



The United States Conference of Mayors

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THE NATION'S MAYORS TO FOCUS ON POVERTY IN AMERICA: MAYORS HOLD NATIONAL FORUM ON POVERTY IN LOS ANGELES

McCain and Obama Senior Policy Advisors To Attend Forum

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, along with Host Los Angeles Mayor Antonio A. Villaraigosa and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran will hold a Mayors '08 Action Forum on Poverty in Los Angeles on Wednesday, September 24th at the Maxine Waters Employment Preparatory Center in Los Angeles.

Mayor Villaraigosa chairs the USCM Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, established in January of 2006 which challenges mayors and elected officials to think differently about poverty and its changing dynamic in America. Villaraigosa has said, "Mayors must force a conversation with the nation on poverty."

This forum will be the third in a series of mayoral forums in key cities around the country intended to challenge the next Presidential Administration to invest in America's cities and metropolitan areas -- the economic engines of the nation accounting for 86 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and where over 85% of people in the country live. The first forum was on Crime in Philadelphia; the second was on Infrastructure in New York City; the remaining forums will be held on Environment in Miami and on the Arts in Palm Beach.

Representatives from both the McCain and Obama campaigns are expected to attend. Recommendations from all five forums will be presented to the next President of the United States during the critical first 100 days of the new administration toward the creation of a metro/national/urban agenda.

Mayor Diaz, the newly-elected President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the nation's premiere bipartisan lobbying organization for the America's cities and metropolitan areas believes that Washington no longer invests in its cities and its people. He has said, "Washington has lost its values – lost its principles – lost its sense of purpose – engaging in endless debate and partisan bickering while people in this country continue to suffer. ... Plain and simple, Washington has abandoned us." Diaz also believes, "National problems demand national investments."

WHO: Miami, FL Mayor Manny Diaz, USCM President
Los Angeles, CA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, USCM Poverty Task Force Chair & Host
Tulsa, OK Mayor Kathy Taylor, USCM Workforce Committee Chair
Oakland, CA Mayor Ron Dellums, USCM Poverty Task Force
Atlanta, GA Mayor Shirley Franklin, USCM Poverty Task Force
Gastonia, NC Mayor Jennifer Stultz, USCM Hunger and Homelessness Task Force
Santa Ana, CA Mayor Miguel Pulido, USCM Advisory Board
Doral, FL Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, USCM Advisory Board
Manhattan Beach, CA Mayor Richard Montgomery
Tom Cochran, USCM CEO and Executive Director
+ National Experts

WHAT: Poverty Forum: PRESS CONFERENCE AT 12:30pm

WHEN: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

WHERE: Maxine Waters Employment Preparatory Center
10925 S. Central Avenue ~ Los Angeles, CA 90059 Ph 323.564.4451