

**US Conference Of Mayors  
Winter Meeting  
January 23, 2003  
Plenary Remarks – Philip Mangano**

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Thank you, Mayor Menino.

I had the pleasure of working with your President, Mayor Menino, when he was a City Councilor and Mayor. One thing I learned. He's can do. His emphasis on housing means that there will be movement. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

And thanks to Mayors Brown and Purcell for their continuing commitment and leadership.

Forty-eight hours ago I participated in a press conference in Chicago with Mayor Daley. I had visited him and his staff several times in the summer and we talked about the 10-year plan to end homelessness that his administration was creating with the business community and homeless providers and advocates. I promised him that when he approved the Plan I would join him at the announcement. He signed. I went.

Our nation's third largest city under the leadership of Mayor Daley became one of a small, but growing number of cities creating and implementing ten year plans to end homelessness. It began with Mayor Menino in Boston and Mayor Bart Peterson in Indianapolis and shortly thereafter the Mayors of Memphis and others joined the list.

What was unthinkable just a few years ago is now emerging as common sense. What seemed naïve is now sound policy. What was thought of as intractable is now subject to strategies.

After 20 years of response, we now realize that homelessness won't go away on its own. If it's ignored, it only gets worse.

Now, just a few years ago, such plans were thought to be risky and naïve. But with the new technologies and an emphasis on ending homelessness, maybe the new naïveté is not to have a plan. Naïve to think you don't need a plan. The risk may be in not creating a plan.

When we recognize a problem in our cities, we make a plan to address it. So when Richard Daley in Chicago unveils a ten-year plan to end homelessness, that makes sense. There's nothing naïve about it. There's a recognition that what we've done so far hasn't given us the performance outcomes we're looking for.

Plans in Philadelphia and Miami reduced the street populations. A street ordinance combined with increased street service, an 800 number, rapid response, and sensitized police made a difference.

Why are such plans more viable now? Why are the CEO's of cities adopting what once seemed like an orphaned enterprise?

There are reasons.

**First**, we have new research not available just a few years ago that tells us that most homeless people move out of homelessness with only a small amount of assistance. But there is 10% of the population, those who are experiencing chronic homelessness, who have mental illness or addiction or physical disability and who have been homeless for over a year, often inhabiting the streets or encampments. That 10% consumes more than half of all homeless resources. That's why the President and Secretary Martinez have made this population a priority. The research sent them there. And that's why Mayor Menino and this Conference have endorsed that effort. And why the Interagency Council is finding the strategies that work for that population.

The research helps us to be strategic in planning and investment. And we're going to support the research and data collection needed to equip us to create policy that makes sense and is strategic, including policy focused on discharge planning failures that leave many with no place to go.

**Second**, we have new technologies in housing and street engagement that give us new tools to bring in people off the streets. From New York to San Francisco and places in between these new so called "housing first" strategies are moving people off the streets into supportive housing that provides the services needed for stable tenancies.

And the research tells us that 90% stay housed. The "housing first" model is a centerpiece in Mayor Daley's Chicago Plan.

**Third**, there's a new spirit of partnership on this issue that transcends partisanship. When Mayor Menino and Mayor Purcell announced the hunger/homeless findings last month, they sounded the chords of working together. We pledged that on this issue, partnership trumps partisanship. Can I get an amen? There's no D or R or I or G on this issue. We're all together.

**Fourth**, after the research, and technologies, and partnership, we need new resources. Anyone who studied the President's budget for 03 knows that new resources were on the table to help – new housing resources in the Section 8 and HOME programs, new funds for re-entry of ex-prisoners, new funding for those aging out of foster care, increases in nearly every targeted homeless program including healthcare.

And soon, very soon, a \$35 million funding initiative will hit the streets. Unprecedented collaboration between 3 federal agencies will offer housing and service funding in one NOFA targeted to make a difference on the streets of our country. That's why those street counts are so necessary.

**Fifth**, we are now interviewing to hire 10 regionally based homeless specialists across the country to replicate the work of the Council in bringing together federal agencies, state agencies, and cities and community and faith based organizations to collaborate in the effort to end homelessness. These specialists will help cities and work with your regional housing coordinators.

**Finally**, we have a new standard of expectation. We're not going to be satisfied any longer moving homeless people from one side of town to the other. From one city to another. Our work together is to create that new standard of expectation: we want visible, measurable, quantifiable change - on our streets, in homeless programs, in the life of our neighborhoods, and most importantly, in the lives of homeless people.

We're no longer satisfied with managing the problem or maintaining the effort, or accommodating the response. We have a new standard. Abolishing homelessness.

There's not a person in this room who doesn't know that homelessness is a disgrace. And whether it's systems failures or personal failures, no one should be on the cold streets of our country or our cities. No child should be consigned to a shelter. No veteran should be eating out of dumpsters.

As the Indianapolis Plan tells us, such images are unworthy of this great and affluent nation and not worthy of the cities you govern.

There is increasing hope on this issue now, even in the face of rising numbers. Not illusory, ethereal hope spun on anecdote and conjecture and one-dimensional plans. But a hope that is fashioned on data, research, technology, performance outcomes, and resources.

I've asked the Mayors in the 100 largest cities in the country to name a point person in their administration who will be our contact person to disseminate information whether funding opportunities, research, or best practices. If you're not in the largest 100 and want to be part of the network, just have your staff person contact [ich@hud.gov](mailto:ich@hud.gov). That's all the address you need – [ich@hud.gov](mailto:ich@hud.gov).

And I'm asking Mayor Menino to challenge this Conference. By the next winter meeting of this Conference, through our partnership, can we have 100 cities who

have followed the example of Chicago, Indianapolis, Boston, Memphis and others in creating a plan to end homelessness in their city. One hundred cities.

The spirit of our work is this:

- Partnership, not partisanship
- Planning, not posturing
- Solving, not managing
- Preventing, not permitting
- Abolishing, not accommodating

Like the abolitionists of old, we are faced with social evil: Our neighbor has no place to live. For how long can we resign ourselves to this disgrace before we stand as Americans to keep the promise – to draft the plans and get the job done: A Home for Every American.