

**ENDORISING THE INNOVATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT TO
ENGAGE OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBOR AND OFFER RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, mayors are committed to ending homelessness for individuals and families in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, mayors and cities are on the front lines of the response to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the National Partnership created by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has brought together 20 federal agencies, 52 governors of states and territories, and over 335 mayors to remedy chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the partnership of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness with the U.S. Conference of Mayors has resulted in the creation of over 335 jurisdictionally based 10-Year Plans to end chronic homelessness, and many cities of all sizes now report quantifiable results in reducing street and chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Project Homeless Connect was created by Mayor Gavin Newsom in San Francisco, CA in October 2004; and demonstrated remarkable results in engaging street and chronic homeless people; and

WHEREAS, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness identified Project Homeless Connect as a replicable innovation and supported "pilgrimages" to experience the event, when there was a five-fold increase in the number of events hosted nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the innovation of National Project Homeless Connect disseminated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness is helping cities welcome people experiencing homelessness back into community life by mobilizing volunteers from all walks of life to provide services and housing in one-day, one-stop engagement events that support the goals of their 10-Year Plans; and

WHEREAS, over the last four years more than 170 cities of all sizes have adopted this innovation first developed in San Francisco, hosting over 300 events, and building on models of response to Katrina and veterans' Stand Downs; and

WHEREAS, mayors have organized Project Homeless Connect events specifically to engage homeless youth, homeless families, and chronically homeless individuals; and

WHEREAS, mayors have engaged business, academia, professional sports, and an expansive range of new public and private partners in executing Project Homeless Connect events; and

WHEREAS, research compiled by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness suggests that Project Homeless Connect provides consumer-centric strategies to deliver immediate results in needed services, housing, and employment, and supports a new way of doing business to achieve results for homeless consumers; and

WHEREAS, cities of all sizes have developed best practices in Project Homeless Connect events and have been encouraged by the Interagency Council to share their strategies with other cities; and

WHEREAS, the Interagency Council has convened coordinated annual National Project Homeless Connect events in December 2005, December 2006, and December 2007 to partner with cities, and has designated December 1 -7, 2008 as 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages and supports the increased involvement of Mayors in creating Project Homeless Connect events and participating in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week and throughout the year in proven strategies that end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends this innovative initiative and encourages mayors to adopt the National Project Homeless Connect model and participate in the 2008 National Project Homeless Connect Week.