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MAYOR KAREN FREEMAN-WILSON, NLC PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL HOUSING TASK FORCE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Convening in Washington, DC Identifies Five Priorities

Gary, Indiana-In November 2018, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson was elected President of the National League of Cities (NLC) during its annual City Summit in Los Angeles, CA. In the same month Mayor Freeman-Wilson launched a National Housing Task Force that would focus on locally-driven solutions to America's housing crisis. The NLC task force chaired by Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bower convened its inaugural task force meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd in Washington.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson and nearly two dozen city leaders; mayors and council members from across the country gathered for the meeting to begin outlining recommendations to help communities better respond to the growing challenge of housing availability, affordability, investment and quality.

Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson said, "Every American deserves a home that is affordable, of good quality and allows them to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities." "The leaders who make up the NLC National Housing Task Force will share proven solutions to housing challenges that can be replicated and implemented in cities, towns and villages of all sizes. We can fix our country's housing crisis, and local officials are ready to lead the way forward."

During the meeting city leaders identified five (5) policy priorities that will be key to addressing the national housing crisis in 2019: **Community-focused approaches, Land Use, Regional and Holistic Planning, Federal Resources and Local Housing Tools.**

National Task Force Chair and Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said, “To reach our affordable housing goals and meet our housing demands, we know it’s going to take collaboration on the local, regional and federal levels. In Washington, D.C., we’ve made progress through historic investments and a commitment to meeting the specific needs of our residents, but there’s more work to do.”

Organizers say the convening was eye opening. The city leaders touched on an array of topics, challenges and possible solutions. Several themes were especially resonant. The leaders agreed, there is not a solution to the housing crisis that will be a “one-size- fits-all.”

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