



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF PATTERSON
US CONFERENCE OF MAYOR'S REPORT 2023

Mayor Michael S. Clauzel
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Tuesday, February 21st, 2023

The United States Conference of Mayors is the official non-partisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are over 1,400 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

The Conference holds two meetings per year, one in Washington D.C. and the other in a major US City. The Conference gives each mayor the opportunity to advocate for their city's citizens on the national stage. It also provides an opportunity for those communities to capitalize not only on the vast knowledge provided by the conference and its many breakout sessions, but also the large amount of federal funds available to communities.

The reason why I attended the conference was to give our rapidly growing community a national voice by promoting the opportunities Patterson brings to our state and nation and to capitalize on the experience and lessons learned from other communities and leaders across the nation. I was truly honored and humbled to represent our beautiful city on a national stage. Patterson is a growing community whose population has doubled since my wife Efigenia and I moved here in 2003 and it is set to nearly triple to approximately 66,000 people in the next 10-15 years.

Patterson is a regional transportation and shipping hub located strategically on the I-5 corridor with multiple large warehouses representing major corporations such as Amazon, CVS, Restoration Hardware, Grainger, Kohls, Brake Parts Inc., Platt Electric, and even home manufacturing with S2A Modular, which is a company that specializes in sustainable, green homes.

I have created this report to give our community an opportunity to learn about my daily activities during my trip to Washington D.C. I have organized the information chronologically by date, meeting and/or activity attended, and any takeaways or lessons learned.

It is my hope that this report is informative and provides insight into why the United States Conference of Mayors is such an important opportunity for our nation's cities to exchange information and learn from one another. It is critical that our city be a part of the Conference as it grows so we do not repeat the mistakes other cities have made as they expanded and became large municipalities.

Tuesday, January 17th, 2023

Mental Health and Wellness Seminar

On Tuesday after registration, we attended a special afternoon session about Mental Health and Mental Wellness. We discussed how to assess and address our city's mental health and wellness needs, how to expand our Mental Health Workforce and how to support our children and families' mental health needs. My main takeaway from this session was the need, in our society, to reduce the stigma of mental illness and for all of us to begin to see it as any other medical condition. If we start to see mental illness in this new light, we as a society, can be more accepting of those who struggle with mental health and wellness. Most importantly, it is my hope those affected will be more willing to accept the resources available and search out treatment options. We must do all we can to inform our families of the resources available in our community and make mental well-being a highlight of our messaging so those who need treatment will get the help and support they need.



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Conference of Mayors Welcome to Washington D.C. Reception

During the evening, I attended the Conference of Mayors Welcome to Washington D.C. Reception at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. This event provided an opportunity to network with other mayors across the United States. We were able to discuss past and current challenges and what resources were used to resolve them.

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

Plenary Breakfast discussion topic - How to Protect our Communities from Covid-19

My takeaway from the discussion was while our society is now returning to normal after the pandemic, we need to continue to communicate, especially to our underserved communities, the need to remain vigilant as Covid-19 is still a dangerous virus that is in continual stages of mutation. Our communication must include the need to vaccinate and obtain booster shots as the new vaccinations will protect us from the evolving virus.

Mayors Water Council and the Infrastructure and Jobs Act Meeting - Safe Drinking Water, Wastewater Treatment, and Sources of Funding for Local Communities

Many local governments fund their own drinking water treatment facilities, in fact over 98% do. I learned that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be providing nearly 10 billion over 5 years to assist local communities in their efforts to provide safe drinking water for their families. Our city will be applying for any funding that we may qualify for. Had I not attended this conference I would not have learned about these available resources, and I am honored to do all that we can to take advantage of this opportunity.

Promoting ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and Best Practices Session – Meeting focused on how larger cities have utilized ARPA in their recovery efforts after the pandemic.

We have a need to revitalize our downtown to make it a destination where our community members can come together and enjoy events that will assist our downtown businesses with increased foot traffic. ARPA funding is a possible source of capital that the City of Patterson can utilize to pay for the infrastructure upgrades our downtown needs. We have the opportunity to make Patterson a showpiece for Stanislaus County as it has a unique layout hub and spoke design, inspired in part by the layout of Washington D.C.

Plenary Luncheon Session – Discussion topic featured was small businesses and Latino voters

I learned that we need to work more closely with community stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the Rotary and other stakeholders to promote the small businesses in our community. We should work with a local Small Business Development Center and county-wide chambers who have local knowledge to promote and develop small businesses and help provide other resources such as grants, etc.

I am working with Latino Community organizations (Ex: the Promotoras de Patterson) to reach out to Latino community members to ensure we have an active line of communication open to understand the community's needs. The session highlighted the focus of Latino voters - namely their families and children,



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access to healthcare, education, and opportunity to earn an outstanding living either as an employee or more importantly, as a small business owner.

Visit with Senator Padilla's Office – Meeting with Policy Advisor Zak Commins regarding funds for Patterson's major infrastructure projects

I traveled to the Hart Senate Building on Capitol Hill in the early afternoon where I had the opportunity to speak with Senator Padilla's Policy Advisor, Zak Commins, about the following projects:

- I-5 Interchange
- Trauma Center
- Water Treatment Plant
- Sewer Treatment Plant
- Public Safety Center

I discussed with Mr. Commins about the opportunity for our city to be considered for any grants, earmarks or congressional direct funding that can be provided to relieve our community of the burden of funding these projects on our own. This one-on-one communication is critically important when the time comes for Congressional Delegates and Senators to make decisions that could save our community millions of our citizens tax dollars.

Strategies to Reduce Homelessness Discussion

Mayor Turner of Houston was very inspiring. He focused on the need for housing as the solution that he used to help reduce homelessness in his city. He addressed the issue of while we are housing many, others are becoming homeless at an alarming rate. We need to focus on continual support services so our homeless are not simply provided housing without the support needed to transition back into a productive life. We also need to find ways to provide more affordable housing as a means to prevent those currently housed from becoming homeless in the first place.

Mayors' Special Session – Online Harassment and Physical Safety

This session covered issues that mayors sometimes face due to their public positions such as individuals who harass them online or in-person and sometimes physically attack officials. Mayors on the panel gave their personal testimonials of issues that they have faced.

Thursday, January 19th, 2023

Plenary Breakfast discussion topic - General discussion on how Target Corporation and Starbucks are reaching out to local communities to provide opportunities for employment and community outreach.

We need to find innovative ways work with corporations and small businesses to provide support and funding for our community. Common challenges and opportunities were shared by mayors and business leaders. Some of the ways businesses contribute to the community are to help create a unique community



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identity, volunteer work, charitable donations, and/or participating in community festivals and events, which are all common for small business owners.

Multiple meetings on Capitol Hill at Hart Senate and Rayburn Buildings with Senator and Congressman policy advisors arranged by Turlock Mayor Amy Bublak

Our meetings were set on the following schedule:

- 930 Meeting with Townsend Public Affairs
- 1100 Office of Representative Tom McClintock
- 1300 Office of Representative John Duarte
- 1430 Office of Senator Dianne Feinstein

I had the opportunity to speak with policy directors of the above listed representatives where I spoke to them about the following projects that we are looking for any grants, earmarks or congressional direct funding that can be provided: I-5 Interchange / Trauma Center / Water Treatment Plant / Sewer Treatment Plant / Public Safety Center.

The areas of my focus were the freeway interchange and trauma center. The freeway interchange was developed for a city with a population of 15,000 residents. This interchange now serves an entire region of nearly 50,000, with several distribution centers and light manufacturing facilities. It is also an artery to Turlock and the 99 freeway. In the coming 10-15 years, it will serve a west side community with a population of approximately 125,000 to 150,000. It is already a safety issue with vehicles of commuters lined on an active freeway attempting to exit during heavy commute hours.

The same principle applies to our need for a trauma center on the west side. We do not even have 24/7 health care option available in our city. Our residents must travel via ambulance nearly 30 minutes to reach the nearest hospital. For a community with a population that will nearly triple in the next 10-15 years, this is unacceptable.

If we receive funding from these sources, we can utilize the Patterson General Fund resources we were going to use on the above listed projects to fund community priorities such as: parks, community centers, activities for youth and families and other needs throughout Patterson.

Current Issues in Policing Discussion Group

Local crime rates are rising – especially property crimes in local communities such theft of packages, mail, catalytic converters, etc. Law enforcement should increase the use of community policing concepts and outreach so our community members become more comfortable reporting criminal activity and high-profile patrols to dissuade would-be criminals. Use of security cameras and lighting to prevent crime should be utilized by members of the public both in residential and commercial applications.



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Friday, January 20th, 2023

Plenary Breakfast discussion topic - Incorporating the Arts into Nontraditional Areas-Infrastructure and Mental Health Issues

I was very happy this topic was included as part of the mayor's conference because to be quite honest I had not made this a focus of my own strategic plan for the city, and I should have. This topic shed light in my mind on the importance of Arts and Culture not only for large cities, but even in a community like Patterson. The City of Patterson currently does not have statues, sculptures or other forms of major art to celebrate our past or the significant events that have shaped our city. We need to create a task force or workshop to brainstorm ways we can visualize and execute a comprehensive music and arts program in our community. We have a beautiful story to tell and a great way to express our history and culture would be through arts and music. A short-term goal based on the lessons that I learned from this discussion is to have more festivals and live music in our downtown, maybe on a bi-monthly basis.

Responding to Mass Shootings Discussion Topic - With the recent mass shooting in Monterey Park, this topic is of critical importance to all communities.

We need to constantly review our response procedures in a holistic manner involving Sheriff, Fire, Ambulance, and trauma care services to ensure we are as prepared as possible to respond to mass shootings. It is critical that we conduct exercises in our communities not only in school settings but in our downtown where we have events such as the Apricot Fiesta that draws thousands of people to our downtown once a year. We also need to involve members of our community so that they are trained and understand the Run-Hide-Fight active shooter protocol and how they should interact with first responders.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg (Mayor of South Bend Indiana 2012 to 2020) Addressed the Conference of Mayors

Mayor Pete Buttigieg discussed all the Biden Administration has done to rebuild America's infrastructure and highlighted the critical need for Mayors to capitalize on the funding that has been provided to local government. It is imperative that this is executed by the mayors, because mayors know how to accomplish community goals more effectively than any other government entity in the United States.

My takeaway from Buttigieg's speech was Patterson is a major transportation hub and we need to capitalize on the federal funds that are available over the next several years to build our freeway interchange that will ultimately benefit the entire west side of Stanislaus County.

White House visit and address by President Biden

President Biden made the point of just how much he appreciates Mayors. He then quoted Lyndon B. Johnson in saying when the burden of the presidency seems unusually heavy, he reminds himself it could be worse, he could be a mayor. He continually stressed that he made the decision to push funding directly to cities because Mayors know how to effectively work with others to get things done. I truly appreciate this concept as I know it is so true. As Mayors, we work in a non-partisan fashion to accomplish community goals because we are a part of the community, we are friends and family of large parts of our community, and we truly care about the impact and positive outcomes of what we accomplish together.



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Additional concepts I learned from other mayors that I am bringing back to Patterson

One of the most important concepts that I learned on this trip is the need to obtain representation for your city to capitalize on the funding available from the federal and state government. This is important so our city is able to utilize the funds to pay for major infrastructure projects and other critical community needs, thus enabling us to repurpose the general fund for other projects for our families such as the completion of our parks, repairing of our roadways and revitalizing of our downtown.

Another important takeaway is Patterson's need to effectively articulate its strategic position in California and its regional significance directly to our State Senators and representatives so we can have powerful advocates on Capitol Hill that will shine a light on our great potential. It is imperative to have the opportunity to compete for and receive funding to help fuel our growth and provide much needed amenities for our families.