



# MAYOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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## **MAYOR PALMER OUT FRONT IN U.S. MAYORS' CALL FOR "MAIN STREET" RECOVERY, WITH GREEN STRATEGIES, IMMEDIATE JOBS, REDUCTION OF URBAN ECONOMIC STRESS**

Mayor Douglas H. Palmer Saturday joined a U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) move to forge an urban agenda for America that combines green innovation, an immediate push for jobs, and emergency support for the vital city services now threatened by the recession.

"Looking at the severe economic stress in American cities, it is very plain that the welcome upticks on Wall Street have not registered on Main Street, either in my city or in most across our country," Mayor Palmer said. "Yet metro economies constitute 86 percent of the nation's jobs, more than 90 percent of labor income, and nearly 90 percent of the gross domestic product of America. Main Street is the heart of America, where solutions are needed most."

Mayor Palmer, past president of the USCM, joined the organization today in requesting a meeting with Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag and National Economic Council Director Lawrence Summers to discuss the severe fiscal stress and unemployment rates in America's cities – and the imperative for the federal budget to alleviate that stress.

"President Obama's initial focus, quite appropriately, has been on averting a worldwide economic meltdown," Mayor Palmer said. "I understand the importance of stabilizing financial institutions. My point is, Main Street is where the innovations and jobs are – and we will need some focused support to get the economic benefit of the green economy and create jobs now."

(more)

Mayor Palmer pointed out that although he supported the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, many of its funded programs did not invest in cities and their metro areas, where the majority of the unemployed reside. USCM data show that metro economies represent over 86 percent of all jobs, over 90 percent of labor income, and nearly 90 percent of gross domestic product.

“Our problem in Trenton, and in hundreds of America’s cities, is that widespread layoffs and meager job prospects are exacting a heavy cost in human terms,” Mayor Palmer said. “We have not had to lay off police or fire personnel in my city – but this has been the case in too many other locales. America needs to wake up to this local fiscal strain and address it.”

The Mayor pointed to the USCM’s citation of several critical areas for attention:

- **Fully Funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)**
- **Fully Funding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program at Inflation Adjusted Dollars**
- **Funding the COPS Program at ARRA Levels**
- **Providing ARRA Level Funding for Summer Youth Jobs**
- **Providing Targeted Fiscal Relief for High Unemployment Cities and Metro Economies**
- **Provide Additional Funding for the TIGER Grant Program**

“The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program is critically important to the revitalization of our downtown, in connection with our Route 29 Boulevard project on the riverfront,” Mayor Palmer said. “We urge the Administration to fund sustainable and multimodal projects of regional and national significance – not the least of which is reclaiming our riverfront from asphalt and revitalizing our historic city.”

Mayor Palmer said the USCM is pushing to avoid layoffs; create jobs immediately (with funds distributed directly to cities and counties); accent green jobs to address global warming; assist local infrastructure projects that states rarely fund; fund public safety jobs; create youth employment; and help communities that have high unemployment and an inadequate tax base.

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Contact: Kent Ashworth – 609-989-3828 – email: [kashworth@trentonnj.org](mailto:kashworth@trentonnj.org)