



**THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INC**

(United Nations of Cities)

[www.worldconferenceofmayors.org](http://www.worldconferenceofmayors.org)

Tuskegee, AL 36083, USA

Office: (334) 727-4035 & (334) 724-9200 • Fax: (334) 727-6319

**WCM Website: [www.worldconferenceofmayors.org](http://www.worldconferenceofmayors.org)**

### **Press Release**

## **The World Conference of Mayors Inc. To Convene 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Alabama**

The World Conference of Mayors, Inc. (WCM) will hold its silver anniversary meeting and conference on Thursday, December 10 through Saturday, December 12, 2009 in East-Central Alabama. The conference will be split between the New Oasis Hotel at the Victoryland Casino in Shorter and at the Kellogg Conference Center on the Historic Campus of Tuskegee University. Mayors and other elected and appointed officials will first be briefed regarding available funding from the Economic Stimulus Package on subjects such as Broadband, Energy, Transportation, the 2010 Census, HealthCare, Community Development, etc. Some of the honorees and guests for the conference include: Honorable Johnny Ford, the founder; A. J. Cooper, attorney; former Mayor Charles Evers; Richard Hatcher, attorney and former mayor of Gary, IN; Marion Barry, former mayor and current Councilman of Washington D.C; Rev. Jesse Jackson, Chicago, IL; Mr. Gregg Calhoun, Montgomery, AL; Milton McGregor, Montgomery, AL; Attorney Fred Gray, Tuskegee, AL; The Honorable Webster Guillory, former president of the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO); The Honorable Thelma Wyatt Cummings, Retired Atlanta Judge; The Honorable Joyce London Alexander Ford, Retired Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge; The Honorable Helenor Bell, Mayor of Hayneville, Alabama; The Honorable Vickie Moore, former Mayor of Slocomb, AL; Perry Rocquermore, Alabama League of Municipalities; and Buddy Sharpless, Alabama Association of Counties. This has been a productive year since the WCM met last year in December in Martinique; Africa under the leadership of President Ron Davis and the WCM has assisted numerous mayors and county officials. For more details on the goals, purposes, and activities of the WCM, please log on to our Website: [www.worldconferenceofmayors.org](http://www.worldconferenceofmayors.org) or call the WCM office at (334) 727-4035 or The Honorable Johnny Ford's Cell at (334) 538-3907. The public is invited.

For more details, please read the full attached release.



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According to WCM Founder, Former Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford “ It was 25 years ago in December of 1984 that the WCM convened in Monrovia, Liberia in West Africa , with 40 countries represented which held it’s first convention and board meeting. It was the first step on our journey of becoming “A United Nations of Cities” representing Mayors and other Elected and Appointed Officials and Diplomats from around the world. The 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary Conference and celebration will be held in the USA on December 10-12<sup>th</sup> at the New Oasis Hotel at Victoryland and the Kellogg Conference Center on the campus of Historic Tuskegee University. Mayors and other elected and appointed officials will first be briefed by the Obama White House regarding available Funding from the Economic Stimulus Package on subjects such as Broadband, Energy, Transportation, the 2010 Census, HealthCare, Community Development, etc. “We always meet to discuss money for our cities and counties first, before we celebrate. We also expect to be joined by representatives of Corporate America who serve as members of the WCM Round Table,” says founder Johnny Ford.

The WCM officials will begin to arrive from across Alabama, the United States and the world on Thursday for a Welcome Reception at the new Oasis Hotel. The Friday morning International Opening Session will be held at 9:00 A.M. in the auditorium at the Kellogg Center. The 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary luncheon will be held at noon which will feature Silver Anniversary Honorees including:

- 1) Honorable Johnny Ford, the founder and first president of WCM
- 2) A. J. Cooper, Attorney, and was the first President of the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) as well as being Mayor of Prichard Alabama.
- 3) Former Mayor Charles Evers, the first African American Mayor of a bi-racial city in the south in 1969 in Fayette, Mississippi and the brother of slain Civil Rights Leader Medgar Evers.
- 4) Former Mayor and Attorney Richard Gordon Hatcher, First African American Mayor of a major U.S. City, Gary Indiana in 1967. He was elected during the same period as Mayor Carl Stokes of Cleveland Ohio in 1967.
- 5) Former Mayor and current Councilman Marion Barry of Washington D.C.
- 6) The Honorable Samba Faal, Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia, and president of the Gambian Association of Mayors.



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All of the above served as Presidents and helped to form the National Conference of Black Mayors and the WCM. The Luncheon will include Necrology (Memorial) service for Past Mayors, Elected and Appointed Officials and will also provide an opportunity for the WCM to honor other outstanding leaders who represent milestone accomplishments, during the last quarter of a Century. Milestone leaders will be presented the WCM Silver Anniversary Awards for their own Silver Accomplishments. Awardees will include the following:

- 1) The Rev. Jesse Jackson – for the 25<sup>th</sup> celebration of his 1<sup>st</sup> Historic run for the U.S. Presidency in 1984 which led to the Voter Registration and to the Coat tail election of thousands of African Americans.
- 2) Mr. Gregg Calhoun – as the African American Business Man of the last 25 years for the start of Calhoun Enterprises in 1984, when he located his first store in Tuskegee Alabama with the assistance of then Mayor Johnny Ford. Today Calhoun Enterprises represent a 100 million dollar multi Business Network in the U.S. and Abroad.
- 3) Milton McGregor – for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of Victoryland in 1984, which has grown from a mere Dog Track to an Entertainment Complex that has donated 50 million dollars to Public Education in Macon County, and Macon County's largest tax payer who also employs over 1700 people in Macon County.
- 4) Attorney Fred Gray, the Tuskegee Civil Rights Attorney who, in 1984 was elected president of the National Bar Association, an Organization which today represents more than 40,000 lawyers and Judges. For the last 25 years Attorney Gray has also served as the General Counsel for the World Conference of Mayors.
- 5) The Honorable Webster Guillory who for 25 years has served as the president of the National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO), the Assessor of Orange County, California and the Co- Chair of the National Policy Alliance (NPA) which is the Joint Center for National and Economic Studies Auxiliary, along with Co-Chair Johnny Ford, representing the voice of the 11,000 Black elected and appointed officials in the U.S.

The Mayors will also present awards to two Outstanding Women leaders. The Honorable Thelma Wyatt Cummings Retired Atlanta Judge and one of the most outstanding Scholastic Achievers to ever graduate from Emory University Law School, and a Past Chair of the (NBA) Judicial Council. The other outstanding female Jurist to be honored will be The Honorable Joyce London Alexander Ford, Retired Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge, and the first and youngest black Chief Federal Magistrate Judge in the United States, who recently retired after 30 years on the Federal Bench in Boston.



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The WCM will also recognize local Alabama Officials from the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors.

- 1) The Honorable Mayor Helenor Bell; Hayneville, Alabama. President of the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors
- 2) The Honorable Vickie Moore, former Mayor of Slocum, AL. Executive Director of the Alabama Conference of Black Mayors.
- 3) Perry Rocquermore. League Director of the Alabama League of Municipalities.
- 4) Buddy Sharpless. Retired Executive Director of the Alabama Association of Counties.

According to Ford, “This is going to be the Academy Awards for Mayors and other Public Officials who have made the World Conference of Mayors a productive of service for mayors during the last quarter of a Century.” At 2:00 P.M., The WCM Annual Business Meeting will be held and officers will be elected, resolutions passed and committees appointed.

We are very proud of our President, The Honorable Ron Davis, Mayor of Prichard, Alabama, and we anticipate his re-election by his fellow Mayors during the Conference. This has been a productive year since we met last year in December in Martinique, Africa under the leadership of President Davis the WCM has assisted Mayors, County Officials and other elected and appointed officials in the following ways.

- 1) Preparing for the 2010 Census Count
- 2) Seeking Energy Grants
- 3) Seeking Grants for Safe Routes to Schools
- 4) Providing Everfi’s Financial Literary Training and Scholarships for School Systems in Alabama
- 5) Partnering HIV/AIDS Education to Communities.
- 6) Training for Mayors and other elected officials through Mayor John H. Smith Training Institute named in honor of the late Mayor Smith of Prichard Alabama.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> 121 Mayors from the country of Haiti completed, and graduated, and were certified in Savannah, Georgia. We have also conducted several Trade Missions to other Countries this year and we are looking forward to convening the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Nigeria next year. The WCM Conference will conclude with a Gala on Friday night at the Victoryland Casino.

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