



Media Advisory

December 10, 2014

Eleven Major U.S. Cities to Join Citizenship Initiative at National Event

11 Major U.S. Cities to Join Citizenship Initiative at National Event

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez, and Felicia Escobar, immigration advisor to the President, will join 1,000 advocates and experts at immigrant integration conference this month in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES – On Monday, December 15, 2014, 11 major U.S. cities will join [Cities for Citizenship](#), an initiative launched by Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago in partnership with Citi, the founding corporate partner, in September which aims to increase citizenship among eligible U.S. permanent residents to forge more inclusive and economically robust cities.

Leading officials from **Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chattanooga, Denver, Milwaukee, Nashville, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.** will announce their active participation in this growing initiative at a special event during the [National Immigrant Integration Conference](#) (NIIC 2014). This action-packed plenary will feature a welcome from **Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti**, a keynote address by **Leon Rodriguez, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**, and *Cities for Citizenship* leaders, including **Bob Annibale, Global Director of Citi Community Development and Microfinance**. **Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO**, another initiative partner, is speaking in a [panel](#) later that day focused on building partnerships in support of immigrant integration.

Cities for Citizenship participants will also be competing in [Integration Idol](#), where high level officials from five cities – Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and Philadelphia – will highlight the innovative ways they are working to attract immigrants, integrate them fully, and become globally competitive leaders.

A recent report, [Citizenship: A Wise Investment for Cities](#), by the [Center for Popular Democracy](#), [National Partnership for New Americans](#) and the [Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration \(CSII\) at USC Dornsife](#), found profound economic benefits to naturalization.

At the launch event, *Cities for Citizenship* leaders will also announce the addition of several partner organizations with strong ties to immigrant communities across the country, including **AFL-CIO, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the National Federation of Credit Development Unions, SEIU 32BJ, and Welcoming America.**

WHAT: *Cities for Citizenship* Plenary at the National Immigrant Integration Conference

WHEN: 8:00am-10:00am, Monday, December 15

WHERE: Los Angeles Convention Center 1201 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90015

WHO: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
Angelica Salas, Executive Director, CHIRLA
Manuel Pastor, Co-Director, University of Southern California's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration
Nisha Agarwal, New York City, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Tonantzin Carmona, Chicago, Director of the Office of New Americans
 Linda Lopez, Los Angeles, Chief of the Office of Immigrant Affairs, LA Mayor's Office at City of Los Angeles
 Monica Fuentes, Atlanta, Chief Service Officer at City of Atlanta
 Jennifer Rodriguez, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs at City of Philadelphia
 Joshua Hoyt, Executive Director, NPNA
 Shena Elrington, Director of Immigrant Rights & Racial Justice Policy, Center for Popular Democracy
 Bob Annibale, Global Director, Citi Community Development and Microfinance
 Leon Rodriguez, Director, USCIS
 Gustavo Torres, Executive Director, CASA de Maryland

###

About National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)

NPNA harnesses the collective power and resources of the country's 20 largest regional immigrant advocacy organizations, aiming to advance the integration and active citizenship of immigrants to achieve a vibrant, just, and welcoming democracy for all. NPNA sponsors the annual National Immigrant Integration Conference and, in the past two years, NPNA partners have assisted over 50,000 immigrants to become U.S. citizens and pursue legal status.

Additional information may be found at www.partnershipfornewamericans.org | NIIC: <http://www.integrationconference.org/> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/newamericanspartnership | Twitter: [@npnewamericans](https://twitter.com/npnewamericans)

About The Center for Popular Democracy (CPD)

CPD promotes equity, opportunity, and a dynamic democracy in partnership with base-building organizations, organizing networks and alliances, and progressive unions across the country. CPD builds the strength and capacity of democratic organizations to envision and advance a pro-worker, pro-immigrant, racial and economic justice agenda.

Visit www.populardemocracy.org and www.twitter.com/popdemoc.

About Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com | Twitter: @Citi | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Blog: <http://blog.citi.com> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citi | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi

MEDIA CONTACTS	CITY / ORG	PHONE	EMAIL
USCIS Press Office		(202) 272-1200	
Oliver DelGado	City of LA	(213) 978-0741	mailto:oliver.delgado@lacity.org
Kamran Mumtaz	Citi Public Affairs	(212) 793-7682	kamran.mumtaz@citi.com
Shena Elrington	CPD	(917) 239-2822	selrington@populardemocracy.org
Alison R. Park	CPD	(917) 805-0830	apark@populardemocracy.org
Jorge-Mario Ceberra	NIIC	(213) 353-1748	jmcabrera@chirla.org
Charlie McAteer <i>Please contact for NIIC 2014 media credentials</i>	NPNA	(917) 696-1321	cmcateer@weareoneamerica.org