

Gloria -

Can you provide each Council member with a copy of this package?

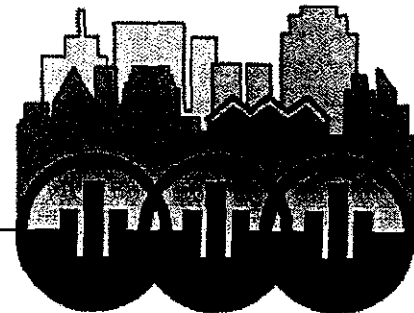
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Thanks
Joyce

Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities

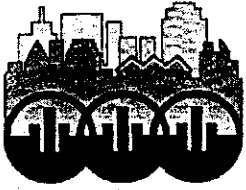
2006

**Inclusive
Communities**



National League of Cities

Inclusive Communities



National League of Cities

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
www.nlc.org

February 1, 2006

Dear Local Elected Official:

Over many years, the National League of Cities and its members have shown a strong and continuing interest in what it takes to build inclusive communities, as well as an abiding belief in inclusion as a condition for community success. City and town officials can be proud of the work we have all accomplished together on these issues under past NLC presidents and leaders.

As President of the National League of Cities, I have dedicated myself and NLC to continuing in this spirit, to use this common thread that connects our work on equality, fairness, and democratic governance. This unifying thread is a commitment to the power of inclusiveness as a force for stronger, more successful communities.

NLC and its city and town members now must use the work and the passion of previous municipal leaders. We will raise awareness and focus attention on the importance and value of inclusive communities. Together, we will weave these efforts together to create continuing, collective, and sustainable action.

We will not complete this task, but we must move forward. It is not the time to shy away from this important issue, but instead it is the time for bold leaders to take risks and make a stand.

I encourage you to join with me in the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities; to pass a resolution reaffirming your community's commitment to promoting inclusion; and to proudly display a sign that serves as a daily reminder that your community is working towards a better future for all its citizens.

You can download the tool kit from our website at www.nlc.org. The kit includes information on how to join the Partnership; a return information and staff contact form; a sample Resolution/Proclamation; a list of examples of city action steps; and examples of inclusive city programs, policies, and activities.

I look forward to your support and participation in this effort.

Sincerely,

James C. Hunt, President
Councilmember,
Clarksburg, WV

**Partnership
for
Working
Toward
Inclusive
Communities**

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National League of Cities

JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP for Working Toward Inclusive Communities!

JOIN the PARTNERSHIP:

Cities and towns around the country are joining NLC in the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities. Be part of the 2006 activities!

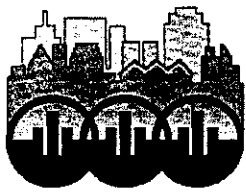
- ✓ **PASS A RESOLUTION** reaffirming your commitment to promoting inclusion in your community (a sample copy of a resolution is included in this tool kit).
- ✓ **SEND AN OFFICIAL COPY** of the resolution to NLC.
- ✓ **SEND THE ENCLOSED** return information and staff contact form to NLC (specific instructions are on the form) and we will follow up with you for additional information on what your community is doing.
- ✓ **WHEN NLC RECEIVES** your resolution and contact form, we will:
 - Enroll you in the Partnership, and
 - Send you one (1) sign for your community.

As a MEMBER of the PARTNERSHIP:

- ➔ Send NLC photos (digital photos are best) of the sign's installation including any ceremony that you hold in your community as well as information on any programs, policies, and activities that you currently have in place that promote inclusion, so that NLC can recognize and celebrate cities who are participating in the Partnership. Email this information to inclusive@nlc.org.
- ➔ Watch NLC's website and Nation's Cities Weekly for information on new activities and resources throughout the year.
- ➔ Use the information on the Inclusive Communities page on NLC's website, including the 2005 Futures Report, *Inclusive Communities for All*, and an annotated guide to NLC's resources, *Resource Guide for Working Toward Inclusive Communities*.
- ➔ Look for NLC President Jim Hunt to highlight the Partnership and the accomplishments of the participating cities and towns in his addresses to state leagues and in visits to cities throughout the year.
- ➔ Seize the opportunity to participate in NLC's Race Equality Week, September 25-29, 2006.
- ➔ Send NLC any information (again, including digital photographs) of any programs or activities you conduct as part of the Partnership. We will ask again for this information

Continued on next page.

**Inclusive
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National League of Cities

PARTNERSHIP

for Working Toward Inclusive Communities!

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION/RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, *[Your city]* is committed to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of our community; and

WHEREAS, cities and towns are the best place to make inclusiveness an everyday priority; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials can and should lead the way forward in making inclusiveness a priority in America's cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities has designed the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities to support cities and towns in their commitment to inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities and its members believe an inclusive community promotes equal opportunity and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities and its members believe an inclusive community promotes citizen participation and engagement; and

WHEREAS, National League of Cities President James C. Hunt, councilmember, Clarksburg, West Virginia, has invited local officials to join the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities and to make a commitment to building more inclusive communities in their own cities and towns.

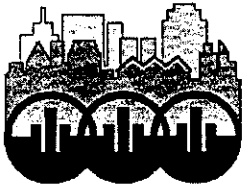
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that *[Your city here]* hereby reaffirms our commitment to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of our community, pledges active efforts to seek to achieve that goal, and urges all citizens of *[Your City]* to join together to support this effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that *[City name]* joins the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities.

Signed this *[Date]*

[Your name and City]

**Inclusive
Communities**



National League of Cities

PARTNERSHIP

for Working Toward Inclusive Communities!

RETURN INFORMATION AND STAFF CONTACT FORM

ATTACH THIS FORM TO YOUR CITY'S OFFICAL RESOLUTION AND SEND TO:

Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities

National League of Cities

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

FAX: (202) 626-3043

1. Please fill out the contact information of the Elected Official involved with the Partnership.

Name _____

Title _____

Name of Primary Staff Contact Person

(if different from above) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

2. If different from above, please fill out the contact information for where to send the Inclusive Community Sign.

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Questions? Please e-mail inclusive@nlc.org.

Inclusive Communities



National League of Cities

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

www.nlc.org

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Date:

(Name of City) Enters National Partnership to Foster Diversity and Inclusion

Today, *(Name of City)* joined a growing number of cities across the nation in a partnership to build inclusive communities through committed efforts to increase citizen participation and engagement, while promoting equal opportunity and fairness.

The *Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities*, an effort led by the National League of Cities (NLC), unites city leaders who are working to support such issues as racial justice and inclusionary zoning as well as those who celebrate the diversity of race, religions and cultures in order to build communities that are accepting and representative of the differences among its citizens. Increased involvement by a wider representation of citizens in governmental activities will also be a hallmark of these inclusive communities.

"By joining this partnership, *(Name of City)* is not only reaffirming its dedication to its citizens locally, but its commitment to building a nation of inclusion," said NLC President, James C. Hunt, council member from Clarksburg, West Virginia. "Through this partnership we hope to bring together the collective will of cities in order to build strong, viable communities across the nation."

As part of its commitment, *(Name of City)* has passed a resolution reaffirming its pledge to promote inclusion. The city will also display a sign that serves an indicator and daily reminder to its citizens that the city is working to build inclusive communities.

(Name of City) is a member of the *Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities*.

Members of the Partnership will:

- Raise awareness and focus attention on the importance and value of inclusive communities;
- Motivate other cities and towns to make a public commitment to building inclusive communities;
- Provide support to local officials in focused efforts around affordable housing, race and ethnic relations, and equal citizen participation in community decision-making;
- Share valuable insights, experiences, and lessons learned among participating cities and towns; and
- Recognize, publicize, and celebrate the work of cities and towns that have joined the Partnership.

Hunt added, "I ask each city official to change your vocabulary from 'us' and 'them' to 'we.' When we join together to solve this problem, we bring together the collective will of the greatest country that has ever existed. We bring together the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the educated and the uneducated."

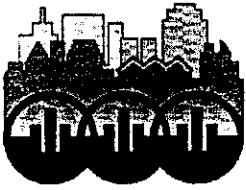
To learn more about the *Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities*, go to www.nlc.org.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 18,000 U.S. cities, towns and villages, which collectively serve 225 million people.

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WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

Create Connections

Install the Inclusive Community Sign to announce to all citizens that this community promotes equal opportunity and fairness and citizen participation and engagement.

Provide educational opportunities designed to welcome and familiarize new residents with their community. These programs give new residents the occasion to learn more about their local government, gain awareness about local issues, and learn about the many opportunities for citizen involvement in community activities.

Display a welcome sign that reflects all the major languages spoken in your community.

Start a "language bank" of volunteer interpreters for all languages, including sign language, used in the community.

Reach out to various community organizations (such as religious, cultural, civic, and youth and elder-oriented) about the value of equal citizen participation in local government and the opportunities for involvement.

Initiate leadership development programs that provide residents with the knowledge and tools to develop grassroots solutions to neighborhood problems and concerns.

Conduct a survey of residents measuring how their local government represents and responds to their needs and problems.

Remove physical barriers that prevent citizens living with disabilities from participating in community activities.

Encourage Dialogue

Create a widely available community newsletter or website that discusses local issues, explains upcoming events and meetings, encourages citizen involvement, and offers the opportunity for citizen feedback.

Establish "town hall" meetings in which all members of the community are welcome to express their views and concerns about various issues affecting the city or town.

Create Citizen Advisory Panels that represent the different neighborhoods of your community and that work closely with one another and with city officials to identify problems and apportionment of resources.

Involve citizens in designing and planning city land use, such as for a new playground, downtown area, or a library.

Start a monthly "inclusion roundtable" to discuss critical issues facing your community.

Continued on next page.

**Partnership
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WHAT CAN YOUR CITY DO?

Continued from previous page.

Sponsor youth “town hall” meetings where your city’s youth can have a chance to express their opinions directly to local elected officials.

Organize joint projects involving schools from different sections of the community — and involve the parents in carrying out the projects.

Involve the Media

Issue a press release or hold a press conference announcing your community’s commitment to building a more inclusive community. Invite the media to the installation of the new Inclusive Community Sign.

Promote positive stories of inclusion in the local media to enhance the understanding of different groups of citizens living in the community and to gain broader support for community inclusion initiatives.

Educate and inform reporters, editors, and commentators of the local press about the importance of working towards a more inclusive community — allowing positive actions to be the focus of stories instead of pessimistic editorials or commentaries.

Provide regular updates to the media about progress on action steps in your community and upcoming inclusion activities.

Be a Model

Be a visible supporter and champion for this effort.

Encourage others to join the effort — even though it can be difficult, challenging, and uncomfortable.

Pay attention to your own behavior.

Look for resources — books, articles, organizations, people — to broaden your awareness of issues related to inclusion. Use NLC’s Resource Guide to Inclusive Communities to find helpful NLC publications.

Stay focused on the goal of promoting an inclusive community.

Be patient — start small and build on success.

Practice what you preach — accept other’s ideas; reach out to others who are from different backgrounds; encourage the participation of all community members; and work to move beyond tolerance to true inclusion and equality.

Grant ditto w/ this resolution



2005 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRAGEDY IN SUDAN

WHEREAS, a conflict between rebel forces in the Darfur region of Sudan and forces of the Sudanese government (along with allied Janjaweed militias) has resulted in attacks by air and ground forces on tens of thousands of innocent people and undefended villages throughout the Darfur region; and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 people and perhaps as many as 400,000 are believed to have been killed and hundreds of villages systematically destroyed, with over two million people forced from their homes by the Sudanese government troops and Janjaweed militias, approximately 200,000 of them having sought refugee protection in neighboring Chad; and

WHEREAS, in addition to those killed, the World Health Organization estimated in 2004 that from March to October 2004 at least 70,000 people had died from malnutrition and disease linked to the conflict; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts by the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, the African Union and the European Union, and the declaration by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell to the U.S. Senate that genocide was occurring, the conflict in Darfur continues, with an estimated 10,000 people dying every month; and

WHEREAS, a more precise assessment of the scope of the killing, ethnic cleansing, and other human rights atrocities (including rapes and torture) has been made impossible because of obstructions to access imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, the Sudanese government has been unwilling to effectively address the human rights crisis in Darfur and has been supplying arms to the allied Janjaweed militias perpetrating violence against African Muslims in Darfur; and

WHEREAS, much of the violence being perpetrated against people in the Darfur region of Sudan is occurring through aerial attacks; and

WHEREAS, Amnesty International estimates that almost three million people are affected by the conflict in the Darfur region, but humanitarian aid agencies and the United Nations estimate that only 15% of these people have received aid, due to impediments to the delivery of aid imposed by the Sudanese government; and

WHEREAS, because of the impediments to access by humanitarian organizations, hundreds of thousands of displaced Sudanese are in jeopardy of

starvation and illness;

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said of the situation, "The international community has to act on Darfur. It has to act with great speed. It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a moral crisis, and it is a crisis that is extraordinary in its scope and in its potential for even greater damage to those populations;" and

WHEREAS, prior to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, the United Nations called Darfur the "world's worst humanitarian crisis;" and

WHEREAS, the United States and much of the international community turned a blind eye to the murders, rapes and torture of millions of people, as well as the ethnic cleansing and other massive human rights abuses during the Holocaust, and in Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda; and

WHEREAS, there has been general agreement that "Never Again" will we allow such tragedies to occur; and

WHEREAS, effective measures can be taken by the United States, by the United Nations, and the international community to end many of the tragic human rights abuses occurring in Sudan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges the U.S. Congress and the Bush Administration, in collaboration with the United Nations, and NATO to: a) create a NATO enforced no-fly zone over the Darfur region, putting an end to aerial attacks; (b) allow the free movement of human rights investigators and humanitarian workers in the Darfur region; (c) cease supplying the allied Janjaweed militias with arms; and (d) agree to a United Nations mission of at least 10,000 international peacekeepers to stop the violence and attend to the needs of those who have been impacted by the violence in the Darfur region.

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info@usmayors.org