



AMERICAN CITY PLANNING DIRECTORS' COUNCIL
AMERICAN CITY QUALITY FOUNDATION

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To: City Planning Directors and Colleagues
From: Gerry Mylroie, AICP, Chairman
American City Planning Directors Council and
American City Quality Foundation
Date: March 24, 2010
Re: Information Exchange News Article

Please see "Support Planning and Action for Better Quality Communities" as seen in the National League of Cities' Nation's Cities Weekly.



[Online Version of Nation's Cities Weekly Article and Links](#)

**Support Planning and Action for Better Quality Communities
by NLC Staff
Citizens and public and private
sector leaders must get involved
and support better city and**

regional planning and action for better quality communities, according to NLC and the American City Planning Directors' Council and its American City Quality Foundation during American City Quality Month, celebrated this April.

Continuing public concerns about jobs, property tax increases, urban sprawl, sustainability, livability, loss of working farm and conservation land, lack of affordable housing, increasing traffic congestion, and other community issues require getting involved and supporting better planning and action now to improve the

quality of urban and regional areas.

The nation's city planning directors see the need for jobs and to redevelop and build new cities and regions to accommodate a U.S.-Census projected 34.5 million more citizens by the Year 2020 and 100 million within 20 to 30 years. But citizen and public and private sector support for a nationwide Better Quality Communities Plan and Action program is required now, according to Gerald R. Mylroie, ACIP, chairman of the American City Planning Directors' Council and its American City Quality Foundation. "A nationwide

Better Quality Communities Plan and Action program would better guide the billions of dollars of investments required while insuring taxpayers receive a real financial return on their investment just like a private sector investment and it would immediately create millions of jobs.

"We need higher quality, smarter, greener and sustainable land use patterns and densities, housing, buildings, public transportation, infrastructure, public open spaces, agriculture, industry, renewable energy, environmental protection, and urban design and beautification that reduces municipal operating

costs and property taxes and improves the health and well-being of all citizens," according Mylroie.

According to Boston City Planning Director Kairos Shen and Riverside, Calif., City Planning Director Kenneth Gutierrez, co-chairs during the month-long observance and beyond, cities across America will be inviting citizens to discuss how quality planning for communities and smart growth will improve cities and regions as well as protect them. Urban sprawl, the opposite of better quality or smart growth, continues to be identified as one of America's biggest concerns

by citizens.

The American City Quality Month program's honorary chair is internationally recognized urban affairs columnist, Neal Peirce with the Citistates Group, Citewire.net, based in Washington, D.C.

American City Quality Month is sponsored by NLC, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, American City Planning Directors' Council/American City Quality Foundation, Urban Land Institute, National Building Museum, Partners for Livable Places, City Planning and Management Division of the American Planning Association,

American Public Transportation Association, Mayors' Institute on City Design, International City/County Management Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals and Eco-Home Network. See www.cityquality.org for others.

Citizens are urged to contact their city planning director to find out how they can get involved.

"Hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars can be saved annually with better quality city planning and development," said Mylroie. "To achieve this, it is

critical to constantly raise public awareness about the status and future of America's cities and demonstrate the need and value of better city planning and action to achieve Quality Communities."

Cities will be conducting public meetings to adopt or update their comprehensive city plan including implementation program as well as budgets to improve city quality. Also they will be raising public awareness by adopting proclamations; and holding media events, exhibits and "teach-ins" at local schools. City planners, officials and citizens are talking about changing demographics, local

economic and social issues, land use for development and conservation, smart growth concepts, transit oriented development, renewable energy sources, conservation, sustainability and lowering municipal operating costs and property taxes. All are aimed at achieving better quality communities.

Details: For further information, call your city planning director or American City Planning Directors' Council/American City Quality Foundation office at (207) 712-6333 or send an e-mail to ACQF@aol.com.

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22nd Annual National

AMERICAN CITY QUALITY MONTH

American City Planning Directors' Council American City Quality Foundation | PO Box 10363 | Portland | ME | 04104

Raising public awareness about the status and future of America's cities and promoting better city planning, decisions, design, development, management and action to improve our nation's cities.

Support Planning and Action for Better Quality Communities

Sustainable + Livable + Inclusive

Get Involved

Contact your City Planning Director or American City Quality Foundation

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Improving America's cities by better quality city planning, decisions, design, development, management and action
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