



Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together

Local Leaders Council

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Smart Growth America's Local Leaders Council looks to the future of building great neighborhoods, strong economies

Nonpartisan group of local officials to form nationwide network to exchange strategies and lessons in smart growth implementation

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Smart Growth America is proud to announce the launch of its new [Local Leaders Council](#). This nonpartisan group of local officials is dedicated to facilitating collaboration and networking among municipal leaders with a shared interest in using smart growth strategies to generate economic returns, save taxpayer money and provide housing and transportation options near jobs, shops and schools.

“Community members want to see their tax dollars used more wisely and efficiently, and they want to live in healthier, more vibrant neighborhoods,” said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, who serves as co-chair of the Council’s Advisory Board. “The individuals participating in Smart Growth America’s Local Leaders Council come from many different walks of life, from different kinds of towns and cities, and from diverse political backgrounds. But we share a common interest in creating jobs, attracting sustained economic development and making great places to live.”

“The key to making our cities stronger is bringing more choices in transportation, housing and jobs to more people. And, we can do that by being more strategic in how we invest our limited resources,” said fellow co-chair, Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. “As the economy continues to improve, it is crucial that local leaders make smart decisions that will unlock the growth potential in our communities. The Local Leaders Council could be a game changer for cities across the country.”

The Advisory Board of the Local Leaders Council (full roster attached) is comprised of 22 municipal leaders from across the nation, representing big cities, rural towns, and suburban communities, each with their own set of challenges and opportunities. The Advisory Board convened for the first time on October 1, 2012, to discuss shared goals and deliberate on the services the Council would provide its members, which will include elected and appointed decision makers at the city and county levels. Members will receive technical assistance in policy development, reviews of best practices across a broad range of issues, and access to one another to share ideas and lessons in smart growth implementation.

“We want to support and assist leaders working to stabilize and strengthen their communities,” says William Fulton, Smart Growth America’s Vice President for Policy & Implementation and

former Mayor of Ventura, CA. “These are the leaders on the forefront of innovative policies and initiatives that are going to lift up their communities and make them even greater places to live and work for decades to come.”

With guidance from the Advisory Board, Smart Growth America will begin to recruit the first members of the Local Leaders Council. Initially, membership will be by invitation with Board members and general members making nominations to grow the network. For more information about Smart Growth America’s Local Leaders Council, visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org/LocalLeaders.

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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ADVISORY BOARD



Mick Cornett
Mayor
Oklahoma City, OK
Population: 579,999
(Co-Chair)



Mark Mallory
Mayor
Cincinnati, OH
Population: 296,943
(Co-Chair)



Sheila Eckman
Council Member
Auburn, AL
Population: 54,566



Ed Gonzalez
Council Member
Houston, TX
Population: 2,145,146



Dave Richins
Council Member
Mesa, AZ
Population: 446,518



Rick Danner
Mayor
Greer, SC
Population: 26,002



Marilyn Strickland
Mayor
Tacoma, WA
Population: 200,678



Ruth Randleman
Mayor
Carlisle, IA
Population: 3,918



Kathy Rinaldi
County Commissioner
Driggs, ID
Population: 10,166



Tommy Wells
Council Member
Washington, DC
Population: 617,996



John Engen
Mayor
Missoula, MT
Population: 104,170



Jose Huizar
Council Member
Los Angeles, CA
Population: 3,792,621



Brad Lander
Council Member
Brooklyn, NY
Population: 2,532,645



Ken Moore
Mayor
Franklin, TN
Population: 64,317



Robert E. Bruchey II
Mayor
Hagerstown, MD
Population: 39,890



Anu Natarajan
Vice-Mayor
Fremont, CA
Population: 216,916



Kristin Palmer
Council Member
New Orleans, LA
Population: 360,740



Shing-Fu Hsueh
Mayor
West Windsor, NJ
Population: 27,165



Hannah J. McKinney
Vice-Mayor
Kalamazoo, MI
Population: 74,743



Madeline Rogero
Mayor
Knoxville, TN
Population: 180,761



Scott Avedisian
Mayor
Warwick, RI
Population: 82,361



Christopher Zimmerman
County Board Member
Arlington County, VA
Population: 216,004