



Dayton Earns National Award for ‘Welcome Dayton’ Program

U.S. Conference of Mayors Announces 2013 City Livability Award Winners



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The City of Dayton has been awarded an “Outstanding Achievement” award in recognition of the [Welcome Dayton](#) immigrant friendly city initiative during the [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) 81st Annual Meeting.

Mayor Gary Leitzell accepted the award Saturday on behalf of the City of Dayton and Welcome Dayton volunteers. Welcome Dayton is a community-driven initiative that promotes immigrant integration into the Dayton region by involving business and economic development; providing access to education, government, health and social services; ensuring equity in the justice system; and promoting appreciation of arts and culture. It was launched in late 2011.

“Welcome Dayton demonstrates the spirit of Dayton in many ways,” said Mayor Leitzell. “Collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and compassion are all at the heart of Welcome Dayton and the Dayton community. I am honored to receive this recognition of Dayton’s success from my fellow mayors across the nation.”

This is the 34th year in which cities have competed for the award, which is sponsored by the Conference of Mayors and Waste Management, Inc. The award recognizes mayoral leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America’s cities, focusing on the leadership, creativity, and innovation demonstrated by the mayors.

This year’s winning cities were selected by former mayors from a pool of over 200 applicants.

“Our City Livability Awards Program gives the Conference the opportunity to highlight mayoral leadership in making urban areas cleaner, safer, and more livable,” said Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director of the Conference of Mayors. “We are grateful to Waste Management for its many years of support for the City Livability Awards Program, and for the opportunity to showcase the creativity and commitment of mayors and city governments across the country.”

The two top awards went to the City of Philadelphia and the City of Jackson (TN). The Outstanding Achievement Awards were given to five cities with populations of 100,000 or more -- Baltimore, Dayton, Denver, Mesa (AZ) and Washington, D.C., and five cities with populations of less than 100,000 -- Fayetteville (AR), Hallandale Beach (FL), Oak Park (IL), York (PA), and West Palm Beach (FL).

For more information on the awards, visit <http://usmayors.org/81stAnnualMeeting/media/agenda.pdf>, or contact Elena Temple-Webb, 202-286-1100 (etemple@usmayors.org) or Lina Garcia, 202-341-6113 (lgarcia@usmayors.org).

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,210 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

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