

Planning and Action for Better Quality Communities: Toward a National Plan for Urban Development and Land Conservation is 2008 Focus

How do we accommodate an additional 34.5 million people by the Year 2020 or 100 million people beyond? Given this critical issue and the national elections, the 2008 focus is on starting a process to determine what kind of cities we want and how to achieve them.

By the Year 2020, America will be required to build the equivalent of 17 Houstons, 11 Chicagos, 9 Los Angeleses or 4 New York Cities to accommodate the U.S. Census projected population growth of 34.5 million people. Planning and development must be started now because the US Census reports that already people are moving to the suburbs and exurbs in search of lower cost housing and more open space. If unplanned, this growth will result in "business as usual" urban sprawl, with wasteful land use, traffic congestion, lost open space, decreased social capital, increased property taxes due to inefficient land development patterns, increased air and water pollution and hundreds of thousands of acres bulldozed land. Hundreds of billions of dollars of tax dollars that provide local, state and federal funding for this development are at stake. Thus, during 2008 and National American City Quality Month April 2008, it is appropriate to begin to think nationally, regionally, and locally as to how we should plan and act to accommodate the growth.

Cities, large and small, counties and regions across America will face this growth challenge. And while there is public consensus no one wants urban sprawl, it is inevitable unless we agree on a new vision and change Business as Usual practices now. Otherwise it will be too late. So how should we plan, design, develop, manage this growth and prevent further urban sprawl?

Should the development be "business as usual" or do we need to use new quality smart growth principles for development and conservation? Should we re-develop existing cities or build new or both?

Where should the growth areas in existing cities or new cities be located? (China currently is building 8 new cities the size of Atlanta to accommodate population growth.) What is the federal, state and local interest? Who pays? What is the public/private sector role?

NLC President McCullum intends for the National League of Cities to have a voice in shaping new presidential priorities. (see page 2) ACPDC ACQF intend to participate too.



Please forward your comments to ACQF@aol.com.

Atallo Chairs April 2008 American City Quality Month

Robert A. Atallo, AICP, CFM, Director of the Department of Planning and Building for the City of Madison, Alabama, is the Chairman of the April 2008 American City Quality Month Program. Bob has over twenty years of experience in state and local government.

He has served in Madison since 1989. Madison is one of the fastest growing cities in Alabama with a population of 40,000. It is a high-tech community located near NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and Redstone Arsenal – U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command. He supervises twenty staff, including certified planners and building inspectors.

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Robert Atallo, Director of the Department of Planning and Building for the City of Madison, Alabama reviewing plans with Gina Guffey (Planner I) center, and Johnny Blizzard (Chief Planner) on right.

American City Quality Foundation Co-Sponsors
7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference:
Building Safe, Healthy, and Livable Communities
February 7-9, 2008 ~ Washington, DC

(See page 3 for conference details)

Oklahoma's City Planning Director John Dugan to Los Angeles, California



John in his office

Oklahoma City's planning director, John Dugan, resigned December 22, 2007, to become a Deputy Planning Director for the City of Los Angeles.

Dugan, 60, who has been Oklahoma City's director for the past seven years, will leave Jan. 31, 2008. In an e-mail to city employees, Dugan said he was proud to have been a part of the successful resurgence of downtown Oklahoma City.

Other accomplishments include adoption of new zoning and subdivision regulations, downtown and riverfront form-based codes, citywide landscape ordinance, multiple sector and community plans, downtown strategic plan, and foundation work for a new Comprehensive Plan.

John said his interest in LA is "to help the city's efforts to promote Real Planning and Smart Growth principles and to manage the community planning programs in LA." He was a recent past president of APA Oklahoma and plans to get involved in APA in Los Angeles. Currently, John is a Professor of the Practice of Planning at the University of Oklahoma and hopes to continue part time teaching at UCLA or USC.



Honolulu, Hawaii Population Correction

In the October 2007 edition of ACQF News, Honolulu was incorrectly represented in the Top 50 Cities in the U.S. by Population. The actual population in 2006 was 909,863, not 377,357, making Honolulu the 11th largest U.S. City in 2006, per the Director of Planning and Permitting Henry Eng. This is a common error among casual users of Census data and is due in part to the fact that Honolulu is the name of the County, the City, and the oldest district within the City. For reasons having to do with the Census' geographic rules, the Honolulu that is presented in the Census tabulations refers to the district of Honolulu, and not the entire city, resulting in ranking errors in tables.

National League of Cities Appoints Cynthia McCollum as President

Cynthia McCollum has been appointed as the president of the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's oldest and largest organization representing municipal government. She is a council member from Madison, Alabama and served as NLC's first vice president in 2007. McCollum served on the NLC Board of Directors from 2002 to 2004 and was a member of the NLC Advisory Council.

She is the past president of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and has served on numerous NLC committees. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Alabama League of Municipalities. McCollum first won election in 1989 and has served several terms both as Council President and President Pro Tem. Her public life began in 1976 as executive director of the Huntsville Girls Club, an affiliate of Girls Clubs of America. From 1985 to 1990, she worked at the New York Life Insurance Company.

McCollum is currently employed by the U.S. Army Material Command Logistics Support Activity at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, where she works in the office of the Chief of the Enterprise Integration Center. McCollum's commitment to her community is exemplified by her active service on several boards and committees. She is the vice chair of the US Space and Rocket Center Foundation and is a board member of the North Alabama Gas District. She currently serves as one of five trustees on the Municipal Workers' Compensation Fund, where they manage \$500 million annually. Past board affiliations include Madison County Senior Center, Volunteer Center, Community Action Agency of Madison/Limestone Counties, Kids on the Block, and Family Services Center. She was a founding member of the Madison County, Alabama Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Madison Drugs Offer No Tomorrow Program.

Cynthia McCollum is a native of Huntsville, Alabama, with undergraduate degrees in psychology and sociology from Alabama A&M University and graduate studies in executive management from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. McCollum and her family are members of the Madison Church of Christ.

Please Note NEW Web Site Address -

The ACQF website has been changed to www.cityplanningdirectors.org or www.cityquality.org. Continually updated information as well as photos of city planning directors, staffs, mayors, planning boards, and projects are always welcome. Please forward to ACQF@aol.com



Second Annual Mayor's Urban Design Awards Presented

M. Margo Wheeler, AICP, Planning & Development Director

The Planning and Development Department provided staff support to the 2007 Mayor's Urban Design Awards program and committee. Four Las Vegas projects have been recognized for their community impact. The winners were announced during Mayor Oscar B. Goodman's State of the City Address at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. The awards recognize projects that cultivate walkways and streets as shared public spaces, promote walkability and safety, conserve resources and seamlessly link to their surroundings. This year a historic preservation category was added to recognize projects that safeguard the cultural history of Las Vegas.

The 2007 MUDA winners are:

- **Buildings and Their Environs:** Newport Lofts
- **Public Places:** Las Vegas Springs Preserve
- **Public Art:** Betty Willis
(Lifetime Contribution to Las Vegas, Iconic Neon Signage)
- **Historic Preservation:** The Morelli House

Atallo Chairs April 2008 American City Quality Month

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Previously he served as the comprehensive plan project manager for the City of Boca Raton, Florida and Instructor at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He holds a Master of Arts in Economics with a concentration in public finance, urban and regional economics from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Also, he holds a BS in economics with a minor in sociology and philosophy from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, 1987.

He has been awarded Planner of the Year, 1999, American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter and for the *Planning Program of the Year, 1997, City of Madison Comprehensive Plan*, American Planning Association, Alabama Chapter.

He is Member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, a Certified Floodplain Manager by the Association of State Floodplain Managers, and a Certified Building Inspector, International Code Council.

Thanks to Bob for serving as this year's Chairman.

7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

Building Safe, Healthy, and Livable Communities

February 7-9 2008 ~ Washington, DC

Presented by Local Government Commission with co-sponsorship including American City Quality Foundation

The *New Partners for Smart Growth* Conference has grown significantly since it began several years ago - increasing in scope, attendance, and prestige - and is now considered to be the "premier" smart growth conference held each year. The strength of this conference comes from the variety of participants and speakers who cross disciplines to share experiences and insights, and valuable tools and strategies to encourage smart growth implementation and "get it done." Washington, DC is the ideal location for this event. Bringing together the cultural vibrancy and economic growth with the iconic history of our nation's capital and its neighborhoods, this region provides a wealth of innovative policies at the state, local and federal levels to examine. Whether it's the overwhelming success of the transit system, creative housing strategies to promote affordability or environmental benchmarks to ensure clean air and water, significant lessons about smart growth can be learned here. Participants will come to see a region that is setting the pace for livable communities both inside and outside the Beltway.

The 2008 program will span **three full days** and feature smart growth issues, the latest research, implementation tools and strategies, successful case studies, interactive learning experiences, new partners, new projects and new policies. Most importantly, this dynamic event offers you the opportunity to network and coordinate with your peers as well as practitioners from many different disciplines with the same goal -- building safe, healthy, and livable communities for all. Plan to join us, and others, from across the U.S. this February for the smart growth event of the year!

Visit <http://www.NewPartners.org> to get more conference details and to register for the conference!

Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this dynamic event!

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Upcoming Events:

February 7-9, 2008 7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities in Washington, DC. FMI: www.NewPartners.org

March 8-12, 2008 National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, DC. FMI: www.nlc.org

April 2008 National American City Quality Month. Local events. Contact your city planning director.

April 27- May 1, 2008 American Planning Association's 100th National Planning Conference in Las Vegas. Come to find out what you can learn from this dynamic city — and from thousands of planners and officials at the world's premier planning event. FMI: www.planning.org

May 7-9, 2008 Urban Land Institute Spring Council Forum in Dallas, Texas. FMI: www.uli.org

November 11-15, 2008 National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition in Orlando, Florida. FMI: www.nlc.org

Newsletter Production

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The *American City Quality News* is published by the American City Quality Foundation as an information source for city and civic leader planners. City profiles, plans and activities promoting American City Quality are especially solicited. Articles, photographs or announcements for publication are requested to be sent to: American City Quality Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 10363, Portland, Maine 04104; 207.712.6333; e-mail address: ACQF@aol.com



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