

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED
71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
Denver, CO - June 5-10, 2003

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PRESIDENT THOMAS M. MENINO, MAYOR OF BOSTON, AND PRESIDENT, THE U.S.
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WITH APPRECIATION FOR HIS LEADERSHIP
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO MAYOR WELLINGTON E. WEBB OF DENVER FOR
HOSTING THE 71ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, JUNE 5-10, 2003

ARTS, PARKS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS

PROMOTING THE PRESERVATION AND CREATION OF URBAN FORESTS

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors is working with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and American Forests to promote the need for an urban forestry program that will promote the preservation and creation of urban forest areas; and

WHEREAS, according to American Forests, since the early 1970's, major metropolitan areas have lost one-third or more "heavy tree cover"; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that better management practices will increase the overall health and robustness of urban forests through comprehensive planning and joint implementation efforts; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that preserving existing urban forests as well as increasing "tree cover" to create robust urban forests representing the environmental health quality of cities; and

WHEREAS, urban forests are essential to improving the range of ecological services that include providing natural habitat for floral and fauna, controlling sedimentation and water runoff from nonpoint sources, mitigating carbon sequestration to improve air quality and conserving energy by reducing the urban heat index; and

WHEREAS, urban forests have also demonstrated the ability increase the genetic diversity of wildlife and pollination of important crops for agricultural production through the protection and creation of green corridors; and

WHEREAS, urban forests also hold the potential to remediate environmentally contaminated properties, called brownfields, through phytoremediation technology returning those sites to productive reuse; and

WHEREAS, urban forests provide green infrastructure for cities linking communities to recreational areas and greenspaces, improving the quality of life for residents and allowing residents to take an active role in planting, protecting and restoring forest areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors encourages it's members to work more closely with the U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service through

partnerships to craft comprehensive planning approaches in reversing urban forest tree decline by maintaining existing tree stocks and planting new trees in “low cover areas”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U. S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Federal and State governments to work in cooperation with local Mayors to promote local community action in sustaining urban forests and creating a network of arborists to oversee programs and projects aimed at not only marketing but creating actual models for other areas throughout the country to adopt, thereby preventing urban forest farm decline and ensuring future sustainability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference calls upon the Administration and Congress to include funding for urban and community forestry programs that encourage community cost share grants, urban forest research and assistance for underserved communities that may be challenged with stewardship issues.

HUNGER AND THE ARTS

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has called for hunger and homelessness to end within the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayor's study of Hunger and Homelessness reports a nine percent increase in hunger in the United States since 1999; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of initiatives, both public and private that promotes feeding all those who hunger using safely recovered edible food leftover after rock concerts, film productions, and other artistic events,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms its dedication and support towards abolishing hunger and homelessness throughout the U.S.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT mayors should work with public and private organizations, like Rock and Wrap It that recover edible food leftover after rock concerts, film productions, and other artistic events.

PRESERVE AMERICA

WHEREAS, the Preserve America program will provide an opportunity for federal and local governments and organizations to form a partnership to increase the knowledge of our Nation's past; and

WHEREAS, provoking public interest and stimulating public education on protecting our natural heritage, both cultural and natural resources, will produce a variety of benefits including job creation, increasing community pride, and increasing tourism; and

WHEREAS, improving the management of historic properties will support the economic conditions and well being of local communities; and

WHEREAS, these projects, which promote American history and heritage, will promote new jobs and increase private sector funding in local communities, and

WHEREAS, a Preserve America Community designation will be given to those communities who show a long-term commitment to preserving our nations heritage and encourage increased awareness of those resources; and

WHEREAS, those individuals, governmental entities, and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to the protection of America's history and resources through exemplary accomplishments in sustainable use and preservation of cultural and natural assets may be recognized by the Preserve America Presidential Award,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED Preserve America is an opportunity for local governments to join with the federal government in protecting our nation's historic areas and sites of cultural significance. The United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the Preserve America program in order to protect our Nations history for future generations.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has called for an American culture of service to others, and created the USA Freedom Corps; and

WHEREAS, public areas throughout the United States, such as national parks, local playgrounds and other natural areas are in desperate need of upkeep and repair; and

WHEREAS, the Take Pride in America program is an initiative by the Department of Interior to promote public-private partnerships to encourage volunteerism to help clean up America's lands; and

WHEREAS, Take Pride in America will create opportunities for Americans from around the country to restore and repair America's natural splendors and recreation areas, and

WHEREAS, Take Pride in America encourages members of all sectors of society, from corporations, to businessmen and women, to teenage volunteers to get involved in restoring the splendor of nature in America; and

WHEREAS, recognition from the Department of the Interior and the President of the United States will be given to those individuals and organizations that give exemplary service,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the Take Pride in America program in preserving and restoring public lands throughout the United States.

TAX INCENTIVES TO PROMOTE FILM PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the motion picture and television industry is a major sector of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, many films and television shows are being made by American production companies outside of US borders where production costs tend to be significantly cheaper than in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. film industry is being lured by an array of tax incentives and loan programs offered by other countries; and

WHEREAS, these countries understand that film productions stimulate local, regional and national economic activity; and

WHEREAS, this is an issue impacting local jobs, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the people that would benefit from a wage credit are the men and women who work in small businesses and work mostly on the production of film,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt H.R. 715, the United States Independent Film and Television Production Incentive Act of 2003. This legislation would create a wage credit in the tax code as an incentive to encourage film production in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Senate and the Administration to support similar legislation for enactment during the 108th Congress.

CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, in 2000, Congress passed a new program titled the Land Conservation, Preservation, and Infrastructure Improvement Program (commonly referred to as the Conservation Trust Fund) as a six-year program that gives baseline funding to a variety of urban conservation and recreation programs, including the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR); and

WHEREAS, The Conservation Trust Fund returns more than sixty percent of its funds to states and local communities; and

WHEREAS, The Conservation Trust Fund encourages and promotes healthy lifestyles, an area of growing concern in our country, by providing Americans with outdoor places to hike, bike, swim, fish, and walk; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Trust Fund promotes smart growth and livable communities through the development of urban open space and recreation programs that assist thoughtful, planned growth and also empower municipalities to accomplish these objectives through partnerships; and

WHEREAS, last year, the program was underfunded and severe cutbacks in local conservation and recreation programs resulted and without congressional allocations, opportunities for conservation, outdoor recreation, and historic preservation are limited; and

WHEREAS, the need to preserve urban open spaces, and parks and recreational facilities, and preserve America's historic treasures becomes more critical each year due to the demands placed on such facilities by ever increasing populations; and

WHEREAS, for FY 2004, the full and dedicated level for the Conservation Trust Fund is \$1.56 billion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors see, as an absolutely critical need, the full and dedicated funding level of the Conservation Trust Fund, with at least \$50 million dedicated to the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES

WHEREAS, there are over 4,000 public and private local arts agencies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies strive to make the arts a part of the daily fabric of community living; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies have a unique understanding of local artists and arts organizations and the cultural needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, 88 percent of local arts agencies present cultural programming in the form of music, dance, drama, visual arts, arts in education, art in public places, festivals, literature readings, and more; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of local arts agencies provide public and private financial support to arts organizations and artists; and

WHEREAS 74.7 percent of local arts agencies partner with local school districts to improve the quality and quantity of arts education received by children; and

WHEREAS, business people and corporate citizens consider arts and culture as important factors in deciding where to establish operations; and

WHEREAS, a 2002 study sponsored by Americans for the Arts shows that local arts agencies and the arts organizations that they support have a major impact on national, state, and local economies, including:

Total Expenditures	\$ 134.0 billion
Full-Time Jobs	4.85 million
Household Income	89.4 billion
Local Government Revenue	6.6 billion
State Government Revenue	7.3 billion
Federal Income Tax Revenue	10.5 billion

WHEREAS, reducing support for the arts will result in reduced economic activity, less vitality in towns and cities, lower returns to federal, state, and local treasuries,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms the positive economic, educational and societal contributions and roles that these local arts agencies serve in communities across the country.

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 recognizes the arts as a core curriculum subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress has affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, a compendium of arts education research entitled *Critical Links*, released by the Arts Education Partnership, suggest the following:

- The arts help close the achievement gap for students from economically disadvantaged circumstances, as evidenced by improved test scores;
- The arts improve academic skills essential for reading and language development;
- The arts build strong mathematical skills;
- The arts advance the motivation to learn;
- The arts promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, inner-city and rural children have not had the same opportunities as children living in wealthier districts to learn in, through, and about the arts; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds where permissible, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts into other core subjects. We further urge the Congress to appropriate \$53 million for the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education.

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 4,000 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 2003 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month,

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.

PUBLIC ART

WHEREAS, public art is defined as the inclusion of artists in the design of public spaces and the inclusion of artwork in civic spaces; and

WHEREAS, public art can be traced to such ancient examples as the pyramids of Egypt or the Colossus of Rhodes; and

WHEREAS, public art in the United States includes some of the nation's most cherished images and symbols, such as the Statue of Liberty and the Lincoln Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has supported public art through programs such as the WPA during the New Deal as well as the current Art in Architecture program and the cultural enhancements program of the Transportation Equity Act; and

WHEREAS, public art brings focus, importance, and cohesion to public places. It creates an environment that attracts people, offering them insight, repose, delight, and a sense of destination. Public art transforms spaces, giving them context and relevance, and inspiring civic pride and community identity; and

WHEREAS, 46 out of the 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and Guam have at least one public art program, and 132 cities across the country have public arts programs run by municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, 26 new municipal public art programs have started nationwide in just the last two years; and

WHEREAS, the most common funding structure of state and local public art programs is Percent for Art legislation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms the valuable contribution of local and state public art programs across the country in making our cities more livable, beautiful, and unique.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, an estimated 61 percent of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese, and 13 percent of children and adolescents are overweight, due in large part to a lack of regular physical activity; and

WHEREAS, half of all trips in urban areas are three miles or less and more than one quarter are less than one mile in length; and

WHEREAS, short motor vehicle trips are the most environmentally damaging and contribute most to the global climate change; and

WHEREAS, bicycling is a clean, efficient, healthy, economical and accessible means of recreation and transportation with a wide variety of associated benefits to individuals and society at large; and

WHEREAS, bicycling also has the potential to play a significant transportation role in U.S. cities and to reduce the number and impact of motor vehicle trips; and

WHEREAS, many mayors are already pursuing policies and programs to improve conditions for bicycling; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on cities and communities to promote increased, safe bicycle use for transportation and recreation and to adopt the goals laid out in the National Strategies to Advance Bicycle Safety, adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in June 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and national bicycle user groups to develop a more detailed action plan for cities and communities to follow to become more bicycle-friendly and that this action plan be presented at the First International Symposium on Bicycle Friendly Communities in March 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the continued broad eligibility of federal funds for bicycle programs and projects.

CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

IN SUPPORT OF THE “ACCESS TO RECOVERY” TREATMENT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, drug addiction is an illness which affects cities, large and small alike, and destroys communities, tears apart families, and wrecks individual lives; and

WHEREAS, a balanced strategy of demand and supply reduction is the best way to reduce illicit drug use and the consequences it brings; and

WHEREAS, drug treatment is an effective tool in overcoming drug addiction; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 100,000 people last year attempted to receive treatment but could not get it; and

WHEREAS, President Bush’s drug control strategy calls for “healing America’s drug users” and increases funding for drug treatment by \$1.6 billion over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, President Bush recently announced his “Access to Recovery” initiative which will provide a three-year, \$600 million commitment to treatment through a voucher system to increase treatment delivery, improve assessment and referral, and enlarge access to effective treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, this initiative complements existing alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs and will increase capacity and consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will ensure that those struggling with addiction have access to a comprehensive continuum of treatment and support service options, including faith and community-based programs, and drug courts, to ensure these options are more readily available; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is an opportunity to forge a new partnership with community providers to increase access and demonstrate that treatment does work and that it can make a difference in many of our citizen’s lives; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is part of a broader theme aiming to change the cultural conversation on drug use and treatment by increasing access to treatment, motivating drug dependent-persons to seek treatment, tearing down the stigma associated with recovery, and helping families and friends come to terms with the problems associated with addiction,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports President Bush's three-year "Access to Recovery" treatment initiative to help stem the rising social, cultural, physical, and economical costs of drug use in our communities.

FEED AMERICA THURSDAY

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Day celebrates the spirit of selfless giving and an appreciation for family and friends; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of Thanksgiving Day is a virtue upon which our nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, thirty-three million Americans, including thirteen million children, live in households without an adequate supply of food; and

WHEREAS, almost three million of these children experience hunger; and

WHEREAS, selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of Thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society; and

WHEREAS, its first year in 2002, Feed America Thursday was proclaimed in 62 number of cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, while Feed America Thursday cannot meet all of the demands of the hungry in America, it can – and has – served as an effective tool that encourages Americans to share their resources with those who are less fortunate and hungry; and

WHEREAS, Feed America Thursday can – and has – served as a catalyst to help food banks and community kitchens receive extra resources and commodities during the holiday season, a time of year when there is a greater demand for the food and vital services they provide; and

WHEREAS, Feed America Thursday, does not require any additional expenditures of limited public funds or divert any resources from ongoing programs, but instead encourages new contributions from those more fortunate to be shared with those in our nation who are hungry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors supports Thursday, one week before the traditional Thanksgiving as Feed America Thursday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors supports calling upon the people of this nation to sacrifice, or fast, for two meals on Thursday, one week before each traditional Thanksgiving and donate the money they would have spent on food to a charitable or religious organization of their choice for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

HEAD START

WHEREAS, the Head Start program has a long tradition of delivering comprehensive and high quality services designed to foster healthy development in low-income children; and

WHEREAS, Head Start grantee and delegate agencies provide a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health; nutrition; and parent involvement; and

WHEREAS, one third more at-risk children who attended a quality early childhood program graduated from high school than those who did not attend; and

WHEREAS, current Head Start funds are delivered directly to local grantees in thousands of communities across the country with more than 150 programs being managed and operated by local city or county governments; and

WHEREAS, the Head Start program is a comprehensive program that works to address the social, cognitive, and physical needs of children and the coordinated involvement of parents in the program so they are committed to their child's education; and

WHEREAS, Head Start targets the nation's poorest children, those living in families at or below the poverty line, as well as children with disabilities or other special needs; and

WHEREAS, the President is asking Congress to include in the reauthorization of the Head Start Act an option that would allow interested states to include Head Start as part of their preschool programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the concept of greater cooperation among Head Start and other early learning programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly opposes any attempt to dismantle or move Head Start to the states;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund the Head Start Program.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT PRE-CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lifted 4.7 million people, including 2.5 million children, above the poverty line—more than any other federal aid program; and

WHEREAS, currently, the value of the EITC credit is \$32 billion, to the benefit of 18.4 million hard working, low income families; and

WHEREAS, the EITC represents money earned by hard working, low income families and in no way represents a give-away; and

WHEREAS, the EITC provides enormous economic benefit to our communities because recipients spend their EITC dollars on goods and services within our communities; and

WHEREAS, beyond reducing poverty, the EITC promotes work, reduces income inequity and helps low income working families build assets; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has recently proposed a new “pre-certification” process in which many EITC applicants must be “pre-certified” before they can apply for an EITC benefit; and

WHEREAS, the extensive documentation required for this pre-certification may be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain within the proposed six month deadline and will inevitably deter many eligible families from even applying for the EITC benefit to which they are entitled under federal law; and

WHEREAS, the IRS appears to be targeting low income working families applying for the EITC benefit while not requiring pre-certification for tax shelters purchased by corporations or tax benefits claimed by higher income individuals; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) has introduced legislation, H. R. 1894, that prohibits the IRS from implementing, without explicit congressional authorization, new requirements for the EITC beyond that already permitted under the current law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes IRS initiatives to impose new, burdensome requirements on hard working, low income families applying for the EITC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports H. R. 1894 to prohibit new EITC requirements without proper congressional authorization.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), there are approximately 1.5 million people diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in the United States of America and approximately 60,000 new cases are diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease is a brain disorder that usually affects adults over forty, although it can appear in younger patients; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease – stiffness, tremor, slowness, poor movement, and difficulty with balance and speaking – are often mistaken as a normal part of the aging process; and

WHEREAS, the cause of this disease is unknown and anti-Parkinsonian drugs can only control some of the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease for a short period of time; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the economic costs of Parkinson's Disease are roughly \$25 billion a year in the United States in direct health costs and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, many of those with Parkinson's become incapacitated for many years and a similar number of family members are often diverted from the workforce as a result of their role as caregivers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts to increase awareness and understanding of Parkinson's Disease and to promote advocacy, education, quality of life and research to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease and other neurological conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges its members to support collaborative events throughout the year, with special emphasis on the month of April, which is the International Parkinson's Awareness month and includes a world-wide Parkinson's Awareness Week and Parkinson's Awareness Day.

SUPPORT FOR PHYSICIAN PRESCRIPTION OF STERILE SYRINGES TO INJECTION DRUG USERS

WHEREAS, one-third of all AIDS cases and a substantial portion of other blood-borne diseases (such as Hepatitis B and C) in the United States are linked to injection drug use; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Public Health Service recommends consistent, one-time use of sterile syringes obtained from reliable sources as a central risk reduction strategy for injection drug users who cannot or will not stop injecting; and

WHEREAS, injection drug users often share and reuse injection equipment because of legal and practical barriers they encounter in obtaining sterile equipment; and

WHEREAS, many injection drug users suffer from serious health problems (including drug overdoses, sexually transmitted diseases, liver disease, tuberculosis, abscesses, bacterial infections, and mental illness) but have few or no links to regular health care and social services due to the illicit nature of their drug use and the stigma attached to it; and

WHEREAS, physician prescription of sterile injection equipment offers a valuable option for injection drug users seeking to lower their risk of blood-borne disease transmission and has other important benefits including providing links to substance abuse treatment and other health care and social services; and

WHEREAS, a recent study indicated that physician prescription of injection equipment as a means of preventing disease transmission during drug use is clearly legal in 48 out of 52 jurisdictions (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) and in two other jurisdictions (Ohio and Oklahoma) physicians have a “reasonable claim to legality;” and

WHEREAS, it is also clearly legal for pharmacists to fill the prescriptions in 26 states (it is illegal only in Delaware, Kansas, Georgia, and Hawaii) and in 22 other jurisdictions pharmacists have a “reasonable claim to legality;” and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that physicians have broad discretion under the law to prescribe drugs and devices that they believe are medically beneficial to their patients, currently few physicians in the United States prescribe syringes to injection drug users; and

WHEREAS, several major medical and legal societies, including the American Medical Association, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the American Bar Association all support efforts to improve injection drug users access to sterile syringes, including physician prescription; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has adopted two resolutions in support of expanded access to syringes by injection drug users as a public health strategy to decrease the transmission of blood-borne diseases (1997 resolution in support of needle exchange and 2000 resolution in support of removal of legal barriers to access to sterile syringes by injection drug users),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the prescribing of injection equipment by physicians to patients who are addicted to injection drugs as a means of preventing the transmission of blood-borne diseases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prescription of injection equipment be done in conjunction with referrals to substance abuse treatment and other medical and social services.

EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has demonstrated its commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS pandemic through many domestic projects, including an ongoing grant program in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that has since 1985 distributed more than \$12.6 million in AIDS prevention grants; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has made fighting AIDS a priority of our nation's foreign policy; and

WHEREAS, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has killed at least 20 million of the more than 60 million people it has infected thus far, leaving 14 million orphans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, today, on the continent of Africa, nearly 30 million people have the AIDS virus – including three million children under the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, recent developments such as greatly simplified ARV treatment regimens and steep declines in the prices of advanced antiretroviral (ARV) drugs – from more than \$12,000 to under \$300 per year – have now made widespread therapy for HIV possible; and

WHEREAS, the number of people actually receiving ARV treatment remains horribly low despite these therapy advances; in Africa, where 29.4 million people are infected with HIV, and 4 million HIV-infected people have a sufficiently advanced stage of the disease to warrant ARV treatment, only 50,000 are receiving this medication; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2003, the President of the United States announced the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and asked the House and the Senate to enact legislation to implement this new initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief intends to prevent 7 million new infections, treat 2 million HIV-infected people, and care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief will focus a significant amount of these resources on the most afflicted countries in Africa and the Caribbean, including Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, which have among the highest incidence of HIV infection and account for nearly 20 million HIV-infected men, women and children – almost 70 percent of the total in all of Africa and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, the President signed the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003 into law on May 27, 2003 authorizing \$15 billion to fight AIDS abroad over the next five years, beginning with \$2 billion in 2004,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Bush Administration for its commitment to combat HIV/AIDS abroad and urges other donor nations, corporations, non-governmental organizations and individuals to follow the U.S. leadership by moving forward with the speed and seriousness this crisis requires to commit significant new financial resources to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and to the global fight against HIV/AIDS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the international mayors gathered here in Denver for this International Conference of Mayors to bring this resolution to the attention of their national governments and to seek their support for this effort.

**TAKE A LOVED ONE TO THE DOCTOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 16TH 2003**

WHEREAS, in the United States there exists a serious health gap between racial and ethnic minority populations and the general public; and

WHEREAS, eliminating health disparities is a top priority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders suffer from serious disparities in health status and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, heart disease and stroke, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, HIV/AIDS and lack of immunizations against disease are major areas in which health disparities occur; and

WHEREAS, prevention, early detection of disease, and prompt referral to quality health care are essential steps to reducing these and other health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Community knows that all individuals can make a difference not only in their own health but in the health of others, and that community norms regarding medical visits and care are important factors influencing the health of a community; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local communities working together with partners and volunteers to improve the health status of all Americans have proven to be essential to promoting healthy behavior; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has engaged in a national "Closing The Health Gap" campaign, co-founded with ABC Radio Networks, aimed at encouraging individuals to live healthier lives and to visit a health care professional; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has declared September 16, 2003 as "Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day" to focus attention on health care for those most in need,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors supports September 16, 2003, and the third Tuesday in September in future years, as "Take A Loved One to the Doctor Day," and encourages mayors to work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and ABC Radio Networks to promote Doctor Day activities in their communities.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG), continues to be the foundation upon which cities have revitalized their down towns, developed affordable housing, stabilized neighborhoods, and provided important public services for the past 28 years; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the CDBG program lies in its local determination of need and use, flexibility, and wide variety of eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, the formula appropriation for the CDBG program has continued to increase modestly, up to a high of \$4.341 billion in FY 2002; and

WHEREAS, the number of new “entitlement communities” still continues to rise at a greater percentage than the increase in the formula appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the reclassification of Metropolitan Statistical Areas as a result of the 2000 Census will further increase the number “entitlement communities” by at least eight percent in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of set-asides within the CDBG program has increased substantially in the past five years, from \$90 million to a high of \$659 million in FY 2002; and

WHEREAS, many of the programs funded through set-asides are already eligible within the program’s guidelines; and

WHEREAS, more than \$225 million in set-asides in FY 2000 is for projects unrelated and in many cases ineligible, to the basic CDBG program; and

WHEREAS, the increase in set-asides compounded with the increase in the number of eligible entitlement grantees has thereby led to a notable, yet unrecognized cut to the otherwise “increases” in its formula appropriation,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors acknowledges that to the extent that the programs represented in the CDBG set-asides should be funded separately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President, the Secretary of HUD, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to increase the formula appropriation in FY 2004 to \$5.5 billion to accommodate the increase in eligible entitlement communities.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

SUPPORTING THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, according to HUD, over 5 million renter households have severe housing needs. These households contain renters with incomes below 50 percent of area median income who pay more than half of their income for rent or live in severely substandard housing; and

WHEREAS, progress in assisting these households is diminished by the substantial shortage of affordable housing. Between 1997 and 1999, the number of units with rents affordable to households with incomes below 50 percent of area median income dropped by 1.1 million, a loss of 7 percent; and

WHEREAS, one answer to this crisis is to produce more affordable housing using effective federal housing programs such as the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program; and

WHEREAS, housing is at the core of strong communities; promoting neighborhood stability, improved educational opportunity, employment stability, and building assets for families; and

WHEREAS, the HOME program provides direct formula grants to jurisdictions to fund a wide-range of affordable housing activities. HOME's flexibility allows communities to use the program funds in combination with other Federal, State, and local funds. Since 1992, the program has expanded the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing, strengthened public-private partnerships in developing affordable housing, and improved the lives of low-income people and their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the majority of HOME funds have been committed to housing that will be occupied by very low-income people and a substantial amount will assist families with incomes no greater than 30 percent of median income; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, HOME has helped to develop or rehabilitate over 718,000 affordable housing units for low- and very low-income families; and

WHEREAS, HOME funds also helps low- and moderate-income families realize the dream of homeownership by providing for the construction and rehabilitation of housing as well as providing the down payment and or closing cost assistance. Since, 1992 HOME funds have been committed to 140,700 homeowner units, with an additional 270,258 households receiving homebuyer assistance; and

WHEREAS, HOME is cost effective and provides the gap financing necessary to attract private loans and investments to projects. For each HOME dollar, \$2.92 of private and other funds has been leveraged since the program's inception; and

WHEREAS, we greatly appreciate the increased \$111 million in formula funding for the program in FY 2003. However, with the 2000 Census data, approximately 20 new participating jurisdictions will become eligible to receive HOME funds in FY 2004, thereby, eroding this increase,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference Mayors supports increased funding for the HOME program formula to at least \$2.25 billion in FY 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports additional funding within the HOME program for increased housing production to meet the nation's affordable housing shortage.

HOMEOWNERSHIP TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, the economic boom of the 1990s resulted in more American's buying homes than at any other time in the nation's history, pushing the homeownership rate to an all time high of 67.8% in 2002; and

WHEREAS, homeownership gives families a stake in their communities and increases the stability and vitality of neighborhoods

WHEREAS, despite this growth homeownership for lower income families, particularly minorities, lags well below the national average, at 48% for African-Americans and 47.6% for Hispanic-Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has proposed, and legislation has been introduced H.R. 839 and S. 198, to establish a tax credit program to encourage the new construction or substantial rehabilitation of homes for low-income families in economically distressed urban communities modeled after the very successful Low-Income Housing Tax Credit ; and

WHEREAS, the tax credit would bridge the gap between the cost of development and the price at which it could be sold in distressed neighborhoods, thereby serving to help revitalize these neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual impact of the homeownership tax credit would be:

- 50,000 homes built or rehabilitated
- \$2 billion of private equity investment generated
- \$6 billion of total development activity
- 122,000 construction jobs in construction and construction related industries
- \$4 billion in wages
- \$2 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues and fees,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors hereby supports the proposed investor-based single family homeownership tax credit that would encourage the development of affordable single-family housing, help revitalize distressed neighborhoods, and increase homeownership by lower income families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors also supports creation of a federal first-time home buyers tax credit that will provide one-time financial assistance to low and moderate income families to help pay for downpayments and closing costs for the purchase of a home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass legislation creating a single family homeownership tax credit during this session of the 108th Congress.

MAYORS IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S SMALL BUSINESS PLAN

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors care deeply about the economic vitality of their communities; and are vested in the promotion and adoption of policies that will strengthen the same; and

WHEREAS, more than 99.7 percent of all employers are small business, whose contributions represent the backbone of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, 3/4 of the net new jobs are created by small business, and that economic growth and the prosperity of cities and towns depends on people finding and keeping quality employment; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush remains committed to implementing his Small Business Plan that will provide job growth and will bring the country into a position of greater economic strength through:

- Reforms to tax policy that will allow for small employers to expense capital purchases and will allow for small business owners to invest more of their earnings in health care and promotional opportunities for their employees; and
- Providing small businesses with more legitimate and open access to government contracts; and
- Removing regulatory barriers that stymie small business growth and job creation; and
- Allowing small business greater access to affordable health care through market-based reform; and
- Simplifying government web-based information designed to help small employers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the President's Small Business Plan and will continue to work with the President and his Cabinet and Administration Officials to implement policies that will allow for job opportunities for citizens who want to find work and to create an environment in which entrepreneurship can flourish.

TENANT-BASED SECTION 8 BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the tenant-based Section 8 program, administered successfully by local public housing authorities (PHAs) and other entities, provides housing vouchers to 1.8 million low-income families to assist them in securing rental housing in the private market; and

WHEREAS, local administration of the program is critical to its success, as the program depends on the ability to adjust quickly to changes in the local housing market and build relationships with private landlords; and

WHEREAS, HUD's budget proposal for fiscal year 2004 calls for block-granting the Section 8 program to the states and does not provide sufficient monies to renew all existing housing vouchers; and

WHEREAS, Congress is considering S. 947 and H.R. 1841 that would implement the Administration's proposal to block grant Section 8 funds to the states beginning in fiscal year 2005; and

WHEREAS, if enacted, these proposals would impede the effectiveness of the Section 8 program, reduce necessary funding over time, add additional administrative barriers and costs, and likely result in a reduction of families served by Section 8,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to defeat S. 947 and H.R. 1841 and provide sufficient funds for the Section 8 program in fiscal year 2004 to ensure the renewal of all existing vouchers.

REAUTHORIZATION AND FULL FUNDING FOR HOPE VI PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Since 1992, HUD's HOPE VI program has provided over \$ 4.5 billion to cities across the country to revitalize severely distressed public housing sites and surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, under the successful administration of local public housing authorities, the HOPE VI program has leveraged billions of dollars in private investment in distressed communities, set forth the revitalization of thousands of units of public and affordable housing, provided homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income residents, created jobs for people who have not had access to economic opportunity, and provided job training and social services for public housing residents; and

WHEREAS, the HOPE VI program has brought together important community partners, including businesses, representatives from governments, philanthropic institutions, lenders, non-profits, faith-based institutions, and residents, to formulate and implement a plan for comprehensive revitalization in their communities; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2002, HUD was able to only fund less than half of the HOPE VI applications it received, demonstrating a strong, on-going need for continued funding for the program; and

WHEREAS, according to current law, the HOPE VI program is scheduled to end after fiscal year 2004; and

WHEREAS, HUD's proposed budget for fiscal year 2004 does not include funding for this important program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the termination of this highly successful program after fiscal year 2004, and calls upon Congress to (1) appropriate at least \$ 625 million for HOPE VI in fiscal year 2004; and (2) take other appropriate legislative action to ensure that the HOPE VI program is continued at least through fiscal year 2008.

FULL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL AND OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, almost 3 million low-income Americans live in public housing that is operated by 3,200 local public housing authorities (PHAs); and

WHEREAS, public housing provides a critical affordable housing resource in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2002, a \$ 250 million shortfall in the Public Housing Operating Fund account led to a serious financial crisis in almost one quarter of the nation's PHAs that could have resulted in these agencies shutting down at the end of March, 2003; and

WHEREAS, in order to avert financial ruin for these agencies, Congress allowed HUD to use funds appropriated in fiscal year 2003 to make up for the shortfall, resulting all PHAs being underfunded by at least 10% in fiscal year 2003; and

WHEREAS, PHAs across the country have been deferring needed maintenance, reducing staff and resident services because of this funding shortage; and

WHEREAS, Congress, HUD, and independent expert of acknowledged that the public housing stock needs over \$ 20 billion in capital improvements to bring it up to modern standards; and

WHEREAS, HUD's proposed budget for fiscal year 2004 (1) does not provide sufficient operating funds to make-up for the current shortfall or provide adequate resources for next year; and (2) does not seek any Capital Fund monies to address the backlog modernization needs in public housing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports full funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund and Capital Fund to ensure the preservation of this important affordable housing resource and, as part of the fiscal year 2004 HUD appropriations, calls on Congress to provide \$ 4.1 billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund and \$ 3.5 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund.

ENDORSING 10 YEAR PLANNING PROCESS TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, the Bush Administration has called for a 10 year Initiative to End Chronic Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, chronically homeless individuals and families, those with the most persistent forms of homelessness, are afflicted not only by poverty but also by chronic conditions such as mental illness and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, many of these individuals and families cycle repeatedly through our local shelters, hospital emergency rooms, psychiatric wards, detox programs, and even criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, there exists new research findings, housing programs and discharge planning models that demonstrate that ending chronic homelessness is within the nation's grasp; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of response to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the abolition of chronic homelessness requires collaboration and coordination of resources at all levels of government, together with community institutions, businesses, and faith-based organizations, to best determine how to implement prevention and intervention strategies; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is coordinating policies and resources to assist the efforts to end chronic homelessness through the Interagency Council on Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, a number of major cities across the country, including Chicago, Atlanta, Indianapolis and Phoenix, have already created and committed to 10 year plans to end chronic homelessness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will, in partnership with the Federal government, work to meet the challenge of the Bush Administration's goal of having 100 ten-year city plans to end chronic homelessness in place by January 2004; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work with the Interagency Council on Homelessness to ensure policies and resources support the elimination of chronic homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the 10-year planning process and strongly encourages cities to create and implement performance based, results oriented strategic plans to end chronic homelessness in 10 years.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

**PROPOSED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STRONG HOUSING
AND REAL ESTATE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, safe, decent, and affordable housing is at the core of sound and stable communities; and

WHEREAS, housing needs in our communities have reached an all-time high, and working men, women, and families face limited housing choices, often with the cost of housing beyond their reach; and

WHEREAS, homeownership is most American families' primary means of building economic wealth through accumulated equity and the benefits of tax savings from mortgage interest rate deductions; and

WHEREAS, over the current decade, communities will need six trillion dollars in additional mortgage money, including the needs of an estimated 15 million first-time home buyers; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2002, President George W. Bush focused national attention on the need for increased homeownership, especially among minority families which will account for approximately 65 percent of new household growth in each of the first two decades of the new century; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are directly impacted by housing concerns and recognize the importance of the private sector in making affordable housing more accessible to families living in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors work with the housing finance industry to ensure the continued vitality and stability of our communities by promoting fair and responsible lending practices that place America's families in homes they can afford to keep; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize the importance of bringing together public, nonprofit and private sectors to tackle the housing challenges facing communities throughout the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued partnership of America's Mayors with real estate professionals, home builders, lenders, non-profits and the government sponsored enterprises to tackle the affordable housing challenges facing our nation by:

- Leveraging tools, resources and expertise of the private housing sector with that of local governments' to alleviate the affordable housing shortage in our communities,

- Urging the housing finance industry to work with communities and their citizens to support homeownership education and outreach, credit counseling programs, and traditional and bilingual financial literacy programs,
- Urging Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae to continue to provide innovative products and services such as employer-assisted housing programs, low down-payment and flexible loan products to support homeownership for working families,
- Working with mortgage lenders, through the Mortgage Bankers Association of America and others, to develop new models and approaches for increasing minority homeownership, promoting financial literacy and creditworthiness, and simplifying the process for buying a home for the consumer,
- Working with real estate professionals through the National Association of Realtors, builders and financial institutions to promote more affordable housing efforts in our nation's communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors and its Council for Investment in the New American City work to protect and enhance the current housing finance system's ability to efficiently serve the housing finance needs of our nation, and support the housing finance industry and government sponsored enterprises in their efforts to provide reliable, low-cost source of financing for America's homeowners and renters.

PREEMPTION OF STATE AND LOCAL ANTI-PREDATORY LAWS

WHEREAS, incidences of predatory lending are on the rise in communities all across America; and

WHEREAS, predatory lending often results in foreclosures causing neighborhood blight and community destabilizing; and

WHEREAS, predatory lenders target society's most vulnerable populations such as the elderly, low income individuals, and minorities; and

WHEREAS, predatory lenders, charge more in interest and fees than is required to cover the added risk of lending to borrowers with credit imperfections; make loans with abusive terms and conditions that trap borrowers and lead to increased indebtedness; and do not take into account borrowers abilities to repay the loans; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments have passed strong anti-predatory lending laws to protect consumers from predatory lenders; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress that would establish a weaker Federal standard and would preempt all state and local anti-predatory laws; and

WHEREAS, other legislation has been or will be introduced that would establish a stronger federal standard, and would not pre-empt state and local laws,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes the enactment of any federal legislation which would pre-empt state and local anti-predatory lending laws. The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports enactment of legislation creating an effective national standard, while leaving in place stronger state and local laws on predatory lending.

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING U.S. SENATORS CHRISTOPHER “KIT” BOND AND
BARBARA MIKULSKI, THE CHILDREN’S HEALTH FORUM AND OTHERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR \$50 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR LEAD-SAFE CITIES**

WHEREAS, The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) identify childhood lead poisoning as one of the most common and preventable health problems facing young children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, With the support of the CDC and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”), collaborative programs have reduced the baseline blood lead levels in children under six to an average of 2.7 : g/dL, from a high of 15 : g/dL in the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS, In January, the CDC released a study that shows the number of children under six with elevated blood lead levels has dropped nationwide since the early 1990s from an estimated 890,000 to an estimated 434,000, a reduction from 4.4% to 2.2% of children nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and HUD recognize intact lead paint poses little immediate risk to occupants of residential housing but estimate that 3.8 million families with young children live in housing with deteriorating, flaking lead paint and/or excessive lead dust; and

WHEREAS, The President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children reported in 2000 that more than 80% of the interior lead paint that still exists today was applied before 1940, that less than 4% of the existing lead-based paint was applied after 1960, and the Federal Government banned the use of lead-based paint for residential use in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Most of the children who have elevated blood lead levels or are at high-risk for lead poisoning live in poverty and in older, deteriorating housing and are the most difficult to reach for prevention and follow-up; and

WHEREAS, Model cities such as: Baltimore, Minneapolis and Boston have dramatically reduced the numbers of children who are lead poisoned through vigorous programs of testing children, remediating housing units, and enforcing of city and state laws concerning property owners’ duties to maintain lead-safe housing; and

WHEREAS, Former Executive Director of the NAACP and current Co-Chair of the Children’s Health Forum, Dr. Benjamin Hooks has been traveling throughout the country speaking on ways to effectively make our cities and towns lead-safe; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooks has teamed up with former HUD Secretary Jack Kemp to Co-Chair the Children's Health Forum and to ask Congress and the Administration to fund, at a level of \$50 million, a new lead hazard control grant program at HUD; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hooks and Secretary Kemp, asked for and received support in their efforts from concerned non-profits such as the Children's Defense Fund, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Congress for Community Economic Development, and corporate citizens such as DuPont,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the US Conference of Mayors:

- Commends Senators Christopher "Kit" Bond and Barbara Mikulski in their tireless work with the Children's Health Forum and others in the non-profit and private sector in succeeding in appropriating to HUD an additional \$50 million for an entirely new program for American cities to eradicate childhood lead poisoning by 2010;
- Calls on HUD to quickly award the HUD monies before the end of the summer;
- Calls on all concerned members of the USCM to implement proactive, results-orientated strategies that include public-private partnerships in pursuit of making their cities lead-safe by the year 2010;
- Calls on Congress to continue to significantly increase federal funding for lead hazard remediation in privately-owned, low-income housing, through the HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant Program or otherwise, to at least \$250 million per year;
- Urges government officials to vigorously enforce lead-related federal, state, and local laws, including those requiring property owners to inform occupants about the risks of lead hazards, to abate any lead hazards in their properties, and to prevent any such hazards from arising in the future; and
- Encourages cities, non-profits, and interested businesses to creatively engage in public-private partnerships to implement best practices to advance the elimination of lead hazards and the eradication of lead poisoning.

**REFORMING THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION AND
LIHTC TO ADVANCE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NEIGHBORHOODS**

WHEREAS, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), through its multi-family and single family insurance programs has historically provided affordable housing opportunities for the nation's homeowners and renters; and

WHEREAS, during FY 2002, FHA insured 1,287,375 loans, and in any given year, FHA insured mortgages make up approximately 15-20 % of the national mortgage market; and

WHEREAS, FHA and the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) have made homeownership possible for almost 30 million families and affordable rental housing available to another 4.1 million; and

WHEREAS, many cities have been unable to use FHA multifamily insurance programs because the high cost of housing in their area makes them ineligible; and

WHEREAS, FHA multi-family insurance programs have been hindered by the lack of modern administrative procedures resulting in significant delays of approvals; and

WHEREAS, FHA insurance programs often require administrative costs and delays that prohibit developers from expanding homeownership opportunities among low-income families, first time homebuyers and minorities and stimulating multifamily housing production; and

WHEREAS, FHA procedures often inhibit the application of their insurance programs to smaller neighborhood housing renovation and rehabilitation program, placing them in a competitive disadvantage to larger projects and thereby denying these neighborhoods the benefits of creating affordable housing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, FHA insurance programs are a powerful tool in attracting private investment in the nation's affordable housing stock; and

WHEREAS, HOPE VI and mixed financial proposals are being stymied by the lack of sufficient Low Income Housing Tax Credit allocations necessary to accomplish their financing,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass legislation that would provide FHA greater flexibility to develop new products and programs to expand homeownership opportunities in underserved areas and spur the production and preservation of affordable rental housing in neighborhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on HUD to preserve the 203(k) program to rehabilitate and renovate properties with 1-4 family units; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FHA reform the Multifamily Accelerated Procedures (MAP) program to streamline and simplify the approval process for smaller neighborhood multifamily rehabilitation and new construction projects that currently are placed at a competitive disadvantage to larger projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FHA increase its current multifamily limits in high cost areas to facilitate the construction and rehabilitation of rental properties in those areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on HUD to work with the Department of Treasury to increase the authority of LIHTC, above and beyond current levels, to finance HOPE VI and/or mixed finance projects which provide replacement units for public housing projects that have been demolished.

NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, affordable, healthy housing is at the core of strong communities; and

WHEREAS, despite experiencing the greatest economic expansion in history, housing needs have reached an all-time high; and

WHEREAS, working men and women and families in our cities are having a difficult time finding affordable housing and 7.2 million of the lowest income working families pay more than half of their income for housing; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, new federal spending on housing has decreased substantially; and

WHEREAS, housing represents 20 percent of our national economy, is an economic stimulus and creates jobs; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing must be a national priority; and

WHEREAS, nearly 200 housing trust funds have been created nationally, which serve as models for what can and should be done at the national level; and

WHEREAS, a national housing trust fund should be established to construct, rehabilitate and preserve housing; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives (HR 1102) to create a national housing trust fund; and

WHEREAS, local governments have played a significant role in the development of affordable housing and that role is recognized and supported by the proposed national housing trust fund,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the creation of a national housing trust fund and urges the passage of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act (HR 1102).

THE BRINGING AMERICA HOME ACT

WHEREAS 3.5 million people, 39% of them children, currently experience homelessness every year, with families among the fastest-growing sectors of the population; and

WHEREAS the Bringing America Home Act, currently pending in the 108th Congress, is designed to end homelessness in the United States and includes housing, health, income and civil rights components; and

WHEREAS the proposed legislation represents the most comprehensive initiative to date to address modern homelessness and is based on research, data, and the experience of front line providers and advocates; and

WHEREAS the housing title of the bill increases funding for crucial programs to ensure access to and creation of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS the health title of the bill increases funding for crucial programs and includes a *Sense of Congress* supporting the enactment of legislation to guarantee that every person in the United States, including the over 42 million Americans without health insurance, has access to comprehensive, quality, affordable health care; and

WHEREAS, the income title of the bill includes a *Sense of Congress* supporting a Universal Living Wage and livable incomes, Temporary Worker Fairness and Protection, Development of a Self-Sufficiency Standard, and the establishment of a 'Homebuild' Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the passage of the Bringing America Home Act of 2003, currently pending in the 108th Congress, and its goals of ending homelessness.

CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

DIRECT LOCAL FIRST RESPONDER ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, America's mayors are 100 percent committed to the homeland war against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, cities throughout the nation have already dedicated unprecedented, and mostly unbudgeted, resources to the new war on terrorism as detailed in a survey released by the Conference of Mayors which estimated that from September 11, 2001 through the end of 2002, cities spent an additional \$2.6 billion on new homeland security priorities including equipment, overtime and training; and

WHEREAS, during the recent state of high threat alert, and the war in Iraq, a Conference survey estimated that cities across the nation spent over \$70 million per week in additional security costs; and

WHEREAS, as part of the fiscal year 2003 supplemental funding bill, \$2.34 billion was included for first responder assistance including: \$1.5 billion in state block grants (80 percent for local governments); \$700 million for high threat areas as determined by the Department of Homeland Security; \$200 million for state critical infrastructure protection grants (50 percent local); and \$109 million for communications interoperability; and

WHEREAS, despite a major lobbying effort by the nation's mayors - in partnership with local first responders including police chiefs, fire chiefs, police officers and fire officers - the supplemental did not include direct formula assistance to the nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's FY 2004 budget includes a request for \$3.5 billion in additional first responders assistance, with no provision for direct formula funding,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation creating a new first responder funding program with direct local assistance and maximum flexibility to cover costs such as equipment, training, exercises, planning and overtime related to homeland security.

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, following extensive engagement by mayors and police chiefs, the United States Congress passed the Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Act, which became law on October 1, 1994 and created the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); and

WHEREAS, COPS has made 35,500 grants to nearly 13,000 law enforcement agencies representing a \$9.6 billion taxpayer investment in public safety; and

WHEREAS, COPS grants have been used to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 116,000 additional officers including over 6,000 School Resource Officers, expand and enhance crime-fighting technology, support crime prevention, and advance community policing; and

WHEREAS, COPS has trained over 209,000 law enforcement personnel, local government leaders, and community members in various community policing strategies, produced over 500 publications and resource materials for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, state and local law enforcement agencies have used \$223.5 million in COPS funding to combat the proliferation of methamphetamine by hiring personnel, purchasing equipment, cleaning-up labs, and obtaining critical training in meth-related interdiction tactics, investigation, and prosecution; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office awarded over \$20 million to enhance school safety including terrorism prevention training for School Resource Officers within weeks after the President signed the Fiscal Year 2003 appropriations bill; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office enjoys a unique relationship with state and local law enforcement and does a superb job of providing vital funding, quickly and efficiently, to local communities, and is cited by mayors and police chiefs as a model federal agency; and

WHEREAS, a University of Nebraska study, the most comprehensive look ever at the impact of police presence on crime rates, found that COPS funding is directly linked to the drop in crime since 1995, preventing tens of thousands of violent crimes and hundreds of thousands of property crimes; and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent on crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains are maintained and that crime rates are further reduced, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, and in light of the return of over 600,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities annually--many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, after the tragic events of September 11, cities across America used COPS funded technology and training to improve data and intelligence collection and processing, advance communication and coordination between public safety agencies, reduce community fear by delivering timely information, and increase law enforcement's capacity to prevent and respond to terrorist activity; and

WHEREAS, community policing and the COPS Office can and should play an important role in efforts to enhance homeland security; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2003, Congress approved \$60 million for COPS overtime grants, which has been a long-time priority of the Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2004 budget proposes to cut the COPS program by 77 percent, thereby eliminating funding for hiring programs such as the Universal Hiring Program, COPS MORE, School Resource Officers, and overtime assistance,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the COPS program must be fully maintained in FY 2004 and beyond through the appropriations process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation to reauthorize the COPS program with increased flexibility. The new program should provide resources in areas including general hiring, school resource officers, officer re-deployments, officer retention, overtime, and technology.

THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT

WHEREAS, in 1996 Congress began providing flexible funding directly to local governments through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) and cities have effectively used these block grant funds for prevention, increased police presence, and technology and equipment, among other activities; and

WHEREAS, many cities have used the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant very effectively in tandem with the COPS program to expand community policing efforts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has done a superb job in effectively and efficiently administering the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, the nation must remain diligent on crime prevention and control efforts to ensure that past gains are maintained and that crime rates are further reduced, especially as they relate to youth violence and crime, new and evolving drug-related crime concerns, a rise in gang violence, and in light of the return of over 600,000 ex-offenders from prisons and jails back into local communities each year -- many of whom will have not received needed drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, the LLEBG is one of the few federal-local partnership programs which allows for overtime assistance, which has become even more important as cities respond to the new homeland war against terrorism post September 11; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2002, the LLEBG was cut by more than 23 percent, from \$523 million to \$400 million; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's Fiscal Year 2004 budget proposes to eliminate the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant by merging it with the state-based Byrne Formula Grant program, with overall funding for the new Justice Assistance Grant program cut by more than 40 percent,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors registers its strong support for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and urges that it not be merged with the state-based Byrne Grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant should be funded at a minimum amount of \$523 million in Fiscal Year 2004, which reflects funding levels prior to the 23 percent cut in FY 2002.

**ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN/
LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION CLIP IMPORTATION BAN**

WHEREAS, gun manufacturers have for many years made, marketed and sold to civilians slightly modified versions of military assault weapons designed with features specifically intended to increase lethality for military applications; and

WHEREAS, the availability of these military assault weapons has enabled violent criminals to commit countless devastating crimes including schoolyard massacres, bank robberies, serial sniper attacks, police ambushes and innumerable others that threaten the peace of our communities and the safety and security of our citizens and our law enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 1994, recognizing the grave threat to public safety posed by the continued availability to civilians of military assault weapons, banned the manufacture and sale of military assault weapons; and

WHEREAS, the ban does not cover firearms designed for hunting or other legitimate sporting uses; and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the Congress in 1994 to remove from the civilian marketplace both specific military assault weapons and similar firearms with features particularly suited to military applications; and

WHEREAS, since 1994 many gun manufacturers have ignored the spirit of the law, exploiting several loopholes by making small modifications to banned guns while retaining the key military features that defined those guns as assault weapons; and

WHEREAS, the federal ban on military assault weapons, which was enacted on September 13, 1994, contained a sunset provision providing for the automatic repeal of the ban ten years following that date, or September 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the sunset date is fast approaching while gun violence, which experienced a brief decline in recent years, is once again on the rise; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the 1994 assault weapons ban, domestic manufacturers are prohibited from manufacturing or selling new high capacity clips (except for a limited number of clips for police, military, and nuclear plant protection use); and

WHEREAS, the 1994 high capacity clip ban did not apply to foreign magazines, and between September of 1994 and December of 2000, 47.3 million large clips were approved for importation for civilian use, from 50 different countries,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress and the Administration to renew the federal ban on military assault weapons and to close loopholes that have allowed gun manufacturers to continue to design, manufacture, market and sell to civilians military assault weapons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that assault weapon ban reauthorization contain a large capacity ammunition clip import ban consistent with the domestic ban on large ammunition magazines.

NATIONAL BALLISTICS IMAGING AND IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies already have the ability to trace crime guns to original purchasers when they are recovered following the commission of a crime - working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) National Tracing Center; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies do not have this same ability when only a bullet or cartridge is recovered from a crime scene; and

WHEREAS, through its National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), the ATF deploys the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) to state and local law enforcement for their use in imaging and comparing crime gun evidence, and this technology has been proven effective and has been funded by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the current NIBIN system allows police to match crime scene ballistics evidence with other crime scene ballistics evidence or collected crime guns, but does not allow police to link the ballistics evidence directly to the purchaser of the firearm unless the gun itself is recovered; and

WHEREAS, a national database similar to NIBIN but containing ballistic images of bullets and shell casings fired from new guns, prior to sale, would allow gun crime investigators to link ballistics evidence recovered at crime scenes directly to the purchaser of the firearm that produced the evidence; and

WHEREAS, bi-partisan legislation has been introduced in Congress to create a national ballistics imaging and identification system; and

WHEREAS, this system would not require gun registration, in that ATF would not hold in its system the name of any gun purchaser, but rather would only trace a gun to the purchaser if it is used in a crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly believes that a national ballistics imaging and identification system would be a significant law enforcement tool in the ongoing fight against crime, and urges its enactment by Congress and the Administration.

LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR GUN MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

WHEREAS, Congress is considering legislation (HR 1036/S 659), the "Protection in Lawful Commerce in Arms Act", to shield those irresponsible elements of the firearms industry who create unreasonable threats to public safety from common law liability that state courts have applied to both the firearms industry and all other industries that market potentially hazardous instrumentalities; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows that there are a small proportion of "underworld" dealers where criminals go to buy guns. According to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), about 1 percent of dealers are responsible for about 58 percent of all guns used in crime. Undercover investigations performed throughout the country confirm that many of these dealers willingly sell firearms even when the purchasers make plain that they are gunrunners seeking firearms for drug dealers, criminal street gangs, or other unlawful purposes; and

WHEREAS, gun manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, except for Smith & Wesson, have refused to set any standards for responsible sales practices and they have continued to supply these "underworld" dealers; and

WHEREAS, litigation against underworld firearms dealers and their suppliers is a particularly valuable method of reducing the supply of firearms to criminals because such litigation targets only those who are proven to have irresponsibly supplied firearms to criminals or to the underworld dealers that supply them; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would give "underworld" dealers and their suppliers legal protection from lawsuits by providing unprecedented special immunity to the firearms industry that is not provided to manufacturers or suppliers of other products; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would not only prospectively ban lawsuits against negligent actions by certain gun manufacturers, it would also invalidate the pending lawsuits of 40 municipalities and numerous victims of negligent gun manufacturers that are currently in the judicial process; and

WHEREAS, while advocates of this legislation claim that it is needed to free the firearms industry from "frivolous" litigation, the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Appellate Courts of Illinois and New Jersey, and trial courts in a variety of other jurisdictions have ruled that the lawsuits this legislation would preempt in fact have merit, and raise important questions about the actions of the particular firearms manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers that have been sued in those cases,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Conference of Mayors opposes, and urges Congress not to enact, HR 1036/S 659, the "Protection in Lawful Commerce in Arms Act."

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

WHEREAS, National Night Out is the nation's largest grassroots community crime-prevention effort, involving 33.2 million people in 9,859 communities in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, National Night Out establishes police/community partnerships and community watch initiatives through its annual event and year round programs; and

WHEREAS, National Night Out is a valuable and effective community crime prevention program supported by many mayors and local officials, local law enforcement, citizens, businesses, the U.S. Department of Justice and Presidents and Members of Congress of both parties for two decades; and

WHEREAS, National Night Out, organized and run by the National Association of Town Watch, directly addresses community crime, safety, and security problems, helping mayors and local law enforcement officials to meet these challenges; and

WHEREAS, the fight against neighborhood crime and terrorism requires the cooperation of community residents, neighborhood crime watch organizations, schools, community policing groups, law enforcement officers, and mayors and other local officials; and

WHEREAS, community crime watch organizations are effective in promoting awareness about, and the participation of volunteers in, crime prevention activities at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the vigilance of community crime watch organizations creates safer communities and discourages criminals from operating in communities monitored by those organizations; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood and community crime watch programs play an integral role in combating domestic terrorism by increasing vigilance and awareness and encouraging citizen participation in community safety and homeland security; and

WHEREAS, National Night Out efforts to create and support local community watch programs have proven to be effective in providing local law enforcement with crime tips that lead to arrests; and

WHEREAS, federal support for National Night Out increases the number of community watch groups nationwide, supports crime prevention services to existing community watch programs, and is a catalyst for private sector support of community crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, National Night Out will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on Tuesday, August 5, 2003 when citizens, mayors and local officials, local law enforcement, business people, and others will celebrate

“America’s Night Out Against Crime” and participate in events to support community crime prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, National Night Out is supporting the National Child Identification Program, a joint partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the American Football Coaches Association, to provide identification kits to parents to help locate missing children,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports National Night Out and urges the U.S. Congress to fully support the program to provide essential crime prevention support and services to cities, towns and local communities.

**A RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT BUSH TO RESCIND THE IMMIGRATION
POLICIES AGAINST HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS AND CALLING FOR THE EQUAL
TREATMENT OF ALL IMMIGRANTS**

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County, Florida is home to a vibrant and involved immigrant community; and

WHEREAS, the people who reside in Miami-Dade County are concerned about their own welfare and the welfare and safety of immigrants in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the county and the cities are governed by legislative bodies which include immigrants; and

WHEREAS, a newly-enacted Department of Justice policy provides for disparate treatment of Haitian immigrants; and

WHEREAS, various Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) policies grant credible fear interviews and parole individuals into the community once they touch land, while Haitian migrants are incarcerated indefinitely and hence denied due process; and

WHEREAS, this newly-created Department of Justice policy appears to be unfair, discriminatory and inhumane; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon President Bush and his Administration to issue the necessary directives providing for equal treatment and due process for all immigrants, including Haitian nationals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon President Bush to issue the necessary directives providing for due process for all immigrants and directing the Justice Department to eliminate the word “indefinitely” from the Haitian asylum policy.

EDUCATION

FULL FUNDING OF THE *NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT*

WHEREAS, the President George W. Bush stated that the *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)*, the framework for bipartisan education reform, is “the cornerstone of my Administration” and has emphasized his deep belief in our public schools, but has an ever greater concern that “too many of our neediest children are being left behind;” and

WHEREAS, *NCLB* includes such principles and strategies as increased accountability for states, school districts, and schools; greater choice for parents and students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds who attend low-performing schools; more flexibility for states and school districts in the use of federal education dollars; and a stronger emphasis on teaching methods grounded in scientifically based research, especially in teaching our children to read; and

WHEREAS, President Bush promised to provide more resources for education in exchange for stronger accountability for results on condition that federal funds be used to support proven educational methods; and

WHEREAS, federal education funds and programs must be used as an investment in sound practices that will leverage educational change at the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the President has committed his continuing support for the education programs that will meet economically disadvantaged student needs at the K-12 level and beyond; and

WHEREAS, *NCLB* takes positive steps toward maximizing student achievement and reducing achievement gaps, and the law acknowledges the fundamental link between funding and quality; and

WHEREAS, the President’s *NCLB* budget requests in fiscal year 2004 cuts \$1.2 billion from the funding levels just approved by Congress and signed by President Bush in February for fiscal year 2003; and

WHEREAS, several titles in the *NCLB* legislation have authorization levels significantly higher than the amounts requested by the President in his fiscal year 2004 education budget including \$6 billion less in Title I which means 1/3 of the eligible children will not be served; \$225 million less for improving teacher quality jeopardizing an ability to train, hire and retain highly qualified teachers; and \$1.1 billion less for after school including a \$400 million cut from the current appropriation that eliminates services for a half million children; and

WHEREAS, meeting several of the legislative requirements of the Act increases the cost of education for states and local education systems at a time when fiscal resources are very tight, but the requirements must be met to continue to receive federal education funds; and

WHEREAS, there are a growing number of students attending the nation's public schools which reached 47.6 million students, an increase of approximately 200,000 this year, and enrollments are projected to continue to increase until 2005 then stabilize until 2010 before the rise is expected to continue for many years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to further increase its investment in elementary and secondary education and the programs authorized by the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and wherever possible that states further assist in funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for the full funding of the *No Child Left Behind Act* by the Congress of the United States so we meet the nation's obligation to all students that no child is left behind.

**EXPANDING THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT IN AFTER-SCHOOL
AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, ensuring access to high quality after-school and out-of-school programming for school-aged youth and their families continues to be an increasing priority at the local, state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, after-school programming promotes cognitive learning, enhances physical, social, emotional and moral development of youth, and provides support for working families; and

WHEREAS, affordable, accessible, and high quality after-school and out-of-school programming is essential for all families; and

WHEREAS, a public consensus continues to emerge about the importance and need to share the responsibility for providing safe, enriching and engaging programs for youth during out-of-school hours; and

WHEREAS, the risk of youth becoming victims of or participating in a violent crime(s) triples in the hours following the school day; and

WHEREAS, youth who are unsupervised are at greater risk of truancy, pregnancy, abusing alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, receiving poor grades, and experiencing mental depression; and

WHEREAS, children who attend high quality after-school and out-of-school programs experience greater academic success, develop stronger peer relations, have better emotional adjustment and conflict resolution skills, and have better conduct in school compared to peers not in after-school programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government, along with state and local governments, to increase investment in community-based after-school and out-of-school programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to restore the funding of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers to at least the Fiscal Year 2003 level of \$1 billion, and preferably increase the level of funding to \$1.75 billion as authorized in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2000*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors across the country to participate and work with community-based organizations to prepare events for the After School Alliance's *Lights on Afterschool!*

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

URGENT NEED FOR CHANGES IN AMERICA'S MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, in urban school districts, one-third to one-half of all teachers do not have an undergraduate major or minor degree in their primary instructional field; and

WHEREAS, 20 percent of all new teachers leave the field within three years and approximately 50 percent leave urban districts within five years; and

WHEREAS, over six million public school children are in danger of being left behind as we begin to implement the *No Child Left Behind Act*; and

WHEREAS, already 5 percent of the nation's high schools have been designated as "in need of improvement" prior to the implementation of *No Child Left Behind* and the first year's reporting of annual yearly progress (AYP); and

WHEREAS, approximately one million of the nation's high school students fail to graduate high school; and

WHEREAS, 3,000 students drop out of middle or high school each day; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, nearly 540,000 students will leave, not graduate, America's school systems; and

WHEREAS, based on 2001 data, on average the ten metro school districts with the lowest graduation rates are able to graduate only 44 percent of their students on time; and

WHEREAS, the nation's high school graduation rate is only 69 percent; and

WHEREAS, less than 75 percent of the nation's eighth graders get a high school diploma in five years and the rates dip below 50 percent in urban schools; and

WHEREAS, 23 percent (over 700,000) of high school seniors have difficulty reading on the eve of their high school graduation and are therefore not prepared to go to college; and

WHEREAS, approximately six million or 25 percent of the nation's 24 million public school students, grades 6 through 12, read below the basic level that affects their achievement and ability to learn in all classes; and

WHEREAS, many middle and high schools are already employing a variety of strategies to successfully educate low-performing students to high standards and but no one strategy is being used to increase student achievement; and

WHEREAS, changes and improvements need to be made in training and hiring high quality teachers, focusing learning time, effective instructional methods and rigorous curriculum, counseling that encourages parental involvement, and creating smaller learning environments so that middle and high schools and the students can be successful,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes the time has come for the federal, state and local governments to form a national partnership that transform middle schools and high schools into centers of learning and engagement that prepare students for rewarding and meaningful lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress of the United States to pass and fund legislation that establishes an adolescent reading program similar to Reading First, but focused on middle and high school students to ensure that they have the skills to complete high school, attend college, and be a part of America's 21st century workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages federal, state and local governments address the academic and social needs of the six million children at risk of dropping out of high school in order to ensure that they have an opportunity to graduate high school and be prepared for college.

SUPPORT FOR AND EXPANSION OF GEAR UP AND OTHER COMMUNITY BASED COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, most low-income students and families are unaware of the courses required to apply to and attend college, the costs of postsecondary education and the availability of financial aid to attend college; and

WHEREAS, minority and low-income families that have not attended college receive sticker shock when their high school senior child begins to apply to college; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that low-income and minority students who take certain academic courses, such as algebra and geometry, by the end of ninth grade, are more likely to complete high school and go onto college; and

WHEREAS, this nation's low-income and minority population continues to grow rapidly, and most racial and ethnic minority groups are far from being proportionally represented on most college campuses; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a knowledge-based economy and the baccalaureate degree has become the equivalent of a high school diploma in the 1950's and 60's; and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality of America's cities is based on their ability to attract business, offer good paying jobs and provide an attractive workforce for business which cannot be accomplished without a quality education system that serves all of its students and citizens; and

WHEREAS, reducing and potentially ending unequal access to higher education is important for the future health, prosperity and economic viability of our cities and our nation; and

WHEREAS, Alan Greenspan has stated that it is important "to find ways to prepare more racially and culturally diverse pool of young people who will be flowing into jobs and starting businesses in the 21st century;" and

WHEREAS, 77 percent of Americans polled support an increase in education spending to assist students in becoming better prepared and completing college; and

WHEREAS, after two years of the GEAR UP Program (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a U.S Department of Education discretionary grant program, the number of participating students who had decided to go to college went from 12 percent to 84 percent which means college got on their radar screen; and

WHEREAS, providing information beginning as early as seventh grade to students and their families about what course work in middle and high school needs to be taken in order to be accepted to college, the costs of attending these institutions, and the financial aid available to assist in paying for college is critical to expanding opportunities for low-income and minority students as well as securing a well trained and college educated workforce for America's cities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages mayors across the country to create and support community-based college access programs that provide new information and opportunities for low-income and minority students and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on The United States Congress to continue support of and expand funding for GEAR UP and similar programs such as TRIO(Student Support Services, Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Educational Opportunity Centers) which provide important information about required course work and student financial aid for college, facilitate access to college, and support services during college for low-income and minority students.

PROMOTING EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, 49 years after the Supreme Court's decision in Brown v. Board of Education, a significant educational opportunity gap exists within states for low-income, urban, rural, and minority students; and

WHEREAS, closing that gap is critical to ensuring the continued existence of a strong economy, workforce, and informed citizenry in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the fundamentals of equal educational opportunity means that all students have access to quality teachers and principals, rigorous curricula, small classes, up-to-date textbooks and materials, safe school buildings and well-stocked school libraries; computers in the classroom, and adequate numbers of guidance counselors; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 236, "The Student Bill of Rights," has been introduced in the 108th House of Representatives by Representative Chaka Fattah(D-PA), and companion legislation will soon be introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT); and

WHEREAS, "The Student Bill of Rights" aims to ensure that each state provides equal educational opportunity to all its students by requiring each state to report to the U.S. Secretary of Education on each school district and school's access to the fundamentals outlined above; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 236 (as introduced) requires states to establish three levels of access B basic, adequate, and ideal B to the fundamentals of education opportunity, and requires schools to make adequate yearly progress so that within 12 years, all schools have at least access to each fundamental; and

WHEREAS, "The Student Bill of Rights," (H.R. 236) requires the Secretary to report to Congress and the public on the adequacy of each state's public school system; and

WHEREAS, "The Student Bill of Rights" is designed to further the goals of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, which requires that all students meet rigorous academic standards in 12 years, and that all schools make adequate yearly progress toward such standards in the same time period; and

WHEREAS, the legislation has the support of more than 100 Members of Congress and more than two dozen advocacy and education groups, including the National PTA, Council of the Great City Schools, National Council of La Raza, NAACP, and The Children's Defense Fund,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the principles of H.R. 236, The Student Bill of Rights; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Congress to pass, and the President of the United States to sign this legislation promoting the ability of all schools to provide the fundamentals of equal educational opportunity for all students in the United States of America.

ENERGY

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND IMPROVED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, energy conservation and energy efficiency are crucial components to any national energy plan; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors understand the need for the efficient and economical use of energy resources, which is critical to the future health of local economies and is of strategic national importance; and

WHEREAS, most of our nation's energy use is concentrated in communities, cities and regions, inefficient energy use is systematically draining families, businesses and local governments of their economic sustainability; and

WHEREAS, managing energy on the local level offers savings potential that is high enough to increase disposal income by 5 to 12 percent, increase home ownership by 5 to 10 percent, reduce infrastructure outlays, and increase high wage employment; and

WHEREAS, the California experience during the energy crisis demonstrated the value of conservation and energy efficiency where consumers actually saved sufficient energy to forestall outages and other disruptions that reduced the impact of the crisis on users; and

WHEREAS, sustained investments in new energy technology, smarter building codes, conservation improvements, appliances and fixtures, and building rehabilitation means more dollars stay in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, an increased rate of improvement in energy efficiency in the production, distribution, and end-use of energy reduces the effect of fluctuating prices, mitigates air pollution by reducing the need for new power plants, achieves greater energy security for the nation, conserves the nation's energy supplies, reduces the total amount of energy needed by the nation, lower energy bills, and reduced use of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, energy conservation and energy efficiency is important at all levels of the energy market which includes not only consumers of energy, but also the production/generation and its distribution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government should create a partnership with state and local areas to target energy use, helping stimulate a broad range of locally initiated strategies which address energy demand. Furthermore, this new partnership should support and

stimulate local actions to aggregate large numbers of energy users together to, improve transparency in market functioning and accessible information, and should be cooperatively developed and implemented by federal, state and local governments working together as full partners to maximize energy efficiency and conservation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its strong support for energy efficiency and incentives to promote greater efficiency in appliance and equipment efficiency standards that reduce energy use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors encourages the Department of Energy to improve the energy efficiency of appliances by supporting and expanding the scope of appliance standards programs and setting higher standards where technologically feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that through a genuine collaboration among federal, state and local governments with additional input from interested public and private sector parties there should be an aggressive educational campaign promoting the many benefits of using energy efficient products and increasing conservation efforts in cities.

PROHIBITING LIABILITY PROTECTION FOR MTBE MANUFACTURERS

WHEREAS, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) is a synthetic chemical used as an octane enhancer, lead substitute and more recently a vehicle emission reduction additive to gasoline in the United States since the late 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required urban areas that are in nonattainment for ozone to begin selling reformulated gasolines (RFG) designed to reduce emissions beginning in 1995. A main component of RFG is oxygen, which is added to gasoline primarily by two oxygenates -- MTBE and ethanol; and

WHEREAS, MTBE has contaminated large quantities of surface and ground water by releasing MTBE through leaking underground storage tanks and pipelines; and

WHEREAS, one cup of MTBE, the amount found in one gallon of gasoline oxygenated with MTBE, can contaminate an entire 5 million gallon well to the point of being undrinkable; and

WHEREAS, many states have banned MTBE or plan to phase it out due to water pollution concerns; and

WHEREAS, current remediation techniques to clean water contaminated with MTBE are both inadequate and extremely expensive; and

WHEREAS, a study by a California environmental engineering firm estimated it would cost \$29 billion to clean up the 500 public drinking-water wells and 45,000 private wells across the country contaminated with MTBE in addition to the approximately 140,000 underground storage tanks still leaking gasoline containing the additive; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives adopted the Energy Policy Act of 2003, (H.R. 6) granting liability protection to MTBE manufacturers thereby potentially shifting the burden and cost of clean up to local governments,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to not provide this liability protection for MTBE manufacturers.

ENHANCING ENERGY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

WHEREAS, protecting and securing energy infrastructure is a critical component of our federal, state and local energy plans; and

WHEREAS, local governments have played an important role in response to past energy crises and must maintain their ability to meet their responsibilities to mitigate the effects of future energy supply disruptions or shortages; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize energy emergency preparedness is key to managing the risk of large-scale power outages caused by deteriorating transmission and distribution systems, weather extremes, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, energy infrastructure – power plants, refineries, and transmission and distribution networks – share the vulnerability of all types of critical infrastructures to risks associated with threats from terrorist attacks and weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, managing the vulnerability of energy infrastructure is a necessary element of our national security, economic well-being, and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, since the September 11th terrorist attacks, local governments have developed new efforts to evaluate vulnerable areas, taken protective measures, and instituted states of readiness to respond to an emergency should an act of terrorism occur; and

WHEREAS, disruptions to critical energy infrastructure would be devastating to the health and safety of our citizens,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to enhance energy emergency preparedness to reduce the impact of a disruption of the supply and distribution of energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors encourages the Department of Energy to expand its cooperative relationship with municipalities on energy emergency preparedness matters and to develop and integrate energy emergency response plans that include protecting the nation's critical energy infrastructure.

IMPROVING ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

WHEREAS, the nation's electricity supply has failed to keep pace with growing energy demand; and

WHEREAS, U. S. energy consumption is projected to increase by more than 32% by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the vitality of the nation's cities is dependent on adequate affordable supplies of energy, coupled with reliable, consistent energy delivery; and

WHEREAS, all functions of the nation's economy rely on our energy infrastructure, and disruptions have a measurable impact on the economy; and

WHEREAS, dramatic fluctuations in the cost of energy, disruptions in supply of energy, increases in demand of energy, and environmental degradation as a result of energy production, all impact the financial security of our nation's cities and our national economy; and

WHEREAS, there are many benefits to reducing energy demand in the nation's cities, including reduced energy bills for households and businesses, and reduced pollution; and

WHEREAS, new technologies are needed to meet the energy challenges facing cities – promoting energy conservation, modernizing our energy infrastructure, and increasing our energy supplies in ways that protect and improve the environment; and

WHEREAS, a diverse portfolio of renewable energy sources is a critical component of a national energy policy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages the Department of Energy to continue to assess the future of our nation's energy requirements to ensure that federal, State and local energy policies adequately address the future energy needs of the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges the federal government to work with State and local governments to develop and implement a reliable, equitable, and environmentally responsible energy policy that includes, promoting the most efficient and affordable use of all sources of energy while protecting the environment and protecting the supply of energy by promoting the use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors recognizes that it is critically important that its member cities become familiar with the energy needs of their respective communities

and regions to effectively plan for their energy future and to be able to respond to their present energy demand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Energy should work with state and local governments to modernize and expand the nation's energy infrastructure in order to ensure energy supplies can be safely, reliably, and affordably transported to homes and businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing aged and inadequate national transmission system should be expanded and enhanced, in partnership with state and local governments, to ensure an adequate and reliable energy supply; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should increase and diversify our nation's sources of traditional and alternative fuel to provide families with reliable and affordable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should increase funding for research and development to increase the use of renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass.

HYDROGEN FUEL INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, in his State of the Union address on January 28, 2003, President Bush announced a \$1.7 billion hydrogen fuel initiative to reverse America's growing dependence on foreign oil by developing the technology for commercially viable hydrogen-powered fuel cells and related infrastructure to power cars, truck, homes and businesses with no pollution or greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, under the hydrogen fuel initiative, the first car driven by a child born today could be powered by fuel cells; and

WHEREAS, the hydrogen fuel initiative complements FreedomCAR, a partnership with automakers to advance high-technology research needed to produce practical, affordable hydrogen fuel cell vehicles that American consumers will want to buy and drive; and

WHEREAS, the hydrogen fuel initiative will overcome key technical and cost barriers for fuel cells, including lowering the cost of hydrogen, creating effective hydrogen storage, and providing affordable hydrogen fuel cells; and

WHEREAS, America's energy security is threatened by its growing dependence on foreign oil, and domestically produced hydrogen fuel will help promote America's energy independence; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy estimates that the hydrogen fuel initiative and FreedomCAR can reduce America's demand for oil by over 11 million barrels per day by 2040 – approximately the amount of oil that America imports today; and

WHEREAS, vehicles are a significant source of air pollution in America's cities, and hydrogen fuel cells will improve the air quality of America's cities and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating electricity to power vehicles without any pollution; and

WHEREAS, hydrogen is the key to a clean energy future for American's cities and can be produced from abundant domestic resources including natural gas, coal, biomass, and even water,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the hydrogen fuel initiative to ensure American's energy security by significantly reducing the need for imported oil, as well as promoting clean air in America's cities and reduced greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges federal lawmakers to support and fully fund the hydrogen fuel initiative.

ENVIRONMENT

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WATER COMMISSION ACT OF 2003

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully understands the important role that water supplies plays in the economic development and sustainability of the nation's cities, their populations, institutions and cultural and industrial activities; and

WHEREAS, the pattern of population growth and land use development in the nation has strained the availability of fresh water supplies over the last half century; and

WHEREAS, water conservation measures have reduced per capita consumption of water by about 20 percent between 1980 and 1995, achieved primarily by technology and best work practices by the industrial and agricultural sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, municipal per capita consumption has increased by roughly 24 percent over the same 1980 to 1995 period even though water conservation measures have been implemented; and

WHEREAS, the nation's cities are experiencing increasing cost to ensure an adequate and dependable supply of high quality water, and are currently purchasing water rights or striking agreements for water use; and

WHEREAS, local government provides nearly 90 percent of the investment on water infrastructure in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the need to plan for future water supplies and protect current water supplies is great, and provision of adequate water supplies in the future will have a significant impact on the quality of life in urban areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports, and urges Congress to enact, H.R. 135 "The Twenty-First Century Water Commission Act of 2003" and its goal to develop a comprehensive water strategy designed to identify incentives to ensure a dependable and adequate water supply for the next 50 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to include a local elected Mayor to serve as a Member of the "Commission" to ensure that local government which provides almost 90 percent of the funding for water infrastructure is properly represented in the planning process.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

WATER QUALITY TRADING

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted policies in 1997, 1998 and 2002 supporting comprehensive watershed management planning to help cities deal effectively with non-point source pollution to protect and preserve water supplies and water quality; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors seeks equitable regulatory policies for dealing with water pollution within watersheds that assigns responsibility for pollution abatement or avoidance commensurate with pollution contribution; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has suggested to Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that any regulations or policies adopted to control and reduce watershed non-point pollution should be flexible and voluntary, and not necessarily require costly controls when less costly controls may be appropriate and effective; and

WHEREAS, the nation's cities continue to have difficulty meeting water quality standards because non-point sources of pollution, including, suburban, rural and agricultural land use activities remain significant sources of water quality degradation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Water Quality Trading Policy proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a way to encourage flexible and voluntary cooperative efforts between cities and other land use activities in a watershed to reduce water quality impacts from non-point sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon the President and federal agencies, as well as Governors and state regulatory authorities to adopt water quality trading policies consistent with the policy proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EXTENDING AND EXPANDING THE FEDERAL BROWNFIELDS TAX INCENTIVE

WHEREAS, the Brownfields Remediation Tax Deduction was enacted in 1997, largely in response to calls from the nation's mayors for tax incentives to help local communities cleanup and reuse brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the nation's mayors and other interested parties called upon Congress to simplify and extend the expiration of the original Brownfields Remediation Tax Deduction, and Congress responded by passing legislation to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, private parties in numerous communities have taken advantage of this tax incentive which, under current law, allows cleanup costs to be "expensed" (i.e. deducted against tax liability in the year the costs are incurred) at certain sites where there has been an actual release, threat of release or disposal of a hazardous substance; and

WHEREAS, the current law is set to expire in 2004, the consequence of which will be that private parties who incur cleanup costs after December 31, 2003, will no longer be eligible for the tax deduction; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize that the Brownfields Remediation Tax Deduction is a valuable tool that encourages brownfield cleanups in the nation's communities; and

WHEREAS, due to the fact that there are still several hundred thousand brownfield sites in communities throughout the country, the nation's mayors believe it is important to extend the expiration date of the current tax deduction; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors believe that there may be opportunities to expand upon the current tax deduction as a means of further encouraging and accelerating brownfields redevelopment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to enact legislation to extend the expiration date for the tax deduction so that it will be available for a longer period of time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Treasury Department to work with Congress to investigate opportunities to expand the universe of brownfield sites or the types of costs eligible for a federal tax benefit.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

EXEMPTING BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FROM UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME TAX

WHEREAS, the Nation's Mayors have documented the tremendous economic and social impact that the estimated half a million brownfield properties have had on their communities and have long recognized the importance of redeveloping brownfield properties as a catalyst for economic development, job creation, and neighborhood improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Redevelopment Act of 2001 provides monies to do cleanup and assessments of brownfields sites and liability relief for innocent developers and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Conference Mayors recognizes that federal funding will not be enough to deal with the tremendous number of brownfield sites that exist in this country;

WHEREAS, the Conference of Mayors recognizes that additional resources, tools and programs are needed to encourage additional funding for economic and community redevelopment including the need to attract private sector investment; and

WHEREAS, currently, tax-exempt investors such as endowments, foundations, and pension funds can incur Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) by investing in brownfield investment funds; and

WHEREAS, Congress originally adopted UBIT to level the playing field in situations where tax-exempt organizations entered marketplaces occupied traditionally by taxable entities but which had the unintended effect of dissuading the largest private capital sources from investing in brownfield sites across America; and

WHEREAS, because these investors hold roughly 60 percent of the institutional capital in this country, the unintended consequence of UBIT has been to deprive brownfield sites of much-needed capital for remediation and redevelopment activities; and

WHEREAS, exempting these entities from UBIT will cost little to administer and have a de-minimus negative impact on tax revenues but should have a significant positive revenue impact for future years

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to pass legislation that would exempt brownfield investments from incurring Unrelated Business Income Tax and thereby encouraging additional private sector investment for brownfield properties.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

**CONTINUED FUNDING AND EXPANDED ACCESS TO
THE BROWNFIELDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors have long recognized the importance of redeveloping brownfield properties within their communities as a catalyst for economic development, job creation, and neighborhood improvement; and

WHEREAS, since 1998 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has had in place the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) which assists communities with the development of brownfield properties by providing financial support for activities such as land acquisition, site preparation, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, to date, the BEDI program has benefitted close to fifty communities across the nation in efforts to redevelop brownfields sites; and

WHEREAS, the BEDI program requires local governments to use their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies as partial collateral for a loan guarantee under the section 108 loan program which, for some communities, poses an obstacle to applying for and benefitting from the BEDI program; and

WHEREAS, Congress is now considering legislation, H.R.239, that would eliminate the BEDI program's requirement for a Section 108 loan guarantee; and

WHEREAS, mayors are concerned that the Administration's budget for FY04 proposes to completely eliminate the BEDI program; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors believe there is a critical need not only to maintain federal programs that encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated brownfield sites, but also to improve upon those programs, especially because federal estimates indicate that there are still several hundred thousand brownfield sites across the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation, such as H.R. 239, the Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act, that would eliminate the BEDI program's requirement for a Section 108 loan guarantee, thereby giving more communities access to funding for redevelopment of brownfield sites; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to provide at least \$25 million in FY04 funding so that the BEDI program can continue to exist as a resource for the redevelopment of brownfield sites across the country.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

**URGING NATIONAL MULTI-POLLUTANT LEGISLATION
TO ENHANCE AIR QUALITY**

WHEREAS, the Nation's Mayors seek to provide affordable energy and clean air in their communities; and

WHEREAS, under the Clean Air Act, States and local governments must attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect human health; and

WHEREAS, under the NAAQS, States and local governments will be required to designate by early 2004 the attainment status of their jurisdictions with regard to the ozone and fine particulate matter standards; and

WHEREAS, States are required to develop State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for areas that do not comply with the NAAQS in a process that is often politically contentious and resource-intensive; and

WHEREAS, city infrastructure investment, economic development decisions, and transportation planning are constrained by emissions limits under SIPs; and

WHEREAS, air pollution does not respect jurisdictional boundaries and local governments have recognized that significant emissions affecting nonattainment areas come from the power generation sector; and

WHEREAS, the increasing support for a comprehensive national program to enhance clean air standards through a multi-pollutant approach in the power sector is demonstrated by the numerous different proposals that have been introduced by Congress and the Administration,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages Congress to set national air emission caps under a multi-pollutant plan at levels strong enough to protect public health and the environment by substantively assisting cities in their efforts to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a comprehensive and synchronized multi-pollutant market-based program to reduce regulatory costs, maintain reliable energy at a reasonable cost for consumers, and provide certainty to the electric power sector, regulating officials and citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the first session of the 108th Congress to pass national legislation which will meet the U.S. Conference of Mayors' goals by

requiring power plants to reduce air emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury by an average of 70% from 2000 emissions levels by 2020 under a proven market-based cap and trade program.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TOWARDS GREATER FAIRNESS FOR MSA's: COUNTING NON-RESIDENT USERS

WHEREAS, the funding of numerous federal infrastructure programs are apportioned on a formulae based upon the population of the metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in which a local government is located; and

WHEREAS, the rationale for employing an MSA's population, rather than the impacted local governments' population, is to better apportion funding to the number of consumers in a given area that use or benefit from the government's infrastructure investment, and

WHEREAS, a second rationale for such a formula distribution is that while MSA residents do not live in the MSA's central city, they do contribute to the user fee revenue collected in the central city through payment of gas taxes and other dedicated user fees; and

WHEREAS, this formula has been structured to address MSAs that straddle state borders, but not MSAs that straddle international borders; and

WHEREAS, such an oversight results in local governments along the borders of Mexico and Canada being unintentionally harmed under such formulae distribution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Federal government to examine the practice of excluding individuals from the MSA count, simply because they are not U.S. residents, even though they use and support through user fee taxes such as the gas tax, amongst others.

**CONSULTING BORDER COMMUNITIES IN BALANCING
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SECURITY NEEDS**

WHEREAS, a major benefit of the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”) has been the enhanced movement of people, goods and cargo by land between Canada, the US and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in the post-September 11th environment the security of our borders has taken on an equally high level of importance; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Homeland Security Department has demonstrated a national commitment to meeting the latter challenge; and

WHEREAS, there are times that the need to move goods in a timely fashion are perceived to be in conflict with the need to secure our borders; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials in border communities are well equipped and positioned to provide valuable insights into how a balanced approach between moving goods and securing borders may be best achieved,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security and other government agencies to include border community officials in planning and coordinating efforts to balance the need to open our border to commerce while closing them to terrorism and other illegal activities.

SUPPORT FOR THE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush announced in November 2002 the Administration's intention to begin negotiations with Australia of a Free Trade Agreement, and those negotiations commenced in March 2003; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Australia share a long and enduring friendship, a strong economic partnership, and have been close strategic allies for more than half a century; and

WHEREAS, Australia is the fastest-growing economy in the OECD and 15th-largest in the world; and

WHEREAS, trade liberalization provides benefits to localities in the form of increased employment and revenues; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Australia share a common objective of global free trade and market liberalization; and

WHEREAS, the United States' trade and investment with Australia has grown rapidly over the last five years and is currently valued at around \$28 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Australia is the 13th largest export market for the United States for which the United States has a \$6.6 billion merchandise trade surplus -- our second largest; and

WHEREAS, The United States is the largest source of foreign investment in Australia with assets worth \$117 billion, and Australia is the eighth largest foreign investor in the United States with assets worth \$69 billion; and

WHEREAS, more than 250 significant U.S. businesses have joined a coalition in support of a bilateral Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Australian companies in the United States provide jobs directly to more than 83,000 Americans, and indirectly to countless others; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Australia share the ambitious goal of establishing open global markets for agricultural products in the WTO negotiations, acknowledging that the negotiation of a bilateral Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Australia will include sensitive agricultural issues,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the speedy negotiation and passage of the U.S.-Australian Free Trade Agreement and hereby affirms to all members of the United States Congress its strong endorsement of such an agreement.

**COMMENDING AND BUILDING UPON
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS**

WHEREAS, the Second International Conference of Mayors met in conjunction with the 71st Conference of Mayors in Denver, Colorado, June 5-8, 2003; and

WHEREAS, this historic meeting brought together esteemed mayors from 19 countries and five continents, and also more than 25 representatives of mayoral associations and international organizations from 15 countries and 6 continents; and

WHEREAS, U.S. and international mayors exchanged ideas, best practices, and vision about the critical urban issue of sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, these exchanges have been productive and thoughtful and have contributed to make the cities of the world more sustainable and mayors more effective,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the mayors assembled in the Second International Conference of Mayors and the 71st Annual Conference of Mayors recognize the importance of continuing to build an international network that links mayors with each other; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the assembled body requests the leadership of The Conference of Mayors to continue to develop this international network of mayors and to plan future gatherings of this kind.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AIRPORTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: INCREASED FUNDING FOR SECURITY AND OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, as owners and operators of the nation's commercial airports, mayors have a vested interest in the multi-year reauthorization of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21); and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors wants to underscore our strong support for increased security measures at our nation's airports; and

WHEREAS, it is now an undeniable fact that the health and overall competitiveness of the national and metropolitan economies are directly tied to the strength and performance of the nation's aviation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, AIR-21 is scheduled for reauthorization in the midst of a decline in aviation travel resulting from terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and continued weakness in the United States economy; and

WHEREAS, one of the longest running boom times in aviation history came to an abrupt halt on September 11, 2001 ending a 7-year period when the United States and world civil aviation achieved unprecedented growth in demand for aviation services and profitability; and

WHEREAS, over the last 18 months, the airline industry has lost billions of dollars from the loss of traffic volumes which has adversely affected income generated through landing fees leading to almost \$1 billion of Airport Improvement Funds (AIP) being diverted from airport capacity projects to fund the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) security enhancements; and

WHEREAS, airports estimate there remains \$5.5 billion in additional projects needed to reach the goal of 100 percent in-line baggage screening by December 2003; and

WHEREAS, these security costs should not be confused with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) most recent National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems which indicates that airports need \$46 billion just for AIP-eligible projects between 2001 and 2005 or an increase from an average of \$7 billion to \$9.2 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General Mead said that striking a balance on how airports funds will be used for aviation system capacity, airport safety and security is a major issue in this reauthorization; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Security Administration announced that it would not continue to reimburse airports for the use of local law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors fully expects the Transportation Security Administration to have explosive detection systems in use at all commercial airports allowing it to screen every bag that goes on a passenger airplane by December 31, 2003,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to provide airports with the resources to carry out both their security programs as well as their airport expansion programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to establish a funding mechanism to pay for security capitol costs at airports and firewall the AIP account from TSA security needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to maintain current budget protections that aviation fees and charges collected from the public are invested in airports and related facilities and in safety and other improvements to the aviation system managed by the FAA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors fully expects Congress and the Transportation Security Administration through the Department of Homeland Security to provide both the direction and the means that will allow all airports to meet federal security requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors expects the Administration and Congress to fully reimburse airports and local government for the use of law enforcement officers meeting mandated TSA law enforcement responsibilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to increase funding in the Noise Mitigation category to allow the FAA to increase assistance to airports throughout the nation to better respond to the needs of residents located near our airports.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMTRAK REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 23 million Americans residing in 46 states; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak trains carry 60 million commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas each year and affect over 1 million daily commuter travelers through operating agreements and shared infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak not only provides critical services to major metropolitan areas, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major transportation link to the rest of the country; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has significantly undercapitalized the national Amtrak system for decades, failed to provide passenger rail with a dedicated secure source of funding like other modes enjoy and required Amtrak alone to achieve operating self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, no comparable national passenger rail system in the world has succeeded without operating subsidies; certainly no system has ever succeeded without substantial public capital investment; and

WHEREAS, the minimal savings from eliminating long distance trains does not justify jeopardizing the only passenger rail service in 23 states; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), which is occurring at the same time as the reauthorization of the aviation and Amtrak programs, offers a key opportunity to increase the strategic and economic security of our intercity transportation system while providing an alternative to congested highways and crowded runways; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors encourages a seamless transportation system for all modal elements, including airports, highways, passenger and freight rail; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak President and CEO David Gunn and the Amtrak Board of Directors have demonstrated sound fiscal stewardship by taking positive steps to reduce costs, streamline corporate structure and dramatically increase the transparency of Amtrak's fiscal condition,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and Congress to invest in Amtrak by creating a long-term, sustainable federal funding mechanism to provide Amtrak with a fair and consistent source of capital and operating support for intercity passenger rail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and Congress to provide at least \$1.8 billion for Amtrak in FY04 to sustain our national intercity passenger rail system over the next year and fund Amtrak's five year strategic plan through FY08; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Administration and Congress to reject efforts to break up and privatize Amtrak inter-city passenger rail operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to create a congressionally chartered non-profit corporation to issue tax credit bonds to fund a rail trust fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to create a rail trust fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to dedicate a portion of any new federal fuels excise tax increase for inter-city passenger rail with Amtrak as the operator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to dedicate a portion of any proceeds from the federal issuance of bonds to fund transportation spending, including inter-city passenger rail.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BORDER FREE LOCAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CALLING

WHEREAS, affordable communications between border communities is integral to the coordinated movement of people, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, communities along the Canadian border have been the beneficiaries of such affordable communications, including some locales in which cross-border calls in some instances are priced the same as local calls; and

WHEREAS, due to Mexican telecommunications policies that protect Telmex, the formerly state-owned telecommunications utility, United States communities on the Mexico border must pay international settlement charges which are among the highest in the world. For example, it is cheaper for a United States resident on the Mexico border to call anyone in Canada or most folks in Europe, than it is to call a citizen less than a half mile away in Mexico; and

WHEREAS, because of these protectionist policies that make legal calls so expensive, there has been a proliferation of illegal wireless calls at the border resulting in interference with public safety cellular use; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission and the United States Trade Representative have expressed their support for affordable cross-border calling plans, but the Government of Mexico has refused to amend its policies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors thanks the Federal Communications Commission and the United States Trade Representative for their past efforts and requests that they continue to press Mexico to open its telecommunications market; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be translated into Spanish and forwarded to The Mexican Association of Municipalities (Asociacion de Municipios de Mexico) requesting their assistance and support for lower calling rates between our citizens and businesses.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HEIGHTENED ACCOUNTABILITY AND
PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF
TRANSPORTATION AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS IN
REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA-21**

WHEREAS, given the strategic role of metropolitan transportation infrastructure, it is imperative that the federal investment in transportation be continued; and

WHEREAS, it is time for the Administration and Congress to ensure that additional attention be focused on the metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), must act to give metropolitan areas greater decision making powers, including control over resources; and

WHEREAS, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and TEA-21 established a voice for metropolitan areas, be devolving greater responsibility for planning and implementation to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs); and

WHEREAS, a U.S. General Accounting Office report found that states often so dominate MPOs that decisions often are in opposition to metropolitan needs; and

WHEREAS, states need to be required to coordinate overall transportation planning with Metropolitan Planning Organizations to create a workable transportation system, which would result in economic efficiencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to subject State Departments of Transportation (state DOTs) and MPOs to heightened performance and accountability requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to require state DOTs and MPOs to regularly report to the public how federal transportation funds are being spent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to direct state DOTs and MPOs to show how federal transportation funds support locally adopted performance targets and create a workable transportation system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress in the reauthorization of TEA-21 to hold state DOTs and MPOs to a higher standard of managerial efficiency, programmatic effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to include in the reauthorization of TEA-21 a measure that requires the MPO Board makeup to reflect the jurisdiction that the MPO is representing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors call on the Administration and Congress to establish a framework for state DOTs and MPOs accountability that includes tighter disclosure requirements, participation in each other's transportation planning processes, improved performance measures, and rewards for exceptional performance.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING THE TRANSPORTATION LINK
BETWEEN AVIATION AND RAIL BY INTEGRATING INTERMODAL CONNECTIONS**

WHEREAS, intercity travel and tourism is critical to the national and metropolitan economies; and

WHEREAS, the faltering economy, homeland security and other factors have led to a severe drop in intercity travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the financial crisis affecting the nation's airlines has negatively impacted the nation's airports, both in terms of lost passenger revenue and threats to airline lease payments; and

WHEREAS, the near bankruptcy of Amtrak and continuing questions about its long-term future also impact cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, new higher speed, medium distance intercity rail services in the Northeast, the Northwest, and California have proved to be popular with the public, which supports an improved national intercity rail system; and

WHEREAS, the interconnection of rail, air and bus into "travelports" has been so successful in Great Britain, France, Germany and Japan in relieving airport capacity problems by diverting short and medium distance travelers to a speedy and comfortable rail connection that it is now official European Union policy to provide for air-rail connections; and

WHEREAS, a better connected, more financially stable, redundant and reliable system for intercity travel would boost tourism, aid economic growth and productivity, provide consumers greater choices, and improve environmental performance and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Congress has an opportunity to enact legislation to reconnect our transportation systems this year as it simultaneously considers the reauthorization of the national highway and transit, aviation and rail programs; and

WHEREAS, an independent policy effort called Reconnecting America has proposed that Congress adopt policies to interconnect our separate air, rail, and intercity bus network by providing incentives to create "travelports" at airports and downtown rail stations, by providing stable capital funding to assist states and localities in partnering with Amtrak to improve short and medium distance intercity travel, by establishing a "Last Mile Intermodal Connections Fund" for passenger and freight projects that connect transportation networks, as well as maintaining the current long distance passenger rail operations by promoting better coordinated planning and by removing barriers to integrated projects, by establishing an Essential Transportation Services program to provide rural states and small cities the flexibility to

choose a mix of air service, rail service and intercity bus service to major hub airports, and by enacting a multi year reauthorization for Amtrak which promotes partnering between Amtrak, States and localities and private entities and provides for needed capital maintenance and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, this policy effort is consistent with prior policy resolutions of The United States Conference of Mayors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Reconnecting America policy effort, and urges Congress and the Administration to incorporate the recommendation of Reconnecting America into the reauthorizations of the aviation, rail, and highway and transit programs in this session of Congress.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CREATING A FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCE FOR
“MEGAPROJECTS” IN THE REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA-21**

WHEREAS, America’s cities rely on transportation infrastructure to keep their metropolitan economies competitive in the world marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State governments have a history of partnering with cities in meeting their transportation infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, many cities are facing the need to build, rebuild or repair major segments of their transportation infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, relieve congestion and ensure safe travel; and

WHEREAS, there is no funding source in the existing Federal-Aid Highway program adequate to address the needs of these “megaprojects”; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a policy for reauthorization of TEA-21 that calls for the creation of a Federal funding source to help address “megaprojects”,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to create a Federal funding source to help address “megaprojects” as part of the reauthorization of TEA-21.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF WENDELL H. FORD
AVIATION INVESTMENT ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (AIR-21) NOISE
MITIGATION FUNDING**

WHEREAS, many communities are faced with the challenge of meeting the expansion requirements of their local airports; and

WHEREAS, many communities are faced with increasing demands from homeowners residing near busy runways to reduce aircraft noise; and

WHEREAS, even though airlines have met the federal January 1, 2000 deadline for fleet conversion utilizing the latest in noise reduction technology, aircraft noise continues to be a major concern in our communities; and

WHEREAS, we fully realize the positive economic impact our community airports have on our local economies; and

WHEREAS, communities across the nation rely primarily on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to award grants based on need to local airports for the purpose of purchasing homes and providing noise insulation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress as they take up the reauthorization of AIR-21 to increase funding in the Noise Mitigation category to allow the FAA to increase assistance to airports throughout the nation to better respond to the needs of residents located near our airports.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, as Congress is in the process of reauthorizing our federal surface transportation programs, our nation's cities are looking forward to building on our successes in the area of transportation; and

WHEREAS, many cities believe that the reauthorization process should go beyond solely highway and mass transit issues, and also address the persistent and growing problem of railroad congestion in our cities; and

WHEREAS, the economic benefit of the railroad industry is substantial and obvious, but less obvious are numerous adverse impacts in our neighborhoods. Blocked grade crossings, idling trains, crumbling viaducts, air and noise pollution are all examples of the kinds of problems faced by many cities as they try to balance the needs of residents who live near rail facilities with the needs of railroads to continue servicing our communities; and

WHEREAS, improvements to rail facilities and infrastructure can help reduce truck congestion on local streets; open opportunities for economic development; and reduce noise impacts and inconveniences to residents; and

WHEREAS, because the financial resources are unavailable for many cities to address the necessary but costly improvements to rail infrastructure, there needs to be a larger federal financial commitment to help address this important issue; and

WHEREAS, these needs could best be addressed by the establishment of a federal program, with funding from resources that benefit from rail activity, that would help communities address the problems associated with rail infrastructure while preserving the benefits of one of our country's oldest, but still vital industries,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to establish a dedicated federal rail infrastructure program to address needed improvements to our nation's railroad infrastructure.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SUBALLOCATION OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

WHEREAS, given the strategic role of the metropolitan transportation infrastructure, it is imperative that the federal investment in transportation be continued, but is time for the Administration and Congress to ensure that additional attention be focused on these metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are responsible for most of the nation's transportation infrastructure including just about every transit system, port and airport as with bridges and roads, sidewalks, trails, parking structures and other transportation assets; and

WHEREAS, under current law, metropolitan economies get to make decisions on about 10 cents on every transportation dollar they generate, a woefully modest allocation of resources to areas that represent more than one-half of the nation's population, 80 percent of the nation's employment, personal income, production of goods and services and overall economic output; and

WHEREAS, Mayors are in the best position to direct transportation funding to where it is needed most and are directly responsible for its effective use; and

WHEREAS, many cities have transportation and engineering resources to take a project from start to finish without assistance from State Departments of Transportation (state DOTs); and

WHEREAS, some review functions by state DOTs are duplicative, creating unnecessary delays and increased project costs; and

WHEREAS, city DOTs play an integral role in the planning, implementation and operation of transportation services within their cities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration has a self-certification process that enables direct funding to cities that could easily be adopted by the Federal Highway Administration,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to suballocate Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvements (CMAQ) funds directly to metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to suballocate state Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds as well as unprogrammed Minimum Guarantee funds directly to metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to suballocate National Highway System (NHS) funding to metropolitan areas.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSIT FUNDING
FROM THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, in 2000, Americans took 9.4 billion trips using public transportation, an increase of 2.1 percent more than the previous year, outpacing growth in other travel modes and over the past five years, transit usage is up over 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, transit riders represent a cross-section of Americans and come from every ethnic group, age group and income level; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing investment need; the American Public Transportation Association in 2000 documented needs in excess of \$42 billion a year for capital, planning and research funds; and

WHEREAS, public expenditures to operate, maintain and invest in public transportation systems in America will amount to \$15.4 billion each year, according to the 1997 study “Dollars and Sense: The Economic Case for Public Transportation in America,” by the Campaign for Efficient Passenger Transportation; and

WHEREAS, investments in transit have high returns, according to the 1999 study “Public Transportation and the Nation’s Economy,” by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. which estimated that for every \$10 million invested in public transportation, more than \$15 million is saved in transportation costs to both highway and public transportation users, including operating, fuel and congestion costs; and

WHEREAS, since 1982 all new federal gas tax dollars going into the trust fund have been divided between highways and transit in an 80 percent highways, 20 percent transit fashion, with 15.44 cents currently going to the highway account and 2.86 cents going into the transit account; and

WHEREAS, any plan to move a portion of transit funding out of the trust fund will undermine the ability of cities to fund significant transit projects to address congestion and air quality; and

WHEREAS, there are discussions in Congress about ending the use of Highway Trust Fund monies for mass transit and applying all trust fund resources only to highways,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes any plan to take the Highway Trust Fund monies away from the transit program, and urges the Administration and Congress to maintain at least the current allocation of 20 percent for transit from the Highway Trust Fund, and should give serious consideration to raising the transit share above the current 20 percent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to retain the current Federal Transit Administration Local Match Percentage of 20 percent as it recognizes the large investment cities dedicate for transit-related transportation projects and is consistent with the local match required for highway projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to suballocate federal transit funds directly to metropolitan areas where it is presently not doing so due to state DOTs failing to allocate the transit funds to metropolitan areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urge the Administration and Congress to increase in transit investment to reflect current and future needs.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION CABLE MODEM RULING**

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on March 14, 2002 issued an order that cable modem service is an “interstate information service” not a cable service; and

WHEREAS, such a finding is inconsistent with the law and common understanding between local governments and the cable industry, who together partnered to roll out broadband services to what will be more than ninety percent of homes served by cable by the end of 2003; and

WHEREAS, local government was not a silent partner in this broadband access effort. Local government actions included:

- Granting cable companies access to rights-of-way to make the upgrades necessary to offer cable modem service;
- Ensuring the universal availability of the services by mandating such coverage in cable franchises; sometimes at the expense of other benefits to the city in the franchise; and
- Exercising forbearance on regulations regarding cable rate increases for cable since the cable operators were making necessary infrastructure upgrades to support cable modem service; and

WHEREAS, the FCC order has the potential to leave cable modem consumers without any consumer safeguards and deprive local government of approximately a billion dollars a year in franchise fees; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has joined with its fellow local government advocates to create the Alliance of Local Officials Against Preemption (ALOAP), which has challenged this order at the FCC and in the Courts; and

WHEREAS, should ALOAP not achieve the required remedy to this issue at the FCC or in the Courts, it will need authorization to seek a legislative remedy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the work of ALOAP and recommends that local governments support its efforts both financially and politically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors, alone or in concert with ALOAP, investigate and if appropriate seek a legislative remedy to the challenges presented by the

FCC's Cable Modem order as well as any other challenges to the rights of local government to manage its rights-of-way and be fairly compensated for the use of same.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REGULATIONS PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND
NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT FOR LOCAL LEASED ACCESS**

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that The United States is comprised of citizens of very diverse ethnic, cultural and language backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress adopted provisions contained in 47 U.S.C. 532 mandating cable operators to provide leased access channels on cable systems to promote competition in the delivery of diverse sources of video programming; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communication Commission has determined the maximum reasonable rates that cable operators may establish for leased access channels on their cable systems; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors seeks to promote the widest possible diversity of information available to the residents of our cities; and

WHEREAS, the rates charged local leased access providers of the cable operator need to be fair and reasonable in order to avoid limiting the availability of diverse local minority programming and potential discrimination against individual speakers or specific points of view,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Congress and The Federal Communication Commission are strongly urged to review and adopt rules and regulations to promote diversity and ensure non-discriminating treatment for local minority leased access programming.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, the role of wired and wireless communications in times of emergencies, either man-made or natural, has taken on vital importance; and

WHEREAS, the availability of such services and their regulation are, for the most part, conducted at the federal and state levels of government; but

WHEREAS, the resolution of these various issues has a significant impact on local governments and their ability to protect and serve their constituents; and

WHEREAS, among the public safety communications issues being discussed at the federal and state levels are:

- Interoperability of communications, between and among federal, state and local government first responders;
- Availability of spectrum, free of interference, for local government use in providing enhanced public safety communications including data and video wireless transmissions;
- Funding for the acquisition of, and training on, interoperable networks and equipment;
- Prioritization for repair and reconnection of public safety communications networks;
- Dedication of user fees for the deployment of enhanced wireless 911 services such that first responders can locate a wireless 911 caller; and
- Viability and operation of emergency notification services such as those called “reverse 911” services, which permit a local government to broadcast a notice to citizens via their telephone, achievable only if local governments have access to 911 databases; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors of America’s cities assembled here in Denver for the 71st Annual Conference are concerned that such issues are being discussed without the full participation of local government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon federal and state legislators and regulators, as well as our industry partners, to respect the voice of local government in these debates and to ensure that first responders’ needs are promoted and preserved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff is directed to provide a report on these issues at the 2004 Winter Business meetings to both the Transportation and Communications and the Criminal and Social Justice Committees.

SUPPORT FOR ANTI-SPAM LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, access to the Internet is being threatened by the unbridled growth of commercial spam Email; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional safeguards which prohibit government prior censorship of the mail prevents local governments from filtering e-mails because of the difficulty of selectively identifying commercial E-mails; and

WHEREAS, at the same time the tremendous growth in spam traffic threatens the very purpose of free exchange of information and knowledge which the Internet affords, because of the increasing volume of commercial traffic; and

WHEREAS, several bill have been filed in the Congress to address this situation, including HR 1933 by Representative Zoe Lofgren from California,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby condemns this commercial threat to the Internet and urges the Congress to pass legislation to address this problem.

URBAN ECONOMIC POLICY

URGING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FISCAL RELIEF AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHEREAS, local governments across the nation are facing the worst fiscal crisis they have experienced in decades, brought on mostly by the 2001 recession; the 9/11/01 terrorists attacks which caused a huge reduction in local revenues particularly from taxes related to the travel and tourism industry; and drastic cuts in state aid to local governments; and

WHEREAS, local governments are suffering from significant budget shortfalls and are taking drastic actions to close their budget gaps, including laying off police officers, firefighters, teachers and other critical workers; cutting back on services and in some cases closing down libraries and other public facilities; and delaying capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, a recent report released by the United States Conference of Mayors provides that overall, job growth in the nation's metro areas will average a mere 0.7 percent annually between 2001 and 2004, down from a robust 1.7 percent growth rate between 1998 and 2001; and

WHEREAS, states are facing the worst fiscal crisis since World War II with budget deficits estimated at almost \$100 billion, nearly 10 percent of total state spending, and many are significantly reducing aid to local governments; and

WHEREAS, in January 2003 Conference President and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino led Conference efforts in developing policy on economic security, which called for general fiscal assistance for local governments as well as urged support for the following:

1. Tax Code Amendments
 - i. The President's home ownership tax credit proposal;
 - ii. Raising the state volume cap for municipal bonds to spur more economic development and jobs;
 - iii. Exempting water and waste water projects from the state volume caps;
 - iv. School construction tax credits bonds to meet the need for new and renovated facilities;
 - v. High speed rail tax credit bonds to improve transportation between regions;
 - vi. Brownfield redevelopment tax credits to turn blighted properties into tax producing and job producing sites; and
 - vii. Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit to more working families.
2. Job Creation Investments

- i. Acceleration of transportation funding to put more Americans to work as soon as possible;
 - ii. Increase federal investments in housing, again to create jobs and put a roof over the head of more American families;
 - iii. Job training initiatives to help prepare unemployed Americans for new jobs of the 21st century;
 - iv. General Fiscal Assistance for local governments.
3. Fiscal Relief
- i. Medicaid relief for states;
 - ii. Full funding of the “No Child Left Behind” Act; and

WHEREAS, Senator Olympia J. Snowe worked tirelessly in the Senate on behalf of state and local governments, and as a result, the Senate voted 95 to 3 to approve \$20 billion in temporary assistance for state and local governments, with \$10 billion earmarked for Medicaid and the remaining \$10 billion for general fiscal relief split \$6 billion for states and \$4 billion for local governments; and

WHEREAS, a House and Senate conference panel decided to eliminate the \$4 billion earmarked for local governments during negotiations on the final compromise, and instead the total \$20 billion was provided to states with no requirement to share these funds with local governments; and

WHEREAS, instead of spending funds immediately to avoid layoffs and service cuts, some governors are reluctant to spend these funds on ongoing programs and are planning to place some of their funds in reserve for certain programs later on,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors does hereby commend Senator Olympia J. Snowe and the other 94 Senators for voting to earmark a portion of the fiscal relief funds for local governments and urges Congress to enact legislation that provides at least \$4 billion in general fiscal relief to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges states to use some of their fiscal relief money to fund local government programs and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact legislation to amend the tax code, and increase investments in programs as mentioned earlier in this resolution to spur economic growth by creating jobs and helping to improve the local infrastructure.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL DEBT REFINANCING ACT

WHEREAS, under current law, municipalities and other state and local tax-exempt bond issuers are prohibited from advance refunding most bonds more than once; and

WHEREAS, under current law tax-exempt municipal bonds originally issued after 1985 may only be advance refunded once while bonds issued before 1986 may be advance refunded twice; and

WHEREAS, if a bond has been advance refunded once and interest rates fall to the point where a state or local government would benefit from an additional advance refunding, the issuer would be precluded from taking advantage of the lower rates; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments nation-wide have issued hundreds of billions of dollars in tax-exempt bonds to fund a wide variety of capital infrastructure projects such as public power systems, schools, roads and highways, bridges, water and sewer systems, airports and parks; and

WHEREAS, state and local access to capital at the lowest possible cost is critical during this period of fiscal crisis and vital to the nation's long-term economic growth; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in Congress, the Municipal Debt Refinancing Act (S.271), which would permit municipalities and other issuers of tax-exempt bonds an additional opportunity to advance refund outstanding tax-exempt bonds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact the Municipal Debt Refinancing Act to allow state and local governments to advance refinance outstanding tax-exempt bonds one additional time.

U.S. METRO AREAS AS ENGINES OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors and the Council for Investment in the New American City have documented that U.S. metro areas are the engines of the American economy, generating 84 percent of the nation's employment and 88.3 percent of labor income; and

WHEREAS, through its U.S. Metro Economy series, the Conference and the Council have created a new, national economic measure for the nation's 319 metro areas called Gross Metropolitan Product, which documents that U.S. metro areas contribute over 85 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and

WHEREAS, over the last decade, U.S. metro areas accounted for over 86 percent, \$3.9 trillion, of the nation's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, U.S. metro economies also dominate state economies, with 16 metro areas accounting for over 50 percent of the output in the state in which they are located, with an additional 28 U.S. metros accounting for over 25 percent of their states output; and

WHEREAS, through this documentation it is clear that the national economy can not recover unless the nation's metro economies begin to grow and produce jobs; and

WHEREAS, in their June Employment Outlook, the Conference and the Council reported that the nation's metros lost over \$1.15 million jobs in 2002, with 206 metros experiencing net job loss; and

WHEREAS, many metro areas saw large employment declines also in 2001, ranging from the manufacturing centers (Detroit, 55,000 jobs lost) to high technology (Seattle, 15,000 jobs lost); and

WHEREAS, the nation has lost more than 2.5 million jobs over the last two and one-half years, and continues to lose jobs at an alarming rate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors commends the Council for Investment in the New American City and its corporate and non-profit members for developing the Metro Economy Series and calls on them to promote the series nationwide to academia, the media, public leaders and the general public to educate them on the importance of U.S. metro areas to the economic growth of the nation and its citizenry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the Council to expand the Metro Economic Report series to further document how important U.S. metro economies are to individual state economies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council continue to identify and develop strategies to remove barriers to capital formation and investment in cities; promote innovative approaches to increased home ownership and financial literacy among urban residents; encourage public/private partnerships in environmental infrastructure; increase the availability of financial services to urban residents; and promote commercial investment in cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council work with its members to further promote and document the competitiveness of America's cities as new places to invest and live.

REFORM OF THE FEDERAL SUGAR SUBSIDY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Federal sugar subsidy program provides price supports and special loans for domestic production, as well as restrictions on sugar imports; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the Federal sugar program and the policy behind is to inflate the price of sugar for domestic commercial users, which causes many companies to close or move operations beyond U.S. borders in order to lower production costs and increase competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, in recent years there has been a tremendous loss of jobs in the domestic confectionary industry as well as other companies involved in food production; and

WHEREAS, there is a substantial likelihood of additional plant closings and relocations by companies interested in lowering their production costs through access to sugar at international prices; and

WHEREAS, the loss of jobs in the confectionary other food production industries is hurting the economies of many American cities - both large and small; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, when the Freedom to Farm law was reauthorized, the legislation failed to address this issue by reforming the sugar program; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government should provide reasonable policies to aid domestic agriculture, but not at the expense of other important domestic industries,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors does hereby urge the United States Congress to pass legislation modifying the sugar support program in a way that better balances the legitimate interests of both sugar growers and the confectionary and other food products industries.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICA SAVES PROGRAM

WHEREAS, a recent joint report by the Consumer Federation of America, the National Credit Union foundation and the Credit Union National Association found that one-quarter (25%) of U.S. households have net assets under \$10,000 (excluding home equity but including retirement accounts), and therefore are “wealth-poor”; and

WHEREAS, the report indicates that the wealth-poor tend to be young, have low-or moderate-incomes, and rent rather than own their homes; and

WHEREAS, America Saves is a nationwide campaign in which a broad coalition of non-profit, corporate and government groups help individuals and families save money, build wealth and reduce debt; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Federation of America and the Ford Foundation have chosen Cleveland as a demonstration city for Cleveland Saves, a pilot program for America Saves; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Saves program is a social marketing campaign that provides motivation, free financial coaching, no fee financial products, free services form financial planners, free education seminars and savers clubs; and

WHEREAS, to date the Cleveland Saves pilot program has enrolled more than 3,400 and to date have saved more than \$2.6 million; and

WHEREAS, local campaigns such as Cleveland Saves are being organized in more than twenty locations and are attracting major corporations, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, religious and educational institutions, libraries, non-profit organizations, labor unions and government agencies as partners,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the America Saves program and encourages cities across the nation to engage in America Saves efforts in their communities.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE EQUITY FOR RESERVIST ACT

WHEREAS, currently there are over 212,000 National Guard men, women and Reservists who are serving on active duty, many of whom are serving bravely in Iraq and most are serving extended tours of duty for longer periods than they had expected; and

WHEREAS, the armed services increasingly rely on our Army, Navy and Air Force Reserves and our National Guard to achieve their ongoing missions; and

WHEREAS, the family income of National Guard men, women and Reservists is sometimes significantly reduced when they are called to active duty because their jobs and salaries are placed on hold and they begin receiving military pay which is less than their civilian pay; and

WHEREAS, family members left behind by National Guard men, women and Reservists who are called to activity duty are sometimes forced to work overtime, dip into savings, borrow, or even go on welfare to pay their bill; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in Congress to support our National Guard men, women and Reservists and their families by helping them fill the pay gap when they are called to active duty in three ways:

- For the 13% National Guard men, women and Reservists who, as civilians, work for the federal government, the difference in their military and civilian pay would be paid in full.
- For the 20% of National Guard men, women and Reservists who work as police officers, firefighters or other state and local employees, state and local government employers would be given a strong incentive to maintain their civilian salaries when they are called to active duty through a cost-sharing formula. Under this formula, state and local governments would be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the difference between their civilian employees and military pay for the first 9 months and 100 percent after that;
- For the 60% of National Guard men, women and Reservists who work for the private sector, their employers would be given a tax credit covering 50% of the compensation they provide,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact the Equity for Reservists Act to support our National Guard men, women and Reservists and their families when they are called to active duty.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ADDRESSING THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS CRISIS

WHEREAS, youth unemployment is at historically high levels; according to a recent study by the Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies, the number of jobless and out-of-school youth has increased by 600,000 or 12 percent since 2000; in 2002, 5.5 million youth (ages 16-24) were out of work and out of school; and

WHEREAS, the study also found that youth are being hit hardest by the economic downturn; job losses among workers ages 16 – 24 accounted for 53 percent of the total jobs losses in 2001 and youth have continued to be the hardest hit as the economic downturn continues; and

WHEREAS, minorities, low-income and central city youth are being disproportionately affected by the economic downturn; 25 percent of African-American youth and 20 percent of Latino youth are out of work and out of school; and

WHEREAS, this has occurred at the same time that the numbers of youth are reaching all time records, including the numbers of immigrant youth, it is expected that there will be 39 million youth by 2010; and

WHEREAS, this past summer's youth employment rate was the lowest since the summer of 1965 and disproportionately low among minority, low income, central city youth and is projected to be even lower in summer 2003; and

WHEREAS, the number of youth dropping out of high school is increasing, and the graduation rate is significantly lower among central city, African-American and Latino students; and

WHEREAS, according to the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies June 2002 report, *The Young, the Restless and the Jobless: The Case for a National Jobs Stimulus Program Targeted on America's Young Adults*, only one-third of the nation's teenagers living in high poverty neighborhoods was able to obtain a job; and

WHEREAS, there is little job growth expected in the coming year; and

WHEREAS, career exploration, summer jobs, and other year-round employment activities in the workforce investment system, which is authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), help jumpstart careers for young people and make them more productive workers throughout their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a strong commitment to the improvement of job and educational opportunities for all youth, both in-school and out-of-school youth, including disadvantaged and at-risk youth, and believes that summer employment opportunities are critical to achieving those goals; and

WHEREAS, the workforce system has a unique contribution in preparing the future workforce through connecting activities with business and it remains a high priority to provide this bridge to the workplace for highschool graduates not equipped to get a job; and

WHEREAS, the education system's primary focus in the Leave No Child Behind Act is ensuring academic proficiencies, and at the same time, the workforce system must play a vital role in career development strategies which research has shown aid greatly in prevention of dropouts; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Opportunity Grants program, strongly supported by The U.S. Conference of Mayors, is addressing the pervasive joblessness of youth in 36 high poverty areas across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long term commitment to a strong summer jobs program either by providing funding for year round youth activities at a level equivalent to or greater than the FY 2002 funding levels and ensure that summer jobs are part of any WIA reauthorization or to enact a separate summer job program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors urges Congress to increase funding for all youth activities so that the workforce development system is able to meet the infinite service demand and critical need of providing opportunities for disadvantaged and all at-risk youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to help contribute to solutions to pervasive poverty of youth and to provide significant funding for a jobs stimulus program for young people ages 16 to 24, especially those living in high poverty neighborhoods and high school dropouts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth is funded only from the excess of the amount appropriated for the WIA youth formula program when it is at a level of at least \$1 billion and not at the expense of the year round program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any reauthorization of WIA must allow for in-school services for youth, including 14 and 15 year olds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that in any WIA reauthorization, local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) have greater access to programs and services under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 and that there is required coordination with Job Corps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that local workforce and school systems are supported as equal partners in preparing youth for the workplace, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls for universal access for core services to youth in WIA reauthorization and that any WIA reauthorization apply the lessons learned in the Youth Opportunity and Rewarding Youth Achievement grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to allow eligibility for the National School Lunch Program as a criterion for serving youth under WIA reauthorization legislation, which was part of the technical amendment passed in the House of Representatives in the second session of the 106th Congress under H.R. 4216.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

WHEREAS, Congress has an opportunity this year to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) which sunsets on September 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Mayors believe that since WIA has only been fully operational for just under three years, it is not time for a major overhaul of the legislation; and

WHEREAS, WIA created a national network of statewide, locally-driven workforce investment systems, led by chief local elected officials and their local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) who have responsibility for system-wide coordination of resources and services and are responsible for creating a local workforce system that responds to local labor markets, local employers and residents, and local economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, unemployment, the lack of job growth, and the skills gap have become a significant national issue and the nation's workforce system is critical to address these needs; and

WHEREAS, while Congress created a universally accessible One-Stop system in WIA, the system is underfunded and the lack of funding to support the local One-Stop system infrastructure has contributed to limited financial contributions, limited commitment of One-Stop partners and reduced WIA training dollars,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that strong local authority and flexibility of local elected officials and their WIBs remain at the core of any WIA reauthorization; and

1. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that WIA reauthorization should strengthen the authority and flexibility of local elected officials and their WIBs to design and implement innovative local workforce systems that are responsive to the local economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any WIA reauthorization will in no way lessen funding for local areas and, in fact, increasing direct funding to where the services are provided – the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to maintain current law regarding designation of local workforce investment areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and Congress to address the timeliness of giving federal discretionary funding from DOL

to local areas, including DOL's discretionary dislocated worker funds, currently called National Emergency Grants (NEGs) and, to include in WIA reauthorization legislation a provision stating that if DOL discretionary funds are not distributed to local areas within at least 90 days after applications are received, the dollars will be transferred to the formula funds in accordance with the formula to local areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that WIA reauthorization provides the resources and improves the capacity of local elected officials and their WIBS to improve job and educational prospects for all youth, both in and out of school, includes a strong summer jobs component, applies the lessons learned in the Youth Opportunity and Rewarding Youth Achievement grants, and allows eligibility for the National School Lunch Program as a criterion for serving youth under WIA, which was part of the technical amendment passed in the House of Representatives in the second session of the 106th Congress under H.R. 4216; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors urges Congress to make a major funding investment in skills training, both basic and occupational in order to attain and sustain economic recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that WIA reauthorization reinforces strong business partnerships at the local level, provides more flexibility and resources to work with the employer community, including industry sector training initiatives and incumbent worker training, and provides for a straightforward business-oriented report card to measure the success of the system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund the One-Stop System with direct funding - which must not be taken from WIA formula dollars and to ensure that all partners contribute financially to the One-Stop System in a meaningful way through WIA reauthorization legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that WIA reauthorization provides resources and tools to work with high poverty populations and to address the huge poverty issues in cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that WIA reauthorization provides both the tools to help individuals attain jobs with career paths making family-sustaining wages and facilitates more efficient leveraging of resources across state and federal programs. To this end, the definition of a "low income individual" should be aligned to the definition used in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which is 235 percent of the poverty line; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any WIA reauthorization legislation that is not a major overhaul of current law, should be quickly resolved in order for states and local areas to focus on the growing business demand for a skilled workforce and the need to respond to the growing unemployment and joblessness pressures.

**STRONG LOCAL AUTHORITY AND FLEXIBILITY AT THE CORE OF THE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, within the next 25 years there will be 19 million more jobs than workers, many of these positions requiring education beyond a high-school diploma; employers estimate that 39 percent of their current workforce and 26 percent of their new hires will have basic skills deficiencies; and, 75 percent of the American workforce will need to be retrained merely to retain their jobs; and

WHEREAS, in order to remain competitive in the global market, the U.S. must invest in training its workforce; and

WHEREAS, the nation's locally-driven workforce development system is in place to meet the great needs of worker preparation, basic and occupational skills training, employment, job retention, upgrade training and the workforce needs of business; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), which is the current law governing the nation's workforce system and sunsets September 30, 2003, created a national network of statewide, locally-driven workforce systems, led by mayors, chief local elected officials, and their Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs); and

WHEREAS, Mayors and their WIBs have a unique role in the oversight of the funding and delivery of services of the entire local comprehensive workforce system; and

WHEREAS, WIA established an appropriate balance between federal, state, and local governments and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, WIA recognizes that Mayors and their WIBs are responsible for a local workforce system that responds to local labor markets, local employers and residents and local economic development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that strong local authority and flexibility for Mayors and their local WIBs remains at the core of

any WIA reauthorization, including appointment authority by local elected officials of local WIBs and joint guidance and oversight of One-Stop centers and the workforce system with local WIBs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that any WIA reauthorization strengthens the authority and flexibility of local elected officials and their WIBs to design and implement innovative local workforce systems that are responsive to the local economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that the local workforce delivery system is maintained in WIA reauthorization and to oppose any efforts to take away local governance through expanded waiver authority for governors, elimination of the chief local elected official role in area designation, and mandated regional planning that would in any way lessen the authorities of the local elected officials and local allocations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that WIA reauthorization should empower local WIBs by expanding their authority to cover the current responsibilities for system-wide coordination of resources and services by establishing a separate title in WIA reauthorization to reinforce their strategic leadership over a comprehensive workforce system.

ENHANCE BUSINESS SERVICES IN THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, employers estimate that 39 percent of their current workforce and 26 percent of their new hires will have basic skills deficiencies; and 75 percent of the American workforce will need to be retrained merely to retain their jobs; and

WHEREAS, local business and industry need the resources the workforce investment system provides to fill labor gaps, especially since private investment in worker training is reduced during economic downturns; and more than half of all American workers are employed at small businesses, which can rarely afford to provide training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, preparing a highly skilled workforce is essential both to the economic vitality of communities and necessary in order to remain competitive in the global market; and

WHEREAS, the business community is the end user of the workforce system,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to include flexibility in any WIA reauthorization and allow for local innovation in the design of business services in order to address the needs of the business community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase funding for the local workforce system to meet the needs of the business community.

COMMON PERFORMANCE MEASURES

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed performance measures for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) do not capture what the workforce system actually does, nor do the measures make sense to the business community; and

WHEREAS, no other federal program reporting requirements are as complicated or focused on each individual served as the DOL reporting system; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has developed a set of common measures with common definitions for all job training programs across the Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Interior, and Housing an Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, the number of measures being proposed would be eight - four for the adult programs and four for the youth programs, in place of the seventeen performance measures in current law; and

WHEREAS, if all of these measures are mandated to be reported by DOL, the new eight plus seventeen measures in current law, The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes that this would be inefficient, costly and over burdensome; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors does not believe that the efficiency measure as currently proposed will be fair to disparate regions in states and across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that any common measures must be applied to all job training programs across all Departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the concerns about the efficiency measure as currently proposed be addressed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that flexibility must be given to states and localities if additional measures are to be reported; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if DOL mandates the reporting of the new eight plus the seventeen current performance measures, regulatory relief should be sought to relieve the reporting on the seventeen measures in current law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED with the significant focus of business as a primary customer within the workforce system, there must be a business measure and this measure should be developed in the near future through local pilot testing.

Resolution Adopted at 71st Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, Denver, Colorado, June 5-10, 2003

FUNDING FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Our nation's economic recovery will be largely driven by our competitiveness in global labor markets and our workers must be able to obtain the skills that give our economy a leading edge in both existing and emerging sectors when the economy turns around; and

WHEREAS, as the national unemployment rate is at its highest level in 10 years and our economy is weak, funding to train our workers must be a high priority for the Congress so that they can obtain and keep jobs to help them through these tough economic times; and

WHEREAS, Mayors believe that investing in a skilled workforce is important to our nation's economic growth, and training must be an important strategic element of our efforts to stimulate the economy; and

WHEREAS, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), which now is only in its third year of implementation, yet these programs have already been cut by over \$600 million from fiscal year 2002 levels and in addition, the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2004 does not restore this amount, and, there has been no meaningful increase in funding at a time when our nation's workforce needs this investment most; and

WHEREAS, by cutting the workforce training programs, Congress and the Administration are misplacing our national priorities at a time when American workers are experiencing massive job losses,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to restore Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding to at least Fiscal Year 2002 pre-rescission funding levels for adult, dislocated worker, and youth formula grants, and Youth Opportunity Grant programs in the Fiscal Year 2004 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill and to consider funds necessary and appropriation to ensure full employment to all citizens.

**EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH IN HIGH POVERTY AREAS
BY INVESTING IN YOUTH OPPORTUNITY GRANTS**

WHEREAS, our country's continued economic growth lies in the ability of America's young people to meet the current and future demands of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, the active engagement of all youth in acquiring academic competencies, work experience and marketable skills leads to increased success in their transition to the labor market and to the development of a strong and responsive national workforce; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates a direct correlation between early participation in the work place and increased earning capacity leading to self sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the lack of opportunities for young people to acquire the necessary work place and academic skills presents considerable threats to their economic future and to a prosperous and stable society; and

WHEREAS, in the most impoverished communities in the country there continues to be a disproportionate number of high school drop-outs; and

WHEREAS, youth are being hardest hit by the economic downturn and minority, low-income and central city youth are be disproportionately affected; and

WHEREAS, these conditions severely hamper the prospects for regular employment and thwart the likelihood of these young people becoming productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, targeting long term youth development strategies to young people living in high poverty areas to assist them in completing high school diplomas and GEDs, acquiring and retaining employment and pursuing higher education will drastically reduce these barriers to economic and academic success; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor's Youth Opportunity Grants represent 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, across the 36 communities selected for the first wave of Youth Opportunity Grants, over 40,000 young people are actively participating in a full complement of educational pursuits, career skills training, employment, leadership and community service projects and a significant number of previous high school dropouts have already received academic credentials and are matriculating in college; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has a strong commitment to promoting the economic stability of our communities and recognizes that given the full five years of funding, the Youth Opportunity Grants will have a tremendous economic impact on our poorest neighborhoods by increasing the chances for youth to get good jobs and move up career ladders; and

WHEREAS, the President's Fiscal Year 2004 Budget does not include funding to further the intent of the Department of Labor's Youth Opportunity Grants to strategically expand this youth development initiative to all poor communities in our nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to restore funding of the Youth Opportunity Grants to the U.S. Department of Labor Fiscal Year 2004 Budget in order to ensure the significant investment made in the initial efforts of the 36 communities will be realized and that new grants can be made to expand this effort to serve more youth in more communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as youth development programs have documented significant improvements in interpersonal skills, quality of peer and adult relationships, self control, commitment to education and academic achievement, The Conference of Mayors urges Congress to incorporate the Youth Opportunity philosophy of long term, comprehensive support into all youth workforce policies and programs.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

WHEREAS, at this point in the current economic recession there are 8.79 million unemployed people, the highest level in nearly a decade, and the number of jobs is at the lowest level in 41 months; and

WHEREAS, the number of long-term unemployed is growing and their situation is deteriorating; the rate at which people are exhausting their regular unemployment benefits before finding a new job was at its highest level ever recorded in February 2003 and at its second highest level in March 2003; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors' June 2003 updated report, "The Role of Metro Areas in the U.S. Economy: Employment Outlook," indicates that in 2002 U.S. metro areas lost 1.15 million jobs and that in the top 20 metro areas there is only a 0.1 percent projected job growth for 2003; and

WHEREAS, the federal Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program (TEUC) which provides additional weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits, is phasing down sharply at the end of May 2003; and

WHEREAS, the federal unemployment insurance trust funds currently have a surplus of more than \$21 billion; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by Economy.com, an independent financial research group, found that each dollar dedicated to extending the TEUC program would boost the economy by \$1.73,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to ensure that temporary extensions of unemployment benefits continue until there is significant improvement in the labor market in the United States for an extended period of months.

MISCELLANEOUS

PRESIDENT THOMAS M. MENINO, MAYOR OF BOSTON, AND PRESIDENT, THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, 2002-2003: WITH APPRECIATION FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

WHEREAS, Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston has been a great leader of The U. S. Conference of Mayors, serving as its 60st President from May 2002-June 2003, with vigor, commitment, and vision; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino is a strong voice throughout the nation as an advocate for key urban and suburban issues, including homeland security, economic security, education, housing, job training, and health care for all, and others; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino has fought hard at the national level to demand that cities receive federal resources to handle the increased demands for security resulting from September 11 and the potential for future acts of terrorism in this country, his efforts having resulted in federal funds for first responders in cities; and

WHEREAS, he has created and articulated the National Housing Agenda for The United States Conference of Mayors, reflected, for example, in the National Housing Summit, which was convened in May 2002, bringing together more than 140 mayors and housing experts to develop housing recommendations in affordable housing, public housing, homelessness, and community development; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his advocacy for affordable housing, Mayor Menino has received a number of awards from national housing organizations, such as the National Low-Income Housing Coalition and the National Alliance on Home Ownership, and has successfully brought into the traditional housing coalition the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP), the American Health Association, and American labor organizations; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and commitment of Thomas M. Menino has raised the visibility of housing within the federal government and in public awareness, which will result in accelerating the housing production program of this nation; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino has been a force for mayoral leadership in education, including education reform to ensure that the public schools of this nation are of the highest quality, support for after-school programs that will engage the youth of the nation, and the successful effort to gain support for The U.S. Conference of Mayors from two stellar foundations --the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the Broad Foundation-- so that the Conference of Mayors can continue to analyze, research and advocate for excellence in education; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino made working families one of the highlights of his year as President and was instrumental in gaining funding for The U.S. Conference of Mayors from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in order to support this initiative; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Thomas M. Menino has been an outstanding mayor of Boston, a city with the 24th strongest economy in the entire world, and as mayor has shown great sensitivity to his city government employees as well as to all the people of his city, including giving his employees four hours off for cancer screening, and working tirelessly for better schools, health care for all, and betterment of the lives of people in every way;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors represented by all mayors assembled in this 71st Conference of Mayors expresses its deep appreciation to Mayor Menino for his year as President and for his advocacy of issues at the heart of urban and suburban America, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mayors of the United States through The U. S. Conference of Mayors extend all warm wishes and hopes for the very best now and in the future for Mayor Menino and his wife, Angela; his son Thomas M. Menino, Jr. and his wife Lisa; his daughter Susan Menino Fenton and her husband Bill, and his five grandchildren – Taylor, Samantha, Will, Olivia, and Guilia.

**WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO MAYOR WELLINGTON E. WEBB OF DENVER FOR
HOSTING THE 71ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND SECOND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, JUNE 5-10, 2003**

WHEREAS, Mayor Wellington E. Webb served as the 57th President of The United States Conference of Mayors with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as mayor and member of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, 1991-2003, Mayor Webb has contributed greatly to the national urban and suburban agenda, including among many major initiatives, his chairing of the Conference of Mayors Crime Task Force, which led to passage of the 1994 crime bill; creating the first African Summit in January 1998; leading the historic first U. S. Conference of Mayors mission to Africa in April 1999; presiding over the first Trans-Atlantic Summits, a trilogy of meetings in Lyon, France; Berlin, Germany; and Washington, D.C., 2000-2002; and

WHEREAS, for his service, dedication, and vision, on June 8, 2003, Mayor Wellington E. Webb was presented with The United States Conference of Mayors' Award for Distinguished Public Service, the highest award given by the Conference of Mayors and one presented to only 17 Americans since its creation in 1949;

WHEREAS, Mayor Webb has left an enduring mark upon his beloved city, including the Stapleton Airport transformation; development of the largest park system in the United States; realization of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream" Monument in City Park; development of the New Denver Public Library and the Art Museum Expansion; and creation of the Denver Performing Arts Complex, the new Pepsi Center, the New Mile High Stadium, and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library; and many others; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Wellington E. Webb has worked vigorously and creatively to host a highly successful and enjoyable 71st Conference of Mayors and Second International Conference of Mayors in the great city of Denver, June 5-10, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Webb has led a dedicated, friendly, and tireless staff and cadre of volunteers to ensure that the mayors assembled in Denver had an enjoyable, interesting, and productive experience; and

WHEREAS, it is evident to all that Mayor Wellington E. Webb has created in this city a sense of community and accomplishment in which all the residents of Denver and, indeed, our nation, can take pride; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the Second International Conference of Mayors was "The Role of Mayoral Leadership in Achieving Sustainable Development," no better site could have been found than Denver, a city well known and recognized for its sustainable development, which received the 2002 Stockholm Partnership

Award from the King of Sweden for its Stapleton Airport transformation as the best example of true sustainable development in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Webb graciously hosted a number of memorable events in his beautiful “Mile High City,” which included the opportunity to experience the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Performing Arts Complex, the Red Rocks Amphitheater, the “I Have a Dream” Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Site in City Park, and the Blair Caldwell African American Research Library; and

WHEREAS, the First Lady of Denver, Mrs. Wilma J. Webb, was instrumental in the planning and design of many of the arts achievements in Denver, the Dr. King memorial, and several key aspects of the 71st Annual Conference of Mayors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors thanks Mayor Webb for his years of dedicated service to this organization and to the mayors and people of this nation and the world and expresses its thanks to Mayor and Mrs. Webb and to the city staff, volunteers, and people of Denver for the productive and enjoyable 71st Annual Conference of Mayors and the Second International Conference of Mayors and extends sincere good wishes to him and his family for the future.