



**MILLENNIAL
MAYORS
CONGRESS**

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MILLENNIAL MAYORS CONGRESS LAUNCHES *Intergenerational Partnership Urges Regional Cooperation*

DETROIT – This week city officials and young leaders representing 18 Detroit-area communities launched the **Millennial Mayors Congress**—an intergenerational, consensus-driven partnership focused on addressing regional issues.

“I’m thrilled to work with such talented leaders across southeast Michigan, and I’m convinced that together we’ll create thoughtful and substantial change in our cities and region,” said Mayor Suzanne Pixley of Eastpointe, the newly-appointed chair of the Millennial Mayors Congress Executive Committee.

The Congress is made up of a two-person delegation from each participating city: a “local government representative,” such as the mayor or another city official who exercises legislative or executive authority, and a “Millennial representative,” an 18-35-year-old community resident. The participants make decisions by consensus in an effort to enhance cooperation while protecting the diverse interests of the represented communities. Together they will develop a shared vision and goals to address a pertinent regional issue through actions in their individual communities. The group is assisted by researchers, technical experts and administrative support coordinated by the Michigan Suburbs Alliance.

The Millennial delegates represent a range of professional skill sets. Among them are attorneys, students, nonprofit leaders, organizers, technical experts and a business owner. “I hope that the Millennial Mayors Congress can inspire a greater level of cooperation among cities in our region” said Brendan Frey, the City of Ferndale’s Millennial representative. “I am excited to work with my peers and municipal leaders from across the region to shape solutions to some of our region’s challenges.”

An executive committee will provide guidance and spearhead research related to Congress initiatives. Members of the executive committee include Chairwoman Mayor Suzanne Pixley (City of Eastpointe), Councilman Frank Maisano (City of Roseville); Councilwoman Vicki Granger (City of Grosse Pointe Woods); Mayor Ron Gillham (City of Huntington Woods); Mayor Karen Majewski (City of Hamtramck); Mayor Frank Vaslo (City of Lincoln Park); and Millennial representatives Alex Lenko (City of Pleasant Ridge); Angela Talo (City of Wayne); Chris Wirth (City of Sterling Heights); Michael Parr (City of Lincoln Park); and Michael Cain (Charter Township of Royal Oak).

The Millennial Mayors Congress will determine its 2009-2010 issue focus at a meeting next month.

Over the next six months, Congress representatives will develop a set of shared goals addressing their selected issue, which they aim to adopt by 2010. Congress leaders will then execute their shared vision through local action and coordination.

Eric Robertson, Chief Administrative Officer at Center City Commission in Memphis, Tennessee, delivered a keynote presentation at the Congress' inaugural meeting about opportunity as a driver of talent attraction and retention.

“The Millennial Mayors Congress is an institutional structure that cultivates and reinforces a culture of opportunity,” said Robertson. It is “a way to develop some of the intangible pull factors that make places attractive, such as the sense that you can make a difference in your community or region.”

Participating communities in the Millennial Mayors Congress include Eastpointe, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Grosse Pointe Woods, Hamtramck, Hazel Park, Highland Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Lincoln Park, Madison Heights, Melvindale, Mount Clemens, Pleasant Ridge, Roseville, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, Southgate, Sterling Heights, Wayne and Westland.

For more information visit www.millennialmayors.org.

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