From: Mayor Bryan K. Barnett
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USCM President's Report on COVID-19, Racial Justice and Other Actions

TO: The Mayor

FROM: Bryan K. Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI

As you know, we are serving during a time of enormous change. In just the past two days, calls for racial justice and police reform in our cities continue; we've seen a much anticipated landmark ruling from the Supreme Court in favor of protecting LGBTQ Americans from being fired based on sexual orientation; and learned that retail sales recovered in May, reversing the sharp downturns seen in March and April -- certainly some welcome economic news.

Indeed, America is getting back to work. And the coronavirus, as we know, is holding on. In fact, it remains disturbingly prevalent. New daily cases over the past two weeks have increased throughout the country, including in 12 states in which cases have increased by **47% or more**.

Source: NPR.org; Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University

The advice we keep hearing as we reopen is to be careful and judicious. Dr. Anthony Fauci continues the drumbeat: “The best thing to do is to avoid crowded areas. But if you do not, please wear a mask, all the time.”

As you will see in this Tuesday’s email update, our efforts to keep you informed about all things COVID-19 remain. Here’s a list of coronavirus related information and other topics (with details following each of these subjects below):

1. UPDATE: USCM Working Group on Police Reform and Racial Justice
2. REGISTER NOW: Achieving an Accurate Census Count in the Midst of COVID-19 - June 17 (Wednesday) at Noon ET
3. RETURNING THIS WEEK: Bloomberg Harvard COVID-19 Local Response Initiative Session - June 18 (Thursday) at 1:00pm ET
4. **REGISTER NOW: Frank Luntz to be Featured on All Mayors/Business Council Update- June 19 (Friday) at 3:00pm ET**
5. **REGISTER NOW: 10 USCM Policy Standing Committee Meetings - Week of June 22**
6. SAVE THE DATE: Executive Committee (Business Session) - June 30 (Tuesday) at 1:00pm ET
7. SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Plenary Session on Presidential Transition - July 1 (Wednesday) at Noon ET
8. KEEP PUSHING: Bipartisan Supporting Growing for 4th COVID-19 Supplemental
9. ANNOUNCEMENT: Child Care Resources Showcased in Administration for Children and Families Letter to Nation’s Mayors
10. APPLY NOW: $1 Million in 2020 Wells Fargo and USCM CommunityWINS Housing Affordability Awards - October 9 Deadline
11. RECAP: COVID-19: Disparities to Treatment and Care Webinar
12. RECAP: Water and Wastewater Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar
13. Connecting with USCM and Exchanging Information with Fellow Mayors

1) UPDATE: USCM Working Group on Police Reform and Racial Justice
Led by Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, who chairs the USCM Criminal and Social Justice Committee, our new Working Group has jumped into the task at hand and held two meetings. At its first meeting on June 9, the members discussed the work they were embarking on, including the key issues to cover in their report and the importance of Congress working with mayors and police

chiefs as it develops police reform legislation.

The group co-signed a letter to Congressional leaders urging federal action and seeking to collaborate as lawmakers began to advance their own solutions. “The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to meaningful reforms to address police violence and patterns of racial discrimination in our own communities and beyond,” wrote the mayors and police chiefs in the Working Group. They also applauded the introduction of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 in the House and welcomed the concurrent efforts taking place in the Senate to deliver bipartisan reform. They went on to make the case for their involvement in the process: “As mayors, we are on the front lines of this important conversation with our community and many mayors and police chiefs initiated police reform and accountability measures years ago and have a wealth of experience to add to this most important discussion. We stand ready to meet with you, the bill’s sponsors, or other Congressional leaders as part of the legislative process. We have an opportunity right now to make some needed and important reforms to policing and to work toward racial justice. Let’s seize the moment together.”

The group held its second meeting yesterday and will meet again at the end of this week as they work toward having recommendations ready to present to the Conference’s Criminal and Social Justice Committee, which will meet June 25, and the Conference as a whole.

Working group members, in addition to Mayor Lightfoot are Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, Chair of the USCM Task Force of Mayors and Police Chiefs; Tampa Mayor Jane Castor, a 31-year veteran of the Tampa Police Department who in 2009 became the first woman to be Tampa’s Police Chief, a position she held for six years; and three thoughtful and experienced police chiefs: Michael Harrison of Baltimore; W. H. “Skip” Holbrook of Columbia, SC; and Jeri Williams of Phoenix.

Working with them are Charles Ramsey, an advisor to the Conference of Mayors, and who served as police chief in Washington, DC and Philadelphia and also co-chaired President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing; Ron Davis, former Director of the COPS Office - who served as Executive Director of the President’s Task Force; former Deputy U.S. Attorney General Jamie Gorelick; and our CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and USCM

staff.

2) REGISTER NOW: Achieving an Accurate Census Count in the Midst of COVID-19 - June 17 (Wednesday) at Noon ET

In response to the COVID- 19 Pandemic, mayors across the nation pushed for changes in the 2020 Census operations schedule to protect the health and safety of residents and census workers; and adjusted their outreach efforts to help ensure an accurate count of all residents. The importance of the decennial census cannot be overstated in that it provides data that will be used not only for reapportionment and redistricting, but for distributing trillions of dollars in federal aid to state and local governments for education, police and fire protection, housing, transportation, health and human services, job training and many other services.

No one knows better than mayors the importance of making sure all residents in local communities are counted in the census. Because of COVID-19, many mayors have adjusted their plans for reaching out to help ensure that immigrants, minorities, and other so called hard-to-count individuals respond to the census. The United States Census Bureau has also made significant adjustments in its plans for conducting the 2020 decennial census to help ensure an accurate count.

To help educate mayors on the changes in the Census Bureau's schedule for the 2020 Census and on adjustments mayors are making to ensure an accurate count, USCM is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, June 17 at 12:00 noon (EDT). Featured panelists will include:

- Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Chair of the USCM 2020 Census Task Force;
- San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Vice Chair of the USCM 2020 Census Task Force;
- Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President and CEO Vanita Gupta; and
- Census Bureau Associate Director of Field Operations Tim Olson.

You will have an opportunity to direct questions to the panel, however, you need to submit your questions in advance, by Tuesday, June 16 so we can answer as many questions as possible for as many cities as possible in the time available. Please send your questions to nlewis@usmayors.org.

CLICK HERE to register for this webinar.

3) RETURNING THIS WEEK: Bloomberg Harvard COVID-19 Local Response Initiative Session - June 18 (Thursday) at 1:00pm ET
In partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies and others, the COVID-19 Local Response Initiative is providing support and resources to help local leaders combat COVID-19 and protect the social and economic wellbeing of our cities.

We continue to join Bloomberg Philanthropies and their partners at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative for the convening of the Bloomberg COVID-19 Local Response Initiative City Leaders Virtual Session.

This Thursday, the sessions return in their new monthly format. The Conference invites you to join the more than 300 cities across the nation who have already registered for Bloomberg Philanthropies' COVID-19 Local Response Initiative. To join, please email coronavirusresponse@bloomberg.org.

4) REGISTER NOW: Frank Luntz to be Featured on All-Mayors/Business Council Update - June 19 (Friday) at 3:00pm ET
Dr. Frank Luntz will return as our featured speaker for our weekly Friday 3:00pm to 4:00pm ET Zoom meeting. Dr. Luntz has new survey data to share with mayors on social injustice, the economy, and COVID-19. He is always an extremely well received speaker among our group.

CLICK HERE to register for this Zoom meeting.

On our meeting last Friday, Tampa Mayor Jan Castor provided an update regarding our new Working Group for Police Reform and Racial Justice - reviewing their focus on the implementation of policy reforms as well as the content of the recommendations themselves. She stated the group placed an emphasis on a wider use of body cameras and asked for federal assistance to achieve this end. Mayor Michael Copeland of Olathe, KS furthered this desire for transparency with his city instituting a wider adoption of body cameras, an increased civilian oversight board, and a better human relations commissions. On the topic of reform, Mayor Steven Williams of Huntington, WV spoke about

the use of social workers with police officers and firefighters, and found they helped reduce compassion fatigue and assisted officers with volatile situations.

Besides direct police reform, the mayors discussed ways to communicate with their community and strengthen and support communities of color. Mayor Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles spoke about investing in communities of color through programs such as Los Angeles' leading gang reduction youth development program, which has grown by 50 percent and has been exported for use in Central America. He also spoke about integrating the police into the community by keeping them in neighborhoods for 5 years and encouraging consistent interaction with members of the community. Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia and Mayor Sam Liccardo of San Jose touched on the importance of clearly articulating your values, acknowledging the pain felt by communities of color and listening to their concerns before taking action. After last week's display of solidarity, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner thanked mayors across the country for joining him in honoring George Floyd and his family through the lighting of city halls in crimson and gold – the colors of George Floyd's Alma Mater Jack Yates High School.

CLICK HERE to view a recording of this meeting. You will need to enter the following password to gain access: 0t&535e7

5) REGISTER NOW: 10 USCM Policy Standing Committee Meetings - Week of June 22

The 10 USCM policy standing committees will all hold virtual meetings during the week of June 22. The first order of business for each standing committee under USCM rules will be to consider the proposed policy resolutions that were submitted prior to the May 27 deadline, and then any new resolutions offered by a member of the standing committee. The committee chairs may also add speakers or discussion topics to their meeting agendas.

CLICK HERE to register for any of the 10 policy standing committee meetings and see the proposed policy resolutions that have been assigned to each.

6) SAVE THE DATE: Executive Committee (Business Session) - June 30 (Tuesday) at 1:00pm ET

The USCM Constitution empowers the Executive Committee to adopt resolutions when the body is not gathered for an Annual Meeting. Thus, on

Tuesday, June 30 at 1:00 pm ET, I will lead a virtual meeting of the USCM Executive Committee (Business Session) to both consider all resolutions approved by the standing committees, and consider the report of the USCM Nominating Committee.

7) SAVE THE DATE: Virtual Plenary Session on Presidential Transition - July 1 (Wednesday) at Noon ET

On Wednesday, July 1 at noon ET, we will have a virtual plenary session. First, there will be a video presentation, and I will make an address reporting on my year as our 77th President. Second, there will be a video presentation, and then Mayor Fischer will make an address outlining his priorities for his year as our 78th President.

8) KEEP PUSHING: Supporting Growing for 4th COVID-19 Supplemental

We continue in our efforts to push the Senate to act on emergency fiscal assistance before July 1 - when many cities, counties and states begin their fiscal years. Yet, Hill sources and news reports all indicate that Senate action is not expected until at least mid-July, and what will be included in a 4th COVID-19 supplemental is still VERY much open for debate.

White House economic advisor Kevin Hassett said over the weekend that the White House is open to a 4th supplemental to deal with issues such as liability protections (a priority for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell), help for the travel and tourism industries, and more - although he did not say if they supported fiscal assistance for state and local governments.

The House has already passed The HEROES Act which includes $187.5 billion in flexible emergency fiscal assistance over two years for ALL municipalities. The House bill also contains many other provisions that help those who reside and work in our cities, including provisions which would help address many health, economic and racial disparities that have been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic.

And, there are growing voices of bipartisan support in the Senate on the need for fiscal assistance for cities, counties and states - but Senate Leadership has NOT committed to this assistance.

So here is what we needed:

Fiscal Pain Data

170 cities have responded to our Mayors COVID-19 Fiscal Pain Tracker - a way for mayors to share public information regarding budget shortfalls and related furloughs, layoffs, or other actions that have resulted from COVID-19.

- If you have not already submitted information, or have updates to content already submitted, please send them to fiscalpain@usmayors.org. This is a living, breathing USCM initiative that will be key to our success in building support in the Senate for emergency fiscal assistance.

Letters to Congress

A number of mayors have already organized state-wide efforts calling for emergency fiscal assistance:

- Texas mayors, organized by Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams, sent this letter on April 15.
- Eleven Illinois mayors of cities with a population between 75,000 and 500,000, organized by Rockford Mayor Thomas McNamara, sent a letter April 20 to the State's delegation urging them to support, “flexible direct funding to municipalities to help limit the crippling economic damage to our cities as a result of this global pandemic.”
- Seven Iowa Mayors co-authored on May 6 this op-ed, “Congress: stand up for cities,” that appeared in the *Quad-City Times.*
- Pennsylvania mayors, organized by Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti, sent this letter on May 13.
- Forty Michigan mayors signed on to a letter of support for direct local assistance for all cities that I distributed. The May 28 letter urges our Michigan Congressional delegation in Washington to help us.
- And, there could be other letters or efforts out there.

It’s not too late! I strongly encourage all mayors to act - statewide. Fifty letters or op-eds from mayors in all 50 states! Imagine what impact that would have as we push to get the Senate to act on fiscal assistance.

9) ANNOUNCEMENT: Child Care Resources Showcased in Administration for Children and Families Letter to Nation’s Mayors

The Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families' Office of Child Care (OCC) is available as a resource to cities nationwide concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their communities, including the effect on child care programs and providers. Thus, the Office created a Child Care COVID-19 Resources page that provides specific guidance, information and resources that may be helpful to mayors, child program administrators, policy makers and others locally during the current public health emergency. Please CLICK HERE to learn more.

In addition to this resource, OCC Director Shannon Christian shared a letter with USCM last week to best engage all mayors to showcase available flexibilities in the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) block grant program and highlight best resources for CCDF lead agencies. The letter also encourages mayors "to be in touch with your State's Lead Agency to discuss how policies and recent funding will impact local governments and how these changes affect your children and families" as "CCDF Lead Agencies determine how to best utilize resources to meet new challenges presented by COVID-19." To read the full letter, please CLICK HERE.

You can also locate your State's Lead Agency HERE.

As funding is State administered, USCM also strongly encourages all mayors to contact your State's Lead Agency directly to learn more about how CCDF funding supports local child care providers or programs in your city. If you need any additional assistance, please also contact Dalen Harris on the conference staff at dharris@usmayors.org.

10) APPLY NOW: $1 Million in 2020 Wells Fargo and USCM CommunityWINS Housing Affordability Awards - October 9 Deadline

Your city can now apply for the 2020 U.S. Conference of Mayors and Wells Fargo CommunityWINS awards. Competitive grants of $1 million will be awarded to eight nonprofits with projects that will foster citizen access to safe and affordable housing.

Since 2015, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Wells Fargo have awarded six million dollars to nonprofits in cities through the CommunityWINS program in such areas as workforce development, economic development, and neighborhood stabilization. But in 2020, the program will focus on housing

affordability and solutions designed to increase the availability and affordability of rentals, transitional housing, or sustainable homeownership.

USCM members can nominate up to three eligible nonprofit housing initiatives. Grant requirements and the online application form are now available for submission at www.usmayors.org/communitywins. Nonprofits must submit applications by October 9, 2020. Grantees will be named during the Mayor's 89th Winter Meeting in Washington, DC. For questions, please email: CommunityWINS@wellsfargo.com.

11) RECAP: COVID-19: Disparities to Treatment and Care Webinar
Last Thursday, the conference organized a webinar on the longstanding concern of health disparities and how mayors are promoting inclusion and health equity now and well into the future in their cities. The session was moderated by Children, Health and Human Service Standing Committee Chair and Richmond (VA) Mayor Levar Stoney.

Throughout, panelists showcased how data has revealed higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations, deaths, and positive cases based on race and ethnicity in their communities. Additionally, panelists offered insight into how long standing socio-economic, environmental, and other factors have negatively impacted the most vulnerable, workers with low incomes or loss of jobs, and people living in poverty. In response, Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza of Providence and Mayor Stoney highlighted programs and outreach that they have launched in their cities to improve health equity for vulnerable residents in their community. Additionally, Fremont Mayor Lily Mei showcased efforts that she has undertaken to support inclusion for the diverse residents of her rapidly growing East Bay region; and noted public health expert and former Boston Health Commissioner John Auerbach provided a set of recommendations for mayors to implement now to improve health equity.

CLICK HERE to view a recording of this webinar.

12) RECAP: Water and Wastewater Management During the COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar
Mayors discussed the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on their water and sewer utilities last Friday, June 12 with private sector counterparts Veolia North America and American Water. The session was moderated by Napa Mayor Jill

Techel and Lima Mayor David Berger, Co-Chairs of the USCM Mayors Water Council.

The new information shared indicates it is too early to provide complete information on the financial impacts, but the systems have been in full operation. Panelists stated that worker protection and PPE and distancing are being integrated into daily work. No lay-offs or furloughs were implemented in these systems. Panelists also mentioned that they were suspending shut-offs for nonpayment. Mayor Steve Callaway, Hillsboro (OR) mentioned that the final bill will come due for our utilities when the stimulus financial support like the Paycheck Protection Program ends and a few months worth of bills come due for many households.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency recently appointed Ms. Jamie Piziali as the first-ever Municipal Ombudsman. Ms. Piziali is now the Agency's point person for mayors and city staff dealing with water and sewer utilities. She described some of the duties and responsibilities of the Ombudsman and offered to work with mayors. Ms. Piziali can be contacted at: Piziali.Jamie@epa.gov.

CLICK HERE to view a recording of this webinar.

13) Connecting with USCM and Exchanging Information with Fellow Mayors

As a reminder, we have placed numerous resources and key federal links on our special COVID-19 webpage on the usmayors.org site, and we've created a Slack Channel where cities can exchange information. We encourage you to join the conversation on Slack if you haven't already done so. In addition, please feel free to reach out to me directly at 248-227-2869 (cell) or barnettb@rochesterhills.org on any matter on which I personally or USCM as an organization can be of assistance. And you can always reach our CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran at 202-744-9110 (cell) or tcochran@usmayors.org.

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Let me put an exclamation point on topic #2 above: **Achieving an Accurate Census Count in the Midst of COVID-19**. It's a webinar taking place tomorrow

(Wednesday, 6/17) at noon ET.

If it weren't for the pandemic, the economic downturn, racial unrest, and the need for police reform, the 2020 Census would be the lead story in every one of our cities -- especially right now, as the push to encourage residents to fill out their Census form (today!) would be a full court press.

But it must remain a priority. Please don't miss this opportunity to learn from other mayors and subject matter experts, as we engage in the effort to ensure a full and accurate count in 2020. CLICK HERE to register for this webinar.

I want to also remind everyone that the 10 USCM Policy Standing Committees will all hold virtual meetings **NEXT WEEK** -- the week of June 22nd. CLICK HERE to register for any of the 10 policy standing committee meetings and see the proposed policy resolutions that have been assigned to each.

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Let me end with my ongoing appeal! If you're not a member of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, **please join us!** There's never been a better time to be a part of this group. Questions? My contact information is above. Luther Roberts, Director of Membership at USCM, can also help. He can be reached at lroberts@usmayors.org.

Mayors, lead boldly -- and know that our USCM family is behind every one of you. Now more than ever.

BKB

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