunity to highlight their ongoing financial education programs through outreach to the public and to local media; and

WHEREAS, the growing complexity and rapid change in the financial environment since the Conference of Mayors launched Dollar Wise, coupled with the global economic crisis, have made financial education more important than ever; and

WHEREAS, the economic crisis has highlighted the necessity of making wise financial decisions from an early age to ensure a secure future; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$1.2 billion in additional federal funding for local summer youth employment programs; and

WHEREAS, these programs, where many youth are employed, earning a paycheck, and making financial decisions for the first time in their lives, provide an opportune teachable moment to offer financial education to participating youth; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors invites the nation's mayors to take advantage of this teachable moment by incorporating a financial education component into summer youth employment programs through the Dollar Wise Summer Youth Campaign;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reiterates its position that helping every American

become financially literate should be a priority for federal, state, and local governments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that every mayor and city in the United States is invited and encouraged to join the Mayors' National Dollar Wi\$e Campaign and make a commitment to increasing their citizens' financial literacy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all mayors and cities are invited to participate in the sixth-annual Dollar Wi\$e Week, September 26-October 3, 2009, by organizing public events and outreach efforts that bolster existing local financial education efforts, provide venues for families to open bank and savings accounts for themselves and their children, and build community-wide financial education strategies for youth and other audiences;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all cities with a summer youth employment program are invited to participate in the Dollar Wi\$e Summer Youth Campaign and incorporate a component on financial education into these programs; and we encourage the federal government to make financial education an eligible expense for the funds it appropriates for these programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we once again call upon the federal government to set aside a portion of the fees levied against financial institutions for the support of local financial education initiatives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend those state governments that have made economics and financial education a requirement for graduation from high school and call upon remaining states to do the same.

SUPPORT THE CONSUMER OVERDRAFT PROTECTION FAIR PRACTICES ACT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to helping connect families to long term asset building opportunities and to reducing the high cost of being poor; and

WHEREAS, 18.5 million U.S. households currently have neither a checking nor savings account and 21.6 million households are considered underbanked. These households are concentrated mostly in low-income, urban, mostly-minority communities; and

WHEREAS, cities throughout the country have created innovative strategies to expand access to safe and affordable banking products for low income households; and,

WHEREAS, a major deterrent to banking are unanticipated, burdensome overdraft protection fees; and

WHEREAS, consumers spent more than \$17.5 billion on "courtesy" fee-based overdraft in 2006; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of fee-incurring overdraft transactions occurred at ATM or debit terminals and were approved by the financial institution without warning the customer they would pay a charge; and

WHEREAS, the burden of these fees is concentrated on the least financially stable, with 16 percent of overdraft users paying 71 percent of the fees and repeat users most often low-income, single, non-white renters; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act:

- a) Requires consumer consent before banks or credit union can permit fee-based overdraft loans; and
- b) Requires banks to warn customers if an electronic transactions will trigger an overdraft loan fee and allow the consumer to cancel the transaction; and
- c) Clarifies that overdraft fees are considered finance charges under the Truth in Lending Act, allowing consumers to compare the costs of borrowing from the bank to other sources of cash advances; and
- d) Prohibits banks from manipulating the order in which checks are processed if that would increase overdraft fees;

WHEREAS, the Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act will ensure that consumers are treated fairly by financial institutions, help to restore confidence in the banking system and encourage unbanked and underbanked Americans to deposit funds and begin to meaningfully use the mainstream financial system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the Consumer Overdraft Protection Fair Practices Act and calls upon the United States Congress to enact it in the 111th Congress.

CREATE A TAX-LINKED MATCHED SAVINGS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Americans have not been saving enough to build long term assets and weather financial emergencies. This is particularly problematic for low and moderate income households, most of whom do not have even a \$500 rainy day fund; and

WHEREAS, savings and asset building are associated with neighborhood and family stability, and positive health and safety outcomes for children and adults; and

WHEREAS, city governments are experimenting with new ways to financially empower families, including providing incentives in the form of matched savings; and

WHEREAS, the tax code is a powerful tool for targeting investments in low income households and encouraging behavioral change; and

WHEREAS, the tax treatment of mortgage interest, retirement savings and capital gains effectively encourages asset building among higher wealth households, but does not benefit the working poor; and

WHEREAS, tax time may be the best opportunity for low wage workers to commit to savings and a tax refund may deliver as much as one-third of a family's annual income at one time; and

WHEREAS, matched saving programs have been effective in promoting home buying, education and small business development among poor families; and

WHEREAS, innovative experiments throughout the country have found matched saving at tax time to effectively attract low income households to initiate saving, increase their savings and make a commitment to savings that lasts all year; and

WHEREAS, a national initiative to promote savings at tax time, such as a proposal create an emergency fund to handle unexpected crises or savers Bonus proposal (introduced in the 110th Congress as S. 3372) to provide a dollar for dollar match for saving for retirement, education, investment in savings bonds or 12-month CDs, would help people save for their future; and

WHEREAS, the Savers Bonus would deposit the match directly into savings vehicles held by low income, working adults, doubling the impact of their savings efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Savers Bonus would allow tax filers to open accounts right on the tax form, helping to connect the over 18.5 million unbanked Americans to mainstream financial institutions. It would also create savings opportunities through savings bonds and college savings accounts for those who cannot or do not want to open bank accounts; and

WHEREAS, the Savers Bonus Act is an important step forward in creating a national savings policy that benefits low income families the same way it helps wealthy investors, spurs investment and helps families weather financial emergencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to introduce and enact a tax-time matched savings bill, the Savers Bonus Act of 2009.

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF AN URBAN INNOVATION FUND

WHEREAS, in recent decades, our nation has made great progress in improving the health and living conditions of urban poor across the United States; and

WHEREAS, as poverty persists, it is critical that we develop methods that can more effectively help families climb the economic ladder; and

WHEREAS, city governments are experimenting with new ways to engage disconnected youth, incentivize work, build human capital, and end cyclical poverty; and

WHEREAS, many of these local ventures have yielded promising early results, but there is no national infrastructure to ensure that these local efforts build upon one another, nor are there sufficient city resources to pilot and evaluate many of the most promising ideas; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has expressed his commitment to addressing urban poverty and to fostering innovation, we urge his Administration to create a Federal Urban Innovation Fund (the Fund) to fight poverty; and

WHEREAS, the Fund would invest in new and innovative anti-poverty initiatives in cities across the country, and rigorously evaluate the outcomes of these new investments to determine which are beneficial and cost-effective. Initiatives that are proven successful would be replicated; those that are not would be terminated; and

WHEREAS, this strategy will create an evidence-based foundation from which we can build the next-generation of government-funded, anti-poverty policies; and

WHEREAS, poverty reduction has historically, and mistakenly, been approached from traditional silos within government. To ensure a more collaborative effort, we believe that the Fund should be administered by the White House, which has the unique capability to encourage holistic and comprehensive approaches to combating poverty; and

WHEREAS, placement in the White House will increase the visibility and political will of the Administration's innovative anti-poverty work, and provide an opportunity for the

Administration to demonstrate measurable progress against poverty; and

WHEREAS, we are pleased and encouraged by the focus on innovation, including the inclusion of several Innovation Funds, in the FY10 budget outline. While we are very supportive of these initiatives, we believe there remains a need for a complementary and comprehensive Fund dedicated to identifying how government can best use its limited resources to combat urban poverty; and

WHEREAS, though the cities we represent are distinct from each other in geography and in population, we share a commitment to improving the lives of our most vulnerable constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the White House to create an Urban Innovation Fund to address poverty in cities.

REDEFINING VETERANS DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY

WHEREAS, most polls show that a majority of Americans support our troops; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has a volunteer military that is composed of less than one percent of the population; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.6 million Americans have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, nearly 5,000 soldiers have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, 58,000 were killed in Vietnam, 54,000 in Korea, and 400,000 in WWII, as well as numerous others killed and wounded in conflicts and accidents while in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, nearly 300,000 veterans currently suffer from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other mental health disorders; and

WHEREAS, the current population of homeless veterans fluctuates between 500,000-800,000 during the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate for the severely wounded has increased, as has the long-term recovery period for our wounded veterans and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, home caregivers and volunteers (mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, concerned citizens, etc.) providing support to military service members who have been either wounded in combat operations or as a result of line-of-duty activities are given no government assistance and are dependent on not-for-profit organizations for support; and

WHEREAS, those service members returning from numerous extended deployments in combat zones face difficult personal and family issues which have led to abnormally high rates of divorce and suicide; and

WHEREAS, while physical wounds of war are more detectable, PTSD and other psychological wounds are as debilitating and dangerous to the life of a returning veteran and their families; and

WHEREAS, Americans' attention to past generations of veterans has faded, and this will also likely happen with this generation of veterans after current conflicts are resolved; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day and Veterans Day are mainly observed by the general public through participation in retail sales events or by enjoying a day off work; and

WHEREAS, military men and women and their families serve honorably on our behalf; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States support and honor our military service members and their families; and

WHEREAS, the honor and soul of our country depends on how we treat those that defend our freedom; and

WHEREAS, on Memorial Day, we should remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation; and

WHEREAS, on Veterans Day, we should honor the service of those who have returned home; and

WHEREAS, the Beyond Tribute initiative aims to enhance the meaning of and change how we celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, Beyond Tribute is a not-for-profit organization that will gather donated funds and disburse grants to A-rated veteran service organizations that provide vitally needed services for our veterans and military families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Beyond Tribute initiative in its effort to engage the American public in recasting Memorial Day and Veterans Day as days of service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Beyond Tribute initiative in its effort to engage the American public on Memorial Day and Veterans Day by encouraging businesses and consumers to contribute to charitable organizations whose purpose is to assist wounded veterans, including those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and other "invisible wounds of war"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage their local businesses, chambers of commerce and constituents to participate in the Beyond Tribute initiative and begin to redefine how we celebrate our national

holidays in a manner that truly honors and supports our service members.

**SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT
OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization that seeks to promote a culture in which all American Employers support and value the military service of their employees; and

WHEREAS, ESGR was established in 1972 to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness; and

WHEREAS, supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to support of all members of the United States military both abroad and at home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the U.S. Conference of Mayors wholeheartedly supports Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense organization.

**CALLING FOR FEDERAL ACTION TO SPUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF SMALL
BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, over the past decade, small businesses have accounted for 60-80 percent of annual job creation, and currently account for almost 50 percent of total jobs in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, over the past several months, small business entrepreneurs have experienced extraordinary difficulty in accessing capital; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) typically guarantees approximately \$20 billion in loans annually; however, new lending in 2009 is predicted to be less than \$10 billion; and

WHEREAS, a report by the International Franchise Association Educational Foundation determined that for every \$1 million of lending obtained by franchised small businesses, 34.1 jobs are created and \$3.6 million in annual total economic output is realized; and

WHEREAS, franchised businesses consistently outperform non-franchised businesses, creating more jobs and economic activity in local communities across the country; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that further action must be taken to stimulate the economic recovery of America's small business sector and encourage lenders to resume lending to small franchised businesses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should increase the standard SBA 7(a) maximum loan limit from \$2 million to \$3 million, increasing the maximum guarantee dollars from \$1.5 million to \$2.7 million, so that more small businesses can take advantage of the program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Congress should temporarily eliminate or sharply reduce SBA lender fees to increase the incentive for banks to write loans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Congress should allow market-based loan pricing so that inflexible SBA loan caps are not discouraging banks from making loans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the SBA must reverse its new policy on acquisition financing for "goodwill" that is unnecessarily dragging down the value of established small businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED Congress should examine other regulatory reforms that will stimulate the lending market for small businesses.

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN ARTS

WHEREAS, more than 40 mayors from cities across the nation met October 3 in Palm Beach in a working session to develop an action agenda on arts and tourism to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mayors in Palm Beach drafted this national action agenda based on significant consensus on the arts and tourism challenges that cities face; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- The arts reflect the diversity of our experiences as individuals and our communities as a whole, reminding us of our past and helping us imagine the future; and
- The arts and artists of America are national treasures that this great nation needs, deserves, and must support; and
- America's nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year, and that the national impact of this activity is significant, supporting 5.7 million jobs and generating \$29.6 billion in government revenue; and
- Artists are one of the largest classes of workers in the nations (1.9 million), only slightly smaller than the U.S. military's active duty and reserve personnel (2.2 million); and
- Opportunities for artistic employment are greater in metropolitan areas, with half of all artists living in 30 metropolitan areas; and
- While artists are twice as likely as other U.S. workers to have a college degree, they generally earn less than workers with similar education levels,

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Arts and Tourism:

- The President should create a cabinet-level Secretary of Culture and Tourism.
- Support for the National Endowment for the Arts should be increased, not just to its 1992 funding level of \$176 million, but to set it on a path towards a \$500 million annual appropriation.
- Support for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Museum Services (at the Institute of Museum & Library Services) should be increased.
- The National Endowment for the Arts' Local Arts Agency Grant Program should be expanded to a priority re-granting program, allowing for efficient and effective grant distribution of arts dollars, in partnership with local arts agencies, to every corner of the country.
- The President should declare the arts central to a balanced education and declare literacy in the arts central to an educated citizenry, as reading, math, and science are considered to be now.
- Considering arts a component of federal economic development and community development should be encouraged, and historic preservation and design programs such as Preserve America and the Mayors' Institute for City Design should be strengthened.
- The President should call for a White House Conference on the Arts to expand the dialogue of the importance of the arts.
- The federal budget should include funding for local parks programs such as the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR).

TOURISM

WHEREAS, more than 40 mayors from cities across the nation met October 3 in Palm Beach in a working session to develop an action agenda on arts and tourism to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mayors in Palm Beach drafted this national action agenda based on significant consensus on the arts and tourism challenges that cities face; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- Travel and tourism is a diverse industry with a unique impact on the domestic and global economies. The 1950s industrial economy has given way to the 21st Century service economy, and travel and tourism defines that service economy.
- Travel and tourism contributes more than \$100 billion in federal, state, and local revenues and at the same time helps to fulfill important social policy goals, such as moving people from welfare to work.
- Travel and tourism is the nation's leading service sector export, generating a balance of trade surplus of \$17.4 billion. In 2007 foreign travelers spent more than \$122 billion in the United States.
- Travel and tourism's economic contribution to the economy is \$740 billion in direct expenditures, \$109 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue, \$177 billion in payroll, and 7.5 million jobs - one in every eight non-farm jobs.
- Overseas travel to the U.S. has still not rebounded to pre-9/11 levels. Between 2000 and 2007 worldwide long-haul travel increased by 35 million; over the same period the U.S. saw two million fewer travelers from overseas.
- The decline in overseas travel since 2000 has cost America \$150 billion in visitor spending and 250,000 American jobs. These are costs that affect every state and city in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Forum on Arts and Tourism:

- The President should create a cabinet-level Secretary of Culture and Tourism.
- The Travel Promotion Act to promote international travel to United States should be passed and implemented, and a public-private partnership that will restore the U.S. to its place as the world's premier international visitor destination should be created.
- Congress should be encouraged to expand the Travel VISA Waiver Program to qualified countries, especially in Latin and South America and Asia.
- Congress should be encouraged to increase staffing and implement customer training programs for Customs and Border Service and TSA personnel.
- TSA's use of the most up-to-date passenger-friendly technology must be ensured.
- The Global Entry program, which allows for expedited clearance for pre-approved U.S. residents upon their arrival in United States, should be expanded.
- TSA's Black Diamond/Passenger Self-Select Lanes Program and Model Ports program to allow foreign visitors to more easily enter the country should be expanded.
- The TSA must attach a high priority to fully implementing the Secure Flight program in 2009-2010. According to the TSA, successful Secure Flight implementation will drastically reduce misidentifications by moving watch list matching responsibility away from the airlines and centralizing it in-house. Additionally, bringing watch list matching into TSA will provide consistent application of an expedited and integrated redress process for

passengers who believe they have been misidentified as a threat.

- Full federal government support for Chicago's 2016 Olympic and Paralympic bid should be provided.

**EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS TO SUPPORT ARTS
AND TOURISM**

WHEREAS, more than 40 mayors from cities across the nation met October 3 in Palm Beach in a working session to develop an action agenda on arts and tourism to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mayors in Palm Beach drafted this national action agenda based on significant consensus on the arts and tourism challenges that cities face; and

WHEREAS, this national action agenda includes findings and recommendations that can be accomplished through executive orders and administrative actions that would have an immediate impact on arts and tourism in cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the executive orders and administrative actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Forum on Arts and Tourism:

- The President should nominate a Secretary of Homeland Security who believes the department's mission is to welcome visitors to this country as well as protect the homeland.

- The National Endowment for the Arts should be directed to again place a priority on funding local arts agencies' programs - something which has not happened over the past eight years.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE ARTS, HUMANITIES AND MUSEUMS

WHEREAS, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's 43 years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 100,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 5,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal funding leverages up to seven times more from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the world; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country – the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties and more than \$800 million annually in local government funding and more than \$340 million in state government funding to the arts and humanities; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, the federal cultural agencies have begun to receive funding increases in an effort to begin restoring the devastating 40 percent cuts made in 1995, major increases are still needed to address the growing needs of our cultural organizations; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed a \$6 million increase in FY 2010 funding for both the NEA and NEH, which would bring each agency's funding to \$161 million; and continue the locally-responsive "Challenge America" program; and

WHEREAS, the delicate balance in shared responsibility and partnership for public funding of the arts and humanities at the federal, state and local government levels has been in serious jeopardy since local governments cannot make up for the current funding cuts in the federal government's share; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has unanimously passed policy resolutions partnered with Americans for the Arts on Arts Advocacy Day to send letters to the President and leaders of the U.S. Senate and House, signed by more than 200 of the nation's mayors, to increase federal funding for the arts and humanities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts (and specifically the valuable Challenge America program), National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to restore full funding for these agencies in the FY 2010 appropriations bills.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability; and

WHEREAS, cities and states - through their local and state arts agencies and representing thousands of cultural organizations -have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has actively participated in National Arts and Humanities Month since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors' national arts partner, Americans for the Arts, will again coordinate this year a national awareness campaign of activities for National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the nation's 40,000 cultural organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 5,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2009 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

**HONORING AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2010, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts was founded in 1960, and was originally called the Community Arts Councils, Inc (CACI). Later, in 1964, CACI adopted a new name, the Arts Councils of America (ACA). Finally, Americans for the Arts was created in 1996 as a result of the merger between the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies (NALAA) and the American Council for the Arts (ACA)—one of a small number of successful unions between two national nonprofit groups. Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch has led the organization since the merger, growing Americans for the Arts' annual budget from \$3 million in 1996 to \$13 million in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts played a central roll in the formation and establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has provided leadership and training to local public and nonprofit arts agencies, Arts and Business Councils, Business Committees for the Arts, state arts agencies, state arts advocacy organizations, and community-based cultural organizations across the country in helping their numbers grow from 50 to 5,000; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts produces annual events that heighten national visibility for the arts and arts education, including Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC; the Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy; the National Arts Awards; and the Public Leadership in the Arts Awards (in cooperation with The U.S. Conference of Mayors); and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has enjoyed a strong partnership with The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) for more than two decades. Specifically in 1997, the two organizations jointly began awarding the prestigious Public Leadership in the Arts Awards; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts continues to produce groundbreaking research on the size and economic impact of the nonprofit arts industry through its series on "Arts and Economic Prosperity," which reports that approximately 100,000 nonprofit cultural organizations generate \$166.2 billion in economic activity every year supporting 5.7 million jobs and generating \$29.6 billion in government revenue; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts understands the complex ecosystem of support for the arts and has expanded its leadership, advocacy, and training to also promote private sector support of the arts as well as professional development in state-of-the-art earned income techniques at its National Arts Marketing Project Conference; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts brings together the arts policy interests of all its national partners, including The United States Conference of Mayors, the Conference Board, and the American Association of School Administrators, at its National Arts Policy Roundtable, which is co-convened by Robert Redford at the Sundance Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts has been a leader in promoting active participation in arts education both in and out-of-school through its professional development work and national visibility PSA campaigns, The Arts. Ask for More;" and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors congratulates and honors Americans for the Arts for its 50 years of service in promoting the arts in the United States.

JAZZ DAY AND JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, jazz is an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Jazz has produced some of America's leading creative artists and ranks as one of America's greatest exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, jazz has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians in many other kinds of music; and

WHEREAS, we honor and recognize the outstanding work that all jazz artists, educators, and enthusiasts present; and

WHEREAS, jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in the United States and abroad, and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2010 cities will celebrate Jazz Day and mayors are encouraged to plan jazz related activities and programming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members participated in Jazz Appreciation Month for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2010 has been designated as Jazz Appreciation Month, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local jazz society and other members of the arts and music community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, Jazz Day April 9, 2010 and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OLYMPIC DAY

WHEREAS, Olympic Day, June 23, 2009, celebrates the Olympic ideal of developing peace through sport;

WHEREAS, June 20, 2009, celebrates the anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic movement, representing the date on which the Congress of Paris approved the proposal of Pierre de Coubertin to found the modern Olympics:

WHEREAS, for over 100 years, the Olympic movement has built a more peaceful and better world by educating young people through amateur athletics, by bringing together athletes from many countries in friendly competition, and by forging new relationships bound by friendship, solidarity, and fair play;

WHEREAS, the United States of America and Chicago, Illinois advocate these same ideals;

WHEREAS, hundreds of cities across the United States are joining together to show their support for bringing the Olympic Games to the United States in 2016 in Chicago, Illinois;

WHEREAS, Olympic Day will encourage the development of Olympic and Paralympic Sport in the United States of America;

WHEREAS, Olympic Day encourages the participation of American youth in Olympic and Paralympic sport;

WHEREAS, Olympic Day will encourage the teaching of Olympic history, health, arts and culture among America's youth;

WHEREAS, Olympic Day will encourage America's youth to support the selection of Chicago, Illinois as the host city for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games;

WHEREAS, enthusiasm for Olympic and Paralympic sport is at an all time high;

WHEREAS, more than 50 percent of the earth's population currently lives in urban environments, and by 2030 it is estimated that 65 percent will be urban dwellers by that time;

WHEREAS, only one-third of urban children are able to participate in team sport;

WHEREAS, only 15 percent of urban girls are able to participate in team sport;

WHEREAS, the Urban Youth Sports Initiative engages the urban youth of America in Olympic and Paralympic sport;

WHEREAS, the Urban Youth Sport Initiative seeks to provide America's youth with skills that will benefit them for a lifetime;

NOW, therefore let it be resolved that the U.S. Conference of Mayors

- Supports Olympic Day and the goals that Olympic Day pursues;
- Supports the Urban Youth Sport Initiative, and the goals that the Urban Youth Sports Initiative pursues; and
- Encourages the cities of America to adopt and implement the model of the Urban Youth Sports Initiative
- Encourages the International Olympic Committee to select Chicago, Illinois as the Host City for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**SUPPORT MEETINGS, EVENTS AND INCENTIVE TRAVEL TO PROTECT
LOCAL ECONOMIES**

WHEREAS, business-related travel - including travel for meetings, events and performance incentives - is a vital part of our economy and essential to sustaining well-paying American jobs, the health of large and small businesses and the solvency of public services supported by federal, state and local tax-revenue; and

WHEREAS, business travel creates 2.4 million jobs, injects more than \$240 billion into the national economy annually and generates \$39 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, travel for meetings and events creates 1 million jobs in local communities - from big cities to small towns - across the United States; and

WHEREAS, many of these jobs support working families in the hospitality and food service industries; and

WHEREAS, each meeting and event traveler spends an average of \$1,000 per trip; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events travel generates \$27 billion in wages for hardworking Americans that are critical to local economies across the United States, and can play a critical role in our nation's economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events provide \$16 billion in tax revenue at the federal, state and local level that finance essential services such as schools, police and fire departments; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events contribute \$101 billion in spending to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, meetings and events are responsible for nearly 15 percent of all travel in the United States; and

WHEREAS, business travel, particularly meetings and events, are core functions that help companies to strengthen business relationships, align and educate employees and customers, and reward business performance; and

WHEREAS, there has been a dramatic downturn in business travel for meetings, events and performance incentive purposes due not only to our nation's economic recession, but also to fear in the marketplace caused by a negative perception of these types of travel; and

WHEREAS, when companies cancel meetings and events American workers and local communities become the unintended victims; and

WHEREAS, without the jobs generated by meetings, events and incentive travel, the current unemployment rate of 7.6 percent would rise to 8.2 percent and cost the average American household an additional \$136 in annual taxes; and

WHEREAS, according to estimates by Smith Travel Research and the U.S. Travel Association, meeting, event and incentive cancellations in January and February 2009 resulted in more than \$1.9 billion in lost travel spending and cost nearly 20,000 American jobs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department soon will implement the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act's (ARRA) mandate to require TARP companies to develop policies on "excessive" or "luxury" expenditures; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Treasury Department to provide guidance to TARP companies with regard to developing policies about how meetings and events should be "conducted within the normal course of the business operations;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors across the United States support travel for meetings and events as a means for boosting their local economies and saving American jobs.

**INCREASING OVERSEAS TRAVEL TO THE U.S. THROUGH
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT**

WHEREAS, travel and tourism is a powerful economic generator in all 50 states, accounting for \$740 billion in expenditures, \$115 billion in local, state and federal taxes and 7.7 million jobs in 2008; and

WHEREAS, travel is America's leading service sector export, generating \$142.7 billion in 2008 from international travelers (including international passenger fares); and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism creates one of the nation's only balance of trade surpluses, valued at \$29.7 billion in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the world travel market is expanding, but the U.S. share has declined 33 percent over the past 16 years; and

WHEREAS, travel to the United States from overseas destinations is still 633,000 below pre-9/11 levels; and

WHEREAS, all major industrialized nations except the United States have national travel promotion programs and spend significant funds to promote their destinations overseas, and, in turn, see substantial returns on their investments; and

WHEREAS, the facilitation of secure, yet efficient, travel across American borders must be a priority of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, educating international travelers about changes in U.S. travel policies will help dispel negative perceptions about the entry process and provide a more welcoming experience for visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and co-sponsored by 52 U.S. Senators during the 110th session of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Senators Byron Dorgan and John Ensign and Representatives Bill Delahunt and Roy Blunt are introducing the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 during the 111th session of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 will create a public-private partnership to educate travelers about U.S. travel policies and promote the United States as a destination of choice; and

WHEREAS, the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 will benefit every state, create jobs, enhance national security, contribute to a favorable balance of trade for the U.S. economy, and improve our national image around the world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. Congress to promptly pass the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 and thus create a public-private partnership that will restore the U.S. to its place as the world's premier overseas visitor destination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to improve visa and entry policies and procedures - including but not limited to the strengthening and expansion of the Visa Waiver Program, the reduction of visa interview wait times, the use of advanced technology to streamline visa interviews and the entry process, and improved customer service at air, land and sea ports of entry - to create a balance between increased security and travel facilitation.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

WHEREAS, the travel industry is the fifth largest employer in the United States, supporting 7.7 million American workers;

WHEREAS, domestic and international travel is a \$740 billion industry producing \$115 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues;

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States is a critical tool for enhancing America's image abroad and has significantly benefited the nation's balance of trade for 20 years;

WHEREAS, overseas visits to the United States are still 633,000 below pre-September 11 levels;

WHEREAS, the U.S. must keep better pace with the expanding global travel market starting with a nationally coordinated travel promotion program to attract millions of new international visitors;

WHEREAS, business and leisure travel are vital to the United States, enhancing our economic prosperity, health care, education, cultural understanding and public diplomacy;

WHEREAS, travel can serve as a catalyst to help stimulate the national economy;

WHEREAS, the Congress designated the first National Tourism Week in 1984 and encouraged celebrations in all 50 States and the Territories; and

WHEREAS, National Tourism Week has been observed and celebrated each May since;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors recognize the week beginning on the second Saturday in May of each year as "National Travel and Tourism Week;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that mayors from across the country are invited to issue proclamations encouraging the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate

ceremonies and activities, and to raise awareness of the value of travel to the welfare of the nation.

**PROMOTING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
CRITERIA TO INCREASE TRAVEL TO U.S. CITIES**

WHEREAS, travel is one of the nation's leading exports, generating over \$100 billion yearly; and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism create one of the nation's only balance of trade surpluses; and

WHEREAS, The Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism Criteria is a coalition of 32 organizations working together to foster increased understanding of sustainable tourism practices and the adoption of universal sustainable tourism principles; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership was initiated by Rainforest Alliance, the United Nations Environment Program, the United Nations Foundation, and the United Nations World Tourism Organization, and launched the Sustainable Tourism Criteria at the World Conservation Congress in October 2008; and

WHEREAS, these criteria will be the minimum standard that any tourism business should aspire to reach in order to protect and sustain the world's natural and cultural resources while ensuring tourism meets its potential as a tool for poverty alleviation; and

WHEREAS, consumer demand for "green" sustainable travel is growing, and travel industry suppliers are developing new green programs, and governments are creating new policies to encourage sustainable practices in tourism; and

WHEREAS, the criteria are organized around four main themes: effective sustainability planning; maximizing social and economic benefits for the local community; enhancing cultural heritage; and reducing negative impacts to the environment; and

WHEREAS, cities across the United States that adopt internationally recognized standards of sustainability will be more attractive to international and domestic tourists; and

Now, therefore be it resolved, the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Global Partnership for Sustainable

Tourism Criteria, and urges member cities to adopt the criteria.

EDIBLE GARDENS

WHEREAS, municipal edible gardens increase awareness of and appreciation for local, nutritious foods; and

WHEREAS, mayors applaud First Lady Michelle Obama's White House garden, the first at the White House since Eleanor Roosevelt's victory garden in World War II. The garden is being cultivated by local school children as it grows and produces delicious, healthy vegetables in the White House kitchen for the first family and also for donation to Miriam's Kitchen, which serves the homeless in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, many cities are utilizing parks, city hall land, and municipal community gardens to grow vegetables and herbs that provide food for local food banks and farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, edible gardens provide learning opportunities for Mayors to teach constituents on the benefits of practicing sustainability and how eating locally grown produce can reduce the risk of diet-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members have long practiced sustainability through composting and the use of rain garden programs, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to develop, grow, and maintain edible gardens in parks, city hall land, and municipal community gardens.

THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES

WHEREAS, the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will be held September 25-October 10, 2010, at the Kentucky Horse Park, in Lexington, Kentucky, the largest state-owned tourist attraction in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the only park of its kind in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in its 20-year history, no World Equestrian Games has ever been held outside of Europe; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Games will be the largest equine event ever held in the United States, and the largest sporting event ever held in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Games are held every four years, two years prior to the summer Olympic Games, and are governed by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and consist of the world championships for eight equestrian sports; and

WHEREAS, for the first time, FEI is including para-dressage competition in the 2010 Games; and

WHEREAS, the games will include some 600,000 attendees, have an anticipated economic impact of \$150 million, participation of 60 nations, a number of world leaders, 700 equine athletes, 800 human athletes, 500 million television viewers and 8,000 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a state with a rich tradition of unbridled spirit, and Lexington, are known as the Horse Capital of the World.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Lexington, Louisville, Bowling Green, other Kentucky cities, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Horse Park and Alltech for bringing credit to all American cities by hosting the World Equestrian Games in the United States for the first time;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors extends its strong wishes to the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games for great success in Lexington.

**MODERNIZING AMERICA'S AVIATION SYSTEM
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

WHEREAS, more than 40 mayors from cities across the nation met October 3 in Palm Beach in a working session to develop an action agenda on arts and tourism to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mayors in Palm Beach drafted this national action agenda based on significant consensus on the arts and tourism challenges that cities face; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- The current aviation system urgently needs reform and modernization. While dependence on oil and, in turn, high jet fuel prices, have exacerbated the troubles of the industry, longer term issues such as an aging fleet, a 1950s navigational system, insufficient R&D in alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel, and the elimination of routes must be addressed in the pending reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- It is time for a significant paradigm shift in federal aviation policy, one that moves from a single mode to an intermodal approach that includes a strong complimentary rail service.
- The airlines' financial crisis must be addressed. After finally regaining profitability in 2006 and 2007 - for the first time since 2000 - the air travel industry again finds itself in dire financial straits, with the six most established carriers (American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United, and US Airways) losing nearly \$6 billion in the second quarter of 2008, and expecting to lose more than \$10 billion for the year. Fees on checked baggage and basic in-flight amenities and a 10 percent increase in airfares have not been enough to counter the historically high and volatile cost of jet fuel.
- The volatility of the airline industry will continue to worsen without important reforms and modernization to the system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions urgently needed to reform and modernize America's aviation system that are called for by the mayors in the National Action Forum on Arts and Tourism:

- A new air traffic control system, such as Next Gen, which would convert the nation's radar-based aviation tracking system to one that is satellite based should be fully funded.
- The aviation industry's dependence on oil and carbon emissions per passenger mile (air .48kg, car .35kg, rail .21kg) should be reduced by providing resources to finance research and development of alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel.
- Steps to inoculate our nation's metropolitan areas from the financial woes of the airline industry - for example, preservation of existing routes and flight levels - should be taken.
- The maximum Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap should be raised to \$7.50 per flight, the increase should be indexed to inflation, and at least \$3.8 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding, with an increase of \$100 million each year thereafter, should be authorized.
- Ensure that the proposed National Rail Plan and successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU and Vision 100 increase flexibility and streamline planning processes to encourage a more systemwide intermodal approach to transportation planning and development in order to deliver more integrated air and rail networks, whereby many short-range flights are replaced by high-speed rail (HSR) and intercity passenger rail (IPR).
- The Essential Air Service (EAS) and Universal Service program should be fully funded.

**MODERNIZING AMERICA'S AVIATION SYSTEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
THROUGH THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION (FAA)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. airline industry is an indispensable element of America's infrastructure and our nation's economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, commercial aviation drives \$1.1 trillion in U.S. economic activity and 10.2 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, the aviation industry is in a period of economic turmoil and faces an uncertain future which has immediate and considerable effects upon cities throughout the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, dependence on oil, and in turn uncertain jet fuel prices, have exacerbated the troubles of the aviation industry, longer term issues such as an aging fleet, a 1950s navigational system, insufficient research and development into alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel, and the elimination of routes must be addressed in the pending reauthorization of the FAA; and

WHEREAS, FAA authorizing legislation, Vision 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Vision 100), expired at the end of fiscal year 2007, and the agency has been operating under a series of funding extensions and continuing resolutions; and

WHEREAS, delays in reauthorizing FAA programs have hampered the planning and development of needed airport infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the growing air traffic congestion and delay problems are the result of many factors, including inadequate investment in airport and air traffic control infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry, estimates of the cost of aviation delays to the U.S. economy range from \$9 billion in 2000 to more than \$30 billion annually by 2015, and without improvement, the combined economic cost of delays from 2000-2012 will total an estimated \$170 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) plays an important role in financing airport safety and security projects as well as projects to relieve passenger delays and congestion and must be reauthorized at a higher level to ensure that adequate funding is available; and

WHEREAS, airport infrastructure investments will be challenged to continue without an increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC), and when coupled with the devaluation of the PFC due to construction cost inflation, airports do not have the means of keeping up with the inflationary costs for the construction of runways, taxiways, terminals and gates; and

WHEREAS, aircraft operations in the vicinity of the airport and other airport sources emit nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, which lead to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog), and other substances that contribute to local air pollution, as well as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that rise into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, transportation accounts for about 30 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions and aircraft accounts for 12.5 percent of transport emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) key environmental goal is to limit or reduce the impact of aviation greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate by more efficiently using the nation's airspace, which will lead to less fuel use and therefore having a positive greenhouse gas and air quality impact,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to act now to reauthorize this FAA rather than utilizing continuing resolutions making it difficult for airport officials to plan future projects and the efficient transformation to the NextGen, which would convert that nation's radar-based air traffic control system into a satellite-based air traffic control system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund NextGen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to authorize at least \$3.8 billion in

Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding, with an increase of \$100 million each year thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to raise the maximum Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap to \$7.50 per flight and index this increase to inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging Congress to reduce the aviation industry's dependence on oil and reduce aviation's environmental effects, including carbon emissions, by providing resources to finance research and development of alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel and significantly reduce aircraft noise, and funding and technical assistance for many airport environmental activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging Congress to ensure that the proposed National Rail Plan and successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU and Vision 100 increase flexibility and streamline planning processes to encourage a more systemwide intermodal approach to transportation planning and development in order to deliver more integrated air and rail networks, whereby many short-range flights are replaced by high-speed rail (HSR) and intercity passenger rail (IPR); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to consider measures that help to promote service to our nation's metropolitan areas where significantly diminished due to financial problems in the airline industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging Congress to ensure that small communities continue to receive air service by fully funding the Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

**THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS NATIONAL CULINARY
AWARD**

WHEREAS, the creative economy contributes to the unique, vibrant, economically successful development of a city; and

WHEREAS, creative capital has been proven to be the 21st century's economic engine behind developing and sustaining globally competitive enterprises; and

WHEREAS, restaurateurs and chefs are recognized as one of the occupations defined as a creative occupation; and

WHEREAS, the products produced by restaurateurs/chefs exhibit a distinct mix of inherited and creative features which adds to the cities' economic development, cultural planning, urban design, cultural districts and cultural tourism; and

WHEREAS, established restaurateurs/chefs have given back to the profession through development of students and apprenticeship programs, and

WHEREAS, the USCM recognized the above contributions of culinary professionals to the vitality and wellbeing of a city; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors with the National Restaurant Association and the Culinary Institute of America have established a National Culinary Award to distinguish an outstanding culinarian whose contributions have advanced the cuisine of their region, the distinctive vibrancy of a city and promotes the sustainability of the industry through apprenticeship and/or educational programs; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors National Culinary Award will support the creativity industry and recognizes the creative capital the culinary industry provides; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges mayors to participate in The United States Conference of Mayors National Culinary Award to recognize the unique contributions the culinary industry provides cities and to the creative industry in America.

ENCOURAGING GREEN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to revitalize neighborhoods and stabilize property values; and

WHEREAS, cleaning and greening vacant lots stabilizes property values and reverses property value declines suffered by neighboring residents; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood greening can change people's perceptions of their neighborhoods, promote social connectivity, and result in safer communities; and

WHEREAS, trees and landscaping are mentally restorative, reducing symptoms of irritability, fatigue, and physiological stress in urban residents; and

WHEREAS, shared green spaces, particularly those having trees, help strengthen social ties among neighbors; and

WHEREAS, communities that have greening programs may be more resilient and empowered to solve problems; and

WHEREAS, in Philadelphia, neighborhood commercial corridors with green streetscapes provide a boost of 23% in value to nearby residential properties; and

WHEREAS, consumers are willing to pay up to 12% more for goods and services in business districts having mature tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, tree canopy and pervious soils are green stormwater infrastructure that use natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse stormwater on site where it occurs rather than transporting the water to a stream or treatment facility; and

WHEREAS, sustained urban forest planting, care and management ensures environmental, economic and social benefits for residents,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass and fully fund legislation that encourages both cities and non-profit partners to implement greening initiatives to improve the environment, economy and stability of neighborhoods such as:

- Revitalizing municipal parks and public spaces;

- Landscaping community gateways and key corridors;
- Tree plantings and urban forestry projects;
- Comprehensive planning for open space preservation;
- Education, training and volunteer management concerning community green initiatives;
- Green roof construction;
- Green storm water infrastructure;
- Vacant and abandoned property management and other greening initiatives; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors desires an increase in federal funding to enhance the quality of life of city residents through investment in greening projects that engage the public in hands-on neighborhood stewardship of urban natural resources.

**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS SUGGESTED 2009 COMMUNICATIONS
POLICY**

WHEREAS, mayors, as the CEOs of local governments, which are themselves significant and sophisticated users of communications technology, eagerly anticipate the further conversion of voice, video and data services from analog to digital technology and the resulting increase in choice of providers, faster speeds and lower prices; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the increasing and vital role communications plays in both homeland and hometown security; and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors' advocacy efforts with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Obama Administration have been to highlight that the Federal government must:

- Recognize and respect the inherent police powers of local governments and city's right to manage and charge for the use of the public right-of-way;
- Require that new technologies bear the same social obligations as the services they seek to replace such as supporting E-911 services, universal service;
- Appreciate the neighborhood-by-neighborhood expertise local government brings to overseeing the social obligations, including public safety, broadband deployment, and preventing economic redlining;
- Homeland and hometown security require the dedication of interference free dedicated interoperable spectrum for first responders; and
- Mayors are grateful to the many leaders in Congress that continue to distinguish a tax from a fee for benefit rendered, such as use of the rights-of-way,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors:

- Reaffirms its communications policy resolution of 2008.
- Expresses its gratitude to President Obama and the Congress for passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's broadband programs, Specifically, mayors are grateful to the President and the Congress for specifically protecting local governments as eligible recipients of the funds; and
- Calls on all Federal agencies charged with broadband responsibilities to embrace the tenet that unaffordable broadband is unavailable broadband.

**MODERNIZING AMERICA'S AVIATION SYSTEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
THROUGH THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION (FAA)**

WHEREAS, the U.S. airline industry is an indispensable element of America's infrastructure and our nation's economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, commercial aviation drives \$1.1 trillion in U.S. economic activity and 10.2 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, the aviation industry is in a period of economic turmoil and faces an uncertain future which has immediate and considerable effects upon cities throughout the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, dependence on oil, and in turn uncertain jet fuel prices, have exacerbated the troubles of the aviation industry, longer term issues such as an aging fleet, a 1950s navigational system, insufficient research and development into alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel, and the elimination of routes must be addressed in the pending reauthorization of the FAA; and

WHEREAS, FAA authorizing legislation, Vision 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Vision 100), expired at the end of fiscal year 2007, and the agency has been operating under a series of funding extensions and continuing resolutions; and

WHEREAS, delays in reauthorizing FAA programs have hampered the planning and development of needed airport infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the growing air traffic congestion and delay problems are the result of many factors, including inadequate investment in airport and air traffic control infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry, estimates of the cost of aviation delays to the U.S. economy range from \$9 billion in 2000 to more than \$30 billion annually by 2015, and without improvement, the combined economic cost of delays from 2000-2012 will total an estimated \$170 billion; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) plays an important role in financing airport safety and security projects as well as projects to relieve passenger delays and congestion

and must be reauthorized at a higher level to ensure that adequate funding is available; and

WHEREAS, airport infrastructure investments will be challenged to continue without an increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC), and when coupled with the devaluation of the PFC due to construction cost inflation, airports do not have the means of keeping up with the inflationary costs for the construction of runways, taxiways, terminals and gates; and

WHEREAS, aircraft operations in the vicinity of the airport and other airport sources emit nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, which lead to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog), and other substances that contribute to local air pollution, as well as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that rise into the atmosphere and contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, transportation accounts for about 30 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions and aircraft accounts for 12.5 percent of transport emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) key environmental goal is to limit or reduce the impact of aviation greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate by more efficiently using the nation's airspace, which will lead to less fuel use and therefore having a positive greenhouse gas and air quality impact,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the Congress to act now to reauthorize this FAA rather than utilizing continuing resolutions making it difficult for airport officials to plan future projects and the efficient transformation to the NextGen, which would convert that nation's radar-based air traffic control system into a satellite-based air traffic control system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund NextGen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to authorize at least \$3.8 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding, with an increase of \$100 million each year thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to raise the maximum Passenger Facility Charge

(PFC) cap to \$7.50 per flight and index this increase to inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging Congress to reduce the aviation industry's dependence on oil and reduce aviation's environmental effects, including carbon emissions, by providing resources to finance research and development of alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel and significantly reduce aircraft noise, and funding and technical assistance for many airport environmental activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging Congress to ensure that the proposed National Rail Plan and successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU and Vision 100 increase flexibility and streamline planning processes to encourage a more systemwide intermodal approach to transportation planning and development in order to deliver more integrated air and rail networks, whereby many short-range flights are replaced by high-speed rail (HSR) and intercity passenger rail (IPR); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to consider measures that help to promote service to our nation's metropolitan areas where significantly diminished due to financial problems in the airline industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors is urging Congress to ensure that small communities continue to receive air service by fully funding the Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

MODERNIZING AMERICA'S AVIATION SYSTEM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

WHEREAS, more than 40 mayors from cities across the nation met October 3 in Palm Beach in a working session to develop an action agenda on arts and tourism to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mayors in Palm Beach drafted this national action agenda based on significant consensus on the arts and tourism challenges that cities face; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- The current aviation system urgently needs reform and modernization. While dependence on oil and, in turn, high jet fuel prices, have exacerbated the troubles of the industry, longer term issues such as an aging fleet, a 1950s navigational system, insufficient R&D in alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel, and the elimination of routes must be addressed in the pending reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- It is time for a significant paradigm shift in federal aviation policy, one that moves from a single mode to an intermodal approach that includes a strong complimentary rail service.
- The airlines' financial crisis must be addressed. After finally regaining profitability in 2006 and 2007 - for the first time since 2000 - the air travel industry again finds itself in dire financial straits, with the six most established carriers (American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, United, and US Airways) losing nearly \$6 billion in the second quarter of 2008, and expecting to lose more than \$10 billion for the year. Fees on checked baggage and basic in-flight amenities and a 10 percent increase in airfares have not been enough to counter the historically high and volatile cost of jet fuel.
- The volatility of the airline industry will continue to worsen without important reforms and modernization to the system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions urgently needed to reform and modernize America's aviation system that

are called for by the mayors in the National Action Forum on Arts and Tourism:

- A new air traffic control system, such as Next Gen, which would convert the nation's radar-based aviation tracking system to one that is satellite based should be fully funded.
- The aviation industry's dependence on oil and carbon emissions per passenger mile (air .48kg, car .35kg, rail .21kg) should be reduced by providing resources to finance research and development of alternative fuels and engines that consume less fuel.
- Steps to inoculate our nation's metropolitan areas from the financial woes of the airline industry - for example, preservation of existing routes and flight levels - should be taken.
- The maximum Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap should be raised to \$7.50 per flight, the increase should be indexed to inflation, and at least \$3.8 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding, with an increase of \$100 million each year thereafter, should be authorized.
- Ensure that the proposed National Rail Plan and successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU and Vision 100 increase flexibility and streamline planning processes to encourage a more systemwide intermodal approach to transportation planning and development in order to deliver more integrated air and rail networks, whereby many short-range flights are replaced by high-speed rail (HSR) and intercity passenger rail (IPR).
- The Essential Air Service (EAS) and Universal Service program should be fully funded.

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT IN HIGH SPEED RAIL

WHEREAS, high speed intercity rail is part of a solution to reducing both congestion and pollution in our nation; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has revived the United States commitment to high speed rail by proposing to establish and extend the number of high speed rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has passed numerous resolutions that recognize the benefits of high speed rail and call for increased investment; and

WHEREAS, last year (2008) alone overall Amtrak ridership increased nearly 14%; and

WHEREAS, , Amtrak service like the Heartland flyer saw increased ridership of over 40% from 2007 to 2008, Keystone Service saw an increase of 26%, and the Downeaster saw an increase of 33% during the same time interval; all of which President Obama is proposing to make part of high speed rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, while increases in ridership were high, Amtrak revenues outpaced the increases in ridership with a revenue increase of over 14% in 2008 from 2007; and

WHEREAS, high speed rail decreases traffic congestion and reduces greenhouse gases that would have been otherwise released; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed to spend \$1 billion a year over the next 5 years as a down payment on these high speed rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed high speed rail corridors will allow passengers to travel safely between 150 mph and 200 mph allowing; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that developing high speed rail corridors will result in an annual reduction of 6 billion pounds of CO₂; and

WHEREAS, this effort to establish these high speed rail corridors will create millions of jobs around our nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Obama and Secretary Lahood's efforts to expand high speed rail in the United States; US Conference of Mayors applauds President Obama and Secretary Lahood's efforts to expand high speed rail in the United States; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conferences of Mayors calls on Congress to provide the full \$5 billion funding level over the next 5 years (\$1 billion per year) to begin moving toward the development of high speed rail corridors concentrating first on those that demonstrate short-term viability such as the Northeast Corridor; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on state and regional departments of transportation to make high speed rail a priority.

**RENEWING AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and infrastructure leaders from across the nation met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Infrastructure in New York City August 13-14, 2008, to develop an action agenda for a renewed commitment to America's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on infrastructure ; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations for a new stronger relationship between the nation's mayors and the federal government to ensure that we update the country's antiquated infrastructure in ways that will keep us economically competitive, and do so in ways that are climate and energy centered; and

WHEREAS, the mayors and other leaders found that:

- With unpredictable and expected higher fuel prices, highway congestion, and an uncertain aviation outlook, as President Dwight D. Eisenhower transformed the nation through the Interstate Highway System, America needs a comprehensive National Rail Investment Plan; and
- Economic and environmental forces are repositioning intercity, commuter rail and other rail transit facilities and services a most promising and welcome alternative to uncertain fuel prices, worsening reliability and on-time performance at most major airports, and highway travel between destinations; and
- The bi-partisan National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission reported, intercity passenger rail is a critical missing link in the nation's transportation system; and
- It is in cities and their metropolitan areas where a broader range of surface transportation solutions are evaluated and pursued, whether this means deploying new technology, changing development practices to promote expanded travel options, or enhancing the performance of existing corridors through increased commitments to transit, high occupancy auto use and non-motorized travel; and

- Mayors and other local elected officials in their regions, especially in metropolitan areas, own and operate most of the transportation assets and facilities in their local areas and, as such, are best positioned to decide how to invest available transportation resources; and
- The current record shows that state governments through their state transportation departments have been unable to respond or adapt readily to the transportation challenges now before the nation, especially those before our metropolitan areas; and
- In recent years, states have used rising federal surface transportation commitments to largely substitute for their own new revenue commitments to highway and transit infrastructure, while still focusing on ever more costly new capacity to support single occupancy automobile travel; and
- As a result of state revenue constraints, states generally have moved away from projects that reflect local and metropolitan priorities, including congestion relief, transit investment, local bridge repair or improvements to support non-motorized travel,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Infrastructure:

- Adopt a national rail investment strategy that sets forth a long-term financial commitment to expand rail investment between and within cities and their metropolitan areas.
- Assist private rail carriers in raising needed capital to expand passenger and freight rail capacity to support increased freight and passenger volume by rail.
- Reform the current surface transportation law (e.g., change the "product line", make smarter use of available resources, fix what we have built already, and put local officials in charge of investment decisions in metro areas.

- Make the next surface transportation law more "climate and energy centered", through changes that focus more resources on expanding transit capacities and other travel options to help curb oil use in the transportation sector.
- Ensure that new highway and transit capacity investments in metropolitan areas are decided by local elected officials.
- Allocate available federal surface transportation funds to cities/metro areas, based on their relative share of economic output, redirecting a substantial share of the more than \$40 billion annually in federal highway/transportation funding now allocated to state departments of transportation.
- Ensure that other infrastructure - facilities that support walking, bicycling and transit - is recognized equally with other capacity investments under federal law.
- Close the current funding gap in Highway Trust Fund.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations relating to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in local communities and metro areas; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

- The U.S. transportation sector - its systems and practices - has played a significant part in growing the nation's energy dependency on foreign energy supplies, principally petroleum, and in contributing to higher oil prices and other energy price increases;
- In 2007, 69 percent of the nation's total petroleum products were consumed in the transportation sector, with petroleum products powering more than 98 percent of the nation's transportation mobility;
- This nation cannot deal with our energy and climate challenges, without confronting the transportation sector;
- all federally-assisted transportation investments must address energy and climate concerns, through a series of dramatic shifts in federal policies and programs that emphasize electrification of cars and transit facilities, substitution of alternative and renewable energy fuels for petroleum-based fuels, and increased attention to the design and development of cities and regions to promote more efficient mobility patterns, including increased reliance on non-motorized travel options;
- To accelerate the achievement of these outcomes, federal policy must empower local elected officials, especially in metropolitan areas, to make the decisions on how federal transportation resources are invested, a shift this is especially crucial to change energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions in this sector,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on Transportation Policy called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to do the following:

- Adopt a metropolitan mobility program, ensure that investments reflect energy and climate challenges, and eliminate program silos.
- Adopt procurement policies, at the Federal level, that would require plug-in vehicles, plug-in hybrids, and/or other alternative fuel vehicles.
- Accelerate investment in rail transportation, both freight and passenger rail.

BRINGING AN URBAN FOCUS TO THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the public demand for multimodal transportation choices including bicycling, walking, and transit is increasing, while the growth in vehicles miles traveled is decreasing; and

WHEREAS, public transportation is the backbone of city transportation systems, and ridership has been soaring, with 2008 seeing the highest ridership numbers in fifty years, despite chronic underinvestment in transit systems and unequal funding treatment of transit and road projects by the federal program; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing growth in demand coupled with the economic downturn has overwhelmed transit agencies, which are left unable to expand services, with many being forced to cut services and increase fares; and

WHEREAS, investments that maximize transportation and land use connections through techniques such as transit-oriented development yield optimal economic vitality to localities and build livable, walkable communities; and

WHEREAS, aging infrastructure is causing maintenance needs to rise in cities across the nation, while federal resources continue to go toward building new road capacity at the neglect of caring for existing infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, freight trucks are the fastest growing component of traffic nationwide and bottlenecks at railways, ports and airport terminals are increasing; and

WHEREAS, the impending expiration of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the multi-year federal surface transportation law, on September 30, 2009 presents an opportunity to focus the federal transportation program on the pressing transportation needs of American cities and metropolitan areas, and to realize the transportation efficiencies and advantages that cities can offer,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that that federal investment in transit capital projects should be significantly increased to begin meeting the escalating demand for more public transportation and mitigate decades of underinvestment in transit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal support of transit operations should be restored to capitalize on the unprecedented growth in public transit ridership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the current unequal local match requirements for new road projects and new transit projects funded by the federal government should be raised or lowered to make them equal, eliminating the practice of a dual standard between the modes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of local match for transit projects should be expanded to include the portfolio of local investments in transit networks related to the FTA eligible project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FTA's evaluation criteria for new transit projects should be updated to include real estate value capture and land use and environmental benefits associated with the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that projects that increase bicycling and walking should be encouraged by streamlining the approval process for such projects and providing greater funding to support them, including establishing adequate minimum set asides for such projects within programs such as the Surface Transportation Program (STP); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal transportation program should prioritize spending to bring existing infrastructure to a state of good repair by establishing accountability and performance standards on infrastructure conditions for projects seeking federal funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal program should establish a comprehensive national freight plan to manage growth, resolve bottlenecks at railways, ports and air freight terminals, and improve overall freight efficiency and safety.

**INVESTING IN THE ENGINES OF AMERICA'S GROWTH THROUGH A
METROPOLITAN MOBILITY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, cities and their metropolitan areas are the drivers of the American economy; and

WHEREAS, they represent 84 percent of the population, generate 85.9 percent of employment, 90.1 percent of wage income, and 89 percent of production of products and services they represent 84 percent of the population, generate 85.9 percent of employment, 90.1 percent of wage income, and 89 percent of production of products and services; and

WHEREAS, they also represent 90 percent of traffic congestion, transit ridership, and population exposure to auto-related air pollution, 95 percent of the nation's trade, 96 percent of rail passengers, and 75 percent of seaport tonnage; and

WHEREAS, over the next 50 years the U.S. population is expected to rise by over 60 percent, the economy is expected to be four times as large, and with surface transportation demands increasing by two-and-a-half times; and

WHEREAS, unlike federal transit resources which largely flow to local, regional and state agencies providing transit services, existing law continues to vest states with broad authority to decide how other federal transportation funds are invested within the state, with either few or no federal standards to distribute funds equitably among local areas or regions within the state, or target resources to specific national goals such as less energy consumption, increase mode sharing from solo driving, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, many states have either reduced or restrained the relative share of federal transportation funds allocated to city and metropolitan area transportation priorities; and

WHEREAS, current law enables these practices because mayors and other local leaders have limited authority over project selection and funding allocations, controlling less than ten cents of every federal transportation dollar, even though they own and operate most of our nation's transportation assets and facilities, including ownership of more than 62 percent of all highways on the Federal-Aid Highway System in urbanized areas of the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission states, "The efficient movement of citizens and goods within these areas is critical to their productivity, and by extension, to the economic productivity of the nation itself,"

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and Congress to develop new-targeted metropolitan investment policies to ensure increased federal funding commitments to transportation infrastructure in cities and their metropolitan areas through the creation of a Metropolitan Mobility Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under this program, cities and their metropolitan areas should reconstitute themselves as a new federally defined "Metropolitan Mobility Authority (MMA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under the MMA, new and existing federal surface transportation funds should be allocated (i.e. suballocated and subject to local project selection) within states calibrated to the economic output of metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to federal surface transportation funds under existing program categories, cities and metropolitan areas should be eligible to receive new federal funds aimed at congestion relief, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, promoting energy conservation and efficiency and reducing air pollution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mayors, as Members of their Metropolitan Mobility Authority (MMA), should be responsible for and required to make funding allocations and project selection of any expenditure of federal surface transportation resource within their metropolitan area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that project selection should be performance based, specifically those that advance national goals (e.g., less energy consumption, shift mode share away from solo driving, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions), and also include measurements and reporting on improvements to reduce travel time, congestion relief, passenger and freight movements within, into, and out of metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that project selection should coordinate transportation land use using transit-oriented development with

the measurement of increasing affordable housing investments near transit and employment opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that project selection should include measurements based on population density or compactness of cities within a metropolitan area and the MMA should use those performance standards and national goals to develop mobility plans to accommodate new economic and population growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal-funding share of metro mobility projects should be no less than 80 percent of the project cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through the Metropolitan Mobility Program, mayors have forged a proposal that ensures that our nation's traffic congested areas actually receive funding, and can budget for transportation investments that compliment housing and employment centers.

**METROPOLITAN MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH SUCCESSOR LEGISLATION
TO SAFETEA-LU**

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the multi-year federal surface transportation law, is due to expire September 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, this law was the second renewal of the 1991 ISTEA law, the landmark transportation reform statute that provided state and local decision-makers with added flexibility to develop and fund a range of transportation solutions, reduced modal bias in federal planning and funding rules, expanded public participation in shaping transportation investment programs, allowed increased focus on multi-modal investments, and extended greater decision-making authority to local elected officials served by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), key features that were largely retained in the 1998 TEA-21 law and the 2005 SAFETEA-LU; and

WHEREAS, unlike federal transit resources which generally are structured to flow to local, regional, and state agencies providing transit services based on passengers served, existing law continues to vest states with broad authority to decide how other federal transportation funds are invested within the state; and

WHEREAS, there exist limited or no federal standards to measure and report on performance and outcomes, distribute funds equitably among local areas or regions within the state, or target resources to specific national goals such as reducing metropolitan congestion and improving air quality; and

WHEREAS, even though metropolitan areas comprise 80% of the nation's population and account for more than 85% of employment, income, and production of goods and services, the state suballocation of federal highway funds to metropolitan areas consistently and dramatically fails to reflect the relative population, vehicle miles traveled, and economic output of those areas; and

WHEREAS, the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission recommendations urged reform to ensure that metropolitan mobility needs are addressed through a new Metropolitan Mobility Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to incorporate reforms in successor legislation to SAFETEA-LU that increase direct investment and strengthen decision-making authority at the metropolitan level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should establish a new Metropolitan Mobility Program focused on the nation's large metropolitan areas that provides funding supplemental to regular highway and transit allocations; distributed based on a formula that reflects size, transportation needs, and economic activity; flexible in modal applications; directing project selection based on coordination with land use and demonstrating improved mobility of goods and people, energy consumption, and environmental impacts; requiring performance standards, measurements, and reporting on those outcomes; and vesting decision-making in a broader Metropolitan Mobility Authority that directly involves Mayors and exercises project selection authority over all federal transportation funds expended in the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should raise the percentage of formula funding dedicated to the Surface Transportation Urban Program, to assure that intrastate funding is allocated more in proportion with the relative size, transportation utilization, and and economic output of those urbanized areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should reauthorize the Projects of National and Regional Significance program, ensure that multi-modal and transit projects are eligible for funding, and not include congressionally-directed projects in order to restore the competitive intent of the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should consider modifications in decision-making processes of MPOs that strengthen the regional targeting of resources for the greatest return on investment, such as MPO participation and voting structures; scope of authority over federal transportation funds expended in the region; and project selection criteria using performance-based assessments for achieving national economic, mobility, and environmental goals.

STREETCAR REVITALIZATION IN AMERICAN CITIES

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States are exploring the reintroduction of streetcars; and

WHEREAS, existing streetcar systems provide convincing evidence that, for a modest cost, they provide transportation choice, attract economic development, link jobs and housing, and create denser, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, appropriate assessment of the value provided by streetcar systems must encompass a calculation of the number of automobile trips not taken, the decrease in passenger vehicle miles traveled, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that result from the streetcar system; and

WHEREAS, SAFETEA-LU in 2005 created the Small Starts Program to provide federal funding to help communities develop streetcar projects but Small Starts was never properly implemented, causing streetcar projects around the nation to languish; and

WHEREAS, communities around the United States have expended time and resources to utilize the Small Starts program but the delay in authorizing grants under the Small Starts program has created a backlog of streetcar projects; and

WHEREAS, urban streetcar systems that are located primarily in an existing rail or vehicle right of way create negligible environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Earl Blumenauer has introduced HR2163 "The Fast Starts Act of 2009" and HR2164 "The Streetcar Revitalization Act of 2009"; and

WHEREAS, these legislative initiatives would accelerate the development of streetcar systems in American cities by providing more targeted funding for these projects, more explicit direction to the U.S. Department of Transportation and greater incorporation of economic and community development criteria into federal funding decisions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Rep. Blumenauer for his leadership in the development of streetcar legislation for American cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges that forthcoming surface transportation authorization

legislation contain provisions designed to expand, streamline and accelerate federal streetcar investments, including that such legislation authorize the U.S. Department of Transportation to designate urban streetcars located primarily within existing rights-of-way as eligible for categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act.

ROUNDBABOUTS AND TRANSPORTATION POLICY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has made greater energy independence and climate protection top policy priorities, with the nation's mayors leading all governments on these challenges; and

WHEREAS, Conference transportation policy urges increased focus on the energy and climate effects of federal transportation policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, there is a record of successful examples in cities showing that different practices, policies and investments can reduce energy use, especially fuel demand, and curb air emissions, including greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, in some cases relatively modest improvements to existing road and street networks, such as roundabouts, can result in quantifiable reductions in fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, despite the mounting evidence on roundabouts benefits, engineering practices throughout the U.S. continue to emphasize the use of traditional signalized intersections;

WHEREAS, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has concluded that roundabouts reduce fuel consumption by an average of 16 percent, equivalent to 940 gallons of fuel on a daily basis and 235,000 gallons annually per roundabout, in contrast to signalized intersections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U. S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to make the increased use of roundabouts on the nation's roads a higher priority for the DOT; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to adopt new directives in forthcoming transportation authorization to ensure consideration of roundabouts by project sponsors in lieu of signalized intersections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the U.S. DOT to bolster their technical assistance and informational efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of roundabouts and promote their use in working with state and local project sponsors, including promoting current law

provisions that allow states to utilize federal surface transportation funds to fully fund (100 percent federal share) roundabouts.

**ACCELERATING LOCALLY-SPONSORED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE
FEDERAL PROGRAM THROUGH LOCAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

WHEREAS, locally-sponsored transportation projects selected through the metropolitan planning process and financed with federal funding are then implemented by local government transportation agencies; and

WHEREAS, all Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding must pass through state transportation departments, whether designated for projects in rural villages or the largest cities, regardless of their disparate size and capacity; and

WHEREAS, state transportation departments vary in available resources and capabilities, and administration of applications, negotiations, project certifications, and funding transfers for locally-sponsored projects often create lengthy delays in project implementation, sometimes extending for years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has acknowledged the problem of administrative delays in delivery of critical projects and expressed a desire to eliminate bureaucratic impediments at all levels; and

WHEREAS, some larger local government transportation agencies are of comparable size and capacity to state transportation departments, possessing the technical abilities required to certify design and engineering documents, and otherwise manage the direct receipt of federal highway funds; and

WHEREAS, while still preserving existing regional planning and project selection processes, providing local governments - which FHWA determines have sufficient capacity - with the option to directly handle the administration of funds would eliminate extra bureaucratic steps and expedite project implementation; and

WHEREAS, relieving states of the administration burden for these FHWA-approved local government transportation agencies allows a greater focus on assisting other localities and speeds project delivery statewide; and

WHEREAS, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds already are managed directly by many cities and counties without a state administrative passthrough; and

WHEREAS, the City of Washington, D.C. already receives direct funding for FHWA projects, demonstrating the feasibility of the streamlined local-federal relationship for transportation projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors call on Congress to incorporate reforms in successor legislation to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) that would expedite project delivery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these reforms should allow local government transportation agencies to "opt-in" to directly administer grants from FHWA for locally-sponsored projects, provided that FHWA determines they have the capacity to carry out necessary regulatory responsibilities and manage such a direct federal grant relationship to the full extent of the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such reforms should only impact the administration of funding for otherwise approved projects, and not alter or circumvent the standard metropolitan transportation planning process to select and prioritize those projects for funding on a regional basis.

**CONGRATULATING AND THANKING MIAMI MAYOR MANNY DIAZ FOR HIS WORK
AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is seeking appropriate projects for inclusion in the Federal economic stimulus package to provide immediate and near-term job opportunities for projects; and

WHEREAS, the Intercity Florida East Coast ("FEC") Corridor Project (Jacksonville/Miami) is an appropriate project for inclusion by the State of Florida in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan; and

WHEREAS, former work by Amtrak and the Florida Department of Transportation includes plans for the improvements necessary to initiate Amtrak service on the FEC corridor; and

WHEREAS, Miami Mayor Manny Diaz has worked tirelessly as President of the United States Conference of Mayors to have this project included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida on May 6, 2009 adopted Resolution Number 3224, a Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida, congratulating Miami Mayor Manny Diaz on his job as President of the United States Conference of Mayors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the United States Conference of Mayors joins with the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida in congratulating and thanking Miami Mayor Manny Diaz for his work tireless work as President of the United States Conference Of Mayors.