



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, September 9, 2013

Contact:
Elena Temple- Webb
202-286-1100 (etemple@usmayors.org)
Lina Garcia
202-341-6113 (lgarcia@usmayors.org)
Karen Hinton
703-798-3109 (Karen@hintoncommunications.com)

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS LEAD WITH 10 POINT PLAN AGAINST RACISM DURING BIRMINGHAM EMPOWERMENT WEEK:

HOST PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH MAYORS ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE, TOLERANCE AT 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN BIRMINGHAM

Washington, D.C. – In conjunction with Empowerment Week, commemorating Birmingham's pivotal involvement in the civil rights movement of 1963 and the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL, which killed four young girls, **The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) will host panel discussions in Birmingham on Thursday, September 12 on Reaching Economic Equality and Building Tolerance and release a 10 Point Action Plan to End Racism and Discrimination.**

Working with UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the U.S. Department of State, the Conference of Mayors is establishing the U.S. Coalition of Cities Against Racism and Discrimination as part of the International Coalition of Cities Against Racism, a global network of cities working together to improve their policies to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and exclusion. UNESCO has asked the Conference of Mayors to organize the U.S. Coalition and serve as its secretariat. The Coalition's 10-Point Action Plan Against Racism and Discrimination will be released in Birmingham.

Hosted by Birmingham (AL) Mayor William A. Bell, Sr. and led by USCM Vice President Sacramento (CA) Mayor Kevin Johnson, the panel discussions to be held at the 16th Street Baptist Church will feature several U.S. mayors (see below). Immediately following the panel discussions, Charleston (SC) Mayor Joe Riley, also known as the Dean of America's Mayors, will bring remarks regarding the role that mayors can play in the work left to be accomplished within the movement, and then the mayors will gather in front of the 16th Street Baptist Church at **12n for a press**

availability:

9:00am-10:25am – Opening Remarks from Birmingham Mayor William Bell & Panel Discussion on Reaching Economic Justice:

Moderator: Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, CA and Vice President, USCM

Panelists:

Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA and Past President, USCM

Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI

Mitch Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, LA

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor of Tacoma, WA

10:25am-11:30am – Panel Discussion on Building Tolerance:

Moderator: Don Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron, OH and Past President, USCM

Panelists:

Alvin Brown, Mayor of Jacksonville, FL

Chris Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA

Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, KY

Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester, MN

11:30am – Remarks from Joe Riley, Mayor of Charleston, CA Past President, USCM

WHO: The U.S. Conference of Mayors

WHAT: 9:00am – 12:00pm: Panel Discussions with Mayors on Economic Justice; Building Tolerance (OPEN TO PRESS)

12:00pm: Press Availability – *Mayors to Release 10 Point Plan of Action to End Racism and Discrimination*

WHEN: Thursday, September 12, 2013

WHERE: 16th Street Baptist Church | 1530 6th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203 | (205) 251-9402

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,295 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/usmayors](https://www.facebook.com/usmayors), or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usmayors.