



**AMERICAN CITY PLANNING DIRECTORS' COUNCIL
AMERICAN CITY QUALITY FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 10363 · Portland, Maine 04104 · 207-712-6333

E-mail: ACQF@aol.com Websites: www.cityquality.org or www.cityplanningdirectors.org

Press Release

For Immediate Release - February 22, 2010

ACQF@aol.com or the local City Planning Director at City Hall

Contact: Gerald R. Mylroie

207 / 712-6333

**Get Involved Now - Support Planning and Action for
Better Quality Communities:
Sustainable + Livable + Inclusive
American City Quality Month Theme for April 2010**

Citizens and public and private sector leaders are being invited to contact their city planning directors about how to get involved and support better city and regional planning and action to achieve better quality communities.

Via a press release to national media the invitation is being extended by National League of Cities President and Mayor of Riverside, California Ronald O. Loveridge in announcing the 23rd annual, national American City Quality Month April 2010. "Continuing public concerns about jobs, property tax increases, urban sprawl, sustainability, livability, loss of working farm and conservation land, lack of affordable housing, increasing traffic congestion, and other community issues require getting involved and supporting better planning and action now to improve the quality of our urban and regional areas."



National League of Cities President and Mayor of Riverside, California, Ronald O. Loveridge (right) discusses April 2010 national American City Quality Month program with City Planning Director, Kenneth Gutierrez.

The release continues, the nation's city planning directors see the need for jobs and the need to redevelop and build new cities and regions to accommodate 34.5 million more citizens by the Year 2020 and 100 million within twenty to thirty years. But citizen and public and private sector support for a nationwide Better Quality Communities Plan and Action program is required now according to Gerald R. Mylroie, ACIP, Chairman of the American City Planning Directors' Council and its American City Quality Foundation. "The planning and action program would better guide the billions of dollars of investments required while insuring taxpayers receive a real financial return on their investment just like a private sector investment and immediately create millions of jobs.

We need higher quality, smarter, greener and sustainable land use patterns and densities, housing, buildings, public transportation, infrastructure, public open spaces, agriculture, industry, renewable energy, environmental protection, and urban design and beautification that reduces municipal operating costs and property taxes and improves the health and well-being of all citizens," according Mylroie.

This year's theme, links with what former NCL President and Mayor of Indianapolis, Bart Peterson, said, "We can have better city planning, but unless we have better decision-making, and action city quality will not improve. More informed elected and appointed officials, legislators, planning commissioners and citizens are needed to participate in the city planning process. Otherwise opportunities will be lost. Now is the time for action. Decision-makers and citizens need to meet with city planners and learn about options for new visions for development and an improved quality of life."

ACQM Co- Chairs - Gutierrez and Shen

According the City Planning Director of Boston, Kairos Shen and Riverside, California, Ken Gutierrez, co-chairs during the month long observance and beyond, cities across America will be inviting citizens to discuss how quality planning for communities and smart growth will improve cities and regions as well as protect them. Urban sprawl, the opposite of smart growth continues to be identified as one of America's biggest concerns by citizens.

ACQM Honorary Chair - Neal R. Peirce

American City Quality Month program honorary chair is internationally recognized urban affairs columnist, Neal Peirce with the Citistates Group, Citewire.net, based in Washington, DC. Also Mr. Peirce is the co-author of "Century of the City: No Time to Lose" published by The Rockefeller Foundation and recipient of a UN-Habitat 2009 Scroll of Honor Award.

ACQM Sponsors

American City Quality Month program sponsored by the National League of Cities, The US Conference of Mayors, American City Planning Directors' Council/ American City Quality Foundation, Urban Land Institute, National Building Museum, Partners for Livable Places, City Planning and Management Division of the American Planning Association, American Public Transportation Association, Mayors' Institute on City Design, International City/County Management Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals and Eco-Home Network.

Citizens are urged to contact their city planning director to find out how they can get involved.

In 2009, National League of Cities President and Mayor of Northglenn, Colorado, Kathleen Novak said, "Given our economic crisis, now more than ever we need better planning and action to coordinate our investments and projects so they not only immediately create new jobs, but actually do improve the quality and sustainability of our communities and surrounding regions."

In 2008, National League of Cities President and council member of Madison, Alabama, Cynthia McCullum, said we need, "a better partnership between municipalities and the federal government to better plan and achieve quality communities."

Previously, former National League of Cities President James Hunt, Councilmember, Clarksburg, West Virginia, said, "More can be done via multi-community collaborative programs. Local officials understand the benefits of leveraging resources across communities and collaborating at all levels. Programs can bring together rich, and poor, young and old, educated and uneducated. They increase citizen participation while promoting equal opportunity and fairness."

"Hundreds of millions of taxpayers dollars can be saved annually with better quality city planning and development," said Mylroie. "To achieve this, it is critical to constantly raise public awareness about the status and future of America's cities and demonstrate the need and value of better city planning and action to achieve Quality Communities."

"It is critical we continue to focus national attention on the need to plan for smart growth and achieve quality communities for our citizens," said former National League of Cities President Charlie Lyons.

Activities

Cities will be conducting public meetings to adopt or update their comprehensive city plan including implementation program as well as budgets to improve city quality. Also they will be raising public awareness by adopting proclamations; and holding media events, exhibits and "teach-ins" at local schools. City planners, officials and citizens are talking about changing demographics, local economic and social issues, land use for development and conservation, smart growth concepts, transit oriented development, renewable energy sources, conservation, sustainability and lowering municipal operating costs and property taxes. All are aimed at achieving better quality communities.

Details: For further information, call your city planning director or American City Planning Directors' Council / American City Quality Foundation office at 207-712-6333 or send e-mail to ACQF @ aol.com.

American City Quality Month Honorary Chair - Internationally Recognized Urban Affairs Journalist Neal R. Peirce



American City Quality Month April 2010 honorary chairman, internationally recognized urban affairs columnist, Neal R. Peirce (left) meets with American City Planning Directors' Council/American City Quality Foundation Chair, Gerald R. Mylroie, to discuss national program activities.

The American City Quality Month April 2010 Honorary Chair is nationally and internationally recognized urban affairs journalist, Neal R. Peirce. Mr. Peirce is a columnist with the Washington Post Writers Group - Citiwire.net based in Washington, DC. Also he is the co-author with Curtis W. Johnson of "Century of the City: No Time to Lose" published by The Rockefeller Foundation in 2008. Mr. Peirce was a recipient of a United Nations -Habitat 2009 Scroll of Honor Award.

Summary: Neal Peirce is a lead writer, among American journalists, on the dynamics of state and local government, with a special focus in recent years on metropolitan regions - their political and economic dynamics, their emerging national and global roles. Earlier in his career Peirce was the political editor of Congressional Quarterly and then one of the founders of National Journal. He wrote a 10-book series on America's states and regions culminating in *The Book of America: Inside 50 States Today* (W.W. Norton, 1983). In 1975, Peirce began - and continues today - the United States' first national column focused on state and local government themes, syndicated by the Washington Post Writers Group. With Curtis Johnson, he has co-authored the *Citistates Reports* on compelling issues of metropolitan futures for leading newspapers in 25 regions across the nation, among them the *Seattle Times*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Peirce was lead author of the 1993 book, *Citistates*. Since 1995 he has been chairman of the *Citistates Group*, a network of journalists, speakers and consultants who believe that successful metropolitan regions are today's key to economic competitiveness and sustainable communities.

Peirce lives in Washington, D.C. with a summer and autumn cottage in New Hampshire.

Chairman of the *Citistates Group*, a group of writers, speakers and consultants focused on the viability of U.S. and international metropolitan regions.

Web site: <http://citistates.com/peirce/> - Includes recent speeches, newspaper columns, Peirce Reports, related activities

A founder (in 1969) and former contributing editor of *National Journal*.

Lecturer on urban, state-local, economic development and environmental issues for government, business and academic groups across the United States. Faculty member, Salzburg Seminar (1980, 1984, 1997) and Moderator, Great Cities of the World Conference, Boston (1980).

Television-radio appearances and commentary: *Meet the Press*, *Today Show*, *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour*, *National Public Radio*, *CNN*, stations in principal cities. Consultant and commentator on national elections for *CBS News*, 1967-76, and for *NBC News*, 1964-66.

Graduate of Princeton University (Phi Beta Kappa), 1954.

Political Editor, *Congressional Quarterly*, 1960-69.

Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, at the Smithsonian Institution, 1971-74.

John L. Weinberg Distinguished Visiting Professor, Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, 1992.

Biographical listings: *Who's Who in America*.

Author: *The Book of America: Inside Fifty States Today* (with Jerry Hagstrom as coauthor), June 1983 (W.W. Norton & Co., N.Y.); a *Book of the Month Club* featured dividend; paperback edition (Warner Books). The culmination of a multi-year project surveying each of the 50 states of the United States, covering government, politics, business, education, ethnic and minority groups, environmental action and urban affairs. The initial volume was *The Megastates of America*, treating the 10 most heavily populated states, in 1972. Subsequent regional volumes included *The Pacific States of America* (1972), *The Mountain States of America* (1972), *The Great Plains States of America* (1973), *The Deep South States of America* (1974), *The Border South States of America* (1975), *The New England States* (1976), *The Mid-Atlantic States of America* (1977), and *The Great Lakes States of America* (1980).

Other books, reports: *The People's President*, on the electoral college in U.S. history and the direct vote alternative (Simon and Schuster, 1968). *Corrective Capitalism*, on the rise of community development corporations (Ford Foundation, 1987); *Enterprising Communities*, on community-based development in the U.S. (Council for Community-Based Development, 1990); *Breakthroughs: Re-Creating the American City* (Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University, 1993).

Boundary Crossers: Community Leadership for a Global Age, with Curtis W. Johnson (University of Maryland, 1997). Led team which wrote *The Peirce Report* on the civic-economic outlook of the Phoenix region, for the *Arizona Republic* and *Phoenix Gazette*, February 1987. A second Peirce Report, focusing on the Puget Sound region for the *Seattle Times*, appeared in 1989. Subsequent

reports, for the Baltimore Sun, Owensboro (Kentucky) Messenger-Inquirer, Dallas Morning News and St. Paul Pioneer-Press, followed in 1991. The first six reports were all included in a book, *Citistates: How Urban America Can Prosper in a Competitive World* (Seven Locks Press, 1993). Subsequent reports were written for newspapers in Charlotte, Philadelphia, Reading (Pa.), Raleigh-Durham, Spokane, Boulder, Indianapolis, Saint Louis, Nashville, South Florida, San Antonio, Kansas City and Northeast Nebraska, as well as San Diego Magazine.

Affiliations: Fellow, National Academy of Public Administration. Trustee: German Marshall Fund of the U.S., 1988-97. Member: Advisory Council, Trust for Public Land. Board, Institute for Educational Leadership and Partners for Livable Communities. Executive committee member, board of the National Civic League, early 70s to 1995.

American City Quality Month Co-Chairs - City Planning Directors from Riverside, California, Kenneth Gutierrez, and Boston, Kairos Shen



Ken Gutierrez (left) has been the Planning Director for the City of Riverside, California since January, 2003. During his almost 30 year tenure with the City, Ken has been responsible for numerous planning projects, including the award winning Magnolia/Market Corridor Study and the innovative Downtown Specific Plan. Most recently, he lead the preparation of a comprehensive update to the Riverside General Plan 2025, a visionary document based on Smart Growth principles and recognized in 2008 by the Southern California Association of Governments with a Compass Blueprint Distinguished Leadership Award and by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) with the Award of Merit for Comprehensive Planning. Under Ken's guidance, the Planning Department was recognized in 2009 by the CCAPA with the Award of Merit for Distinguished Leadership by a Planning firm or agency. Ken is a member of AICP, a speaker at numerous workshops and conferences, and in his spare time, teaches two Planning courses as part of a University of California, Riverside Extension Certificate Program.

Kairos Shen



In January 2008, Mayor Thomas M. Menino named Kairos Shen, director of planning at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, as the city's new chief planner. Shen works with BRA director John F. Palmieri to create a comprehensive long-term vision to guide economic and physical changes in the city, Menino said in a news release. "Kairos is a proven leader and has the experience to articulate, illustrate and implement a comprehensive long-term vision for Boston," Menino said in the release. "We must be more proactive in envisioning and creating economic growth - and I know Kairos is the right person to lead this effort."

As Chief Planner, Kairos leads and staffs the Mayor's new sub-cabinet for planning and development that coordinates planning activities across all city departments and agencies

In addition to his role as Boston's Chief Planner, Kairos is also the Director of Planning at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, Boston's economic development and planning agency. He has served as the Director of Planning since 2002 where he manages the BRA's planning division that include the basic functions of community planning, urban design, zoning, waterfront planning and infrastructure planning.

Kairos has been intimately involved in many of Boston's most important planning efforts in the last ten years. They include the guidelines for the Rose Kennedy Greenway ("The Big Dig") Longwood Medical and Academic Area, the plans for East and West Fenway neighborhoods, the implementation of Boston's new \$700 million convention center, the planning of the 1000 acre South Boston Waterfront, and plans for Fenway Park. In addition to undertaking and supervising many of the planning and design studies, He regularly participates in community meetings that are essential to the success of any planning effort.

He maintains high hopes for the city. He was part of the team that approved the Boston Green Building Standards, making Boston the first major city to require adherence to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification standards. He has also been involved in planning the extension of the transportation system and working on an urban transit ring that would streamline connections between job centers beyond downtown, such as the Longwood medical area and Kendall Square.

Kairos is a graduate of Swarthmore College with a degree in art history and has a Master of Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

American City Quality Foundation Mission:

American City Quality Foundation, Inc. was founded by city planning directors and colleagues to improve the quality of America's cities by raising public awareness about the status and future of our cities and promoting better city planning, decisions, design, development, management and action to improve cities. Members include city planning directors across America as well as prior directors, colleagues, and other public officials, private sector business and civic leaders. Activities include:

- An information exchange program (city planning reports, etc.) among the nation's city planning directors/civic leaders;
- Publishing and distributing the American City Quality Newsletter;
- Sponsoring American City Quality Month in conjunction with other public and private sponsors;
- And Holding meetings among city planning directors and other public and private officials on city quality issues.

American City Quality Foundation, Inc., is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation incorporated in the State of Delaware. It is funded by the membership and additional private sector support is being sought. All contributions are tax deductible.

Name _____

Title _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

email: _____

Make checks payable to: American City Quality Foundation, Inc.

Mail to: American City Quality Foundation, Inc.; P.O. Box 10363; Portland, Maine 04104

Member Dues \$125- 2010 Recession Discount \$75

American City Planning Directors' Council

American City Quality Foundation

Advisory Board

Gerald R. Mylroie, AICP, Chairman, Portland, Maine

Richard T. Anderson New York City	Richard C. Bernhardt *Nashville	Richard Barth *New York City	Mitchell Silver * Raleigh	David M. Childs New York City	Michael R. Coker **Dallas	Richard F. Counts **Phoenix	Jack Dangermond Redlands,CA
Richard W. Dineen *Albuquerque	Albert Elias *Tucson	Karyn Gilvarg *New Haven	Charles C. Graves, III *Cincinnati	Maxine Griffith New York **Philadelphia	Reginald Griffith Washington, D.C.	S. Gail Goldberg *Los Angeles	Howard J. Hall Wells, Maine
William Healy *Colorado Springs	Con Howe **Los Angeles	Steven N. Jensen *Omaha	Alan Kreditor Los Angeles	Robert H. Lurcott Dana Point, CA **Pittsburgh	Andrew S. Lynn **New York City	Hunter Morrison **Cleveland	Ellen McCarthy ** Washington,

Stephen R. McClary *Columbus	Douglas B. Coach, III **Baltimore	Theresa O'Donnell *Dallas	James E. Shelby Atlanta, GA Commissioner	Sergio Rodriguez **Miami	Yolanda W. Rodriguez *New Orleans	Nannette Rodriguez-Pena *San Juan	Richard M. Rosan Washington, D.C.
Kairos Shen *Boston	Rollin Stanley Silver Spring, MD **St. Louis	Debra W. Stark *Phoenix	Margo Wheeler *Las Vegas	Jack Whitney *Virginia Beach	Nick P. Yovino *Fresno	John H.C. Barron, Jr. Esq. Secretary Washington, D.C.	* City Planning Director ** Former Director

Upcoming Events:

April 10-13, 2010 American Planning Association National Planning Conference, New Orleans,
www.planning.org

Newsletter Production

Editor: Gerald R. Myroie, AICP

Assistant: Betsy Stevens

The **American City Quality News** is published by the American City Quality Foundation as an information source for city and civic leader planners. City profiles, plans and activities promoting American City Quality are especially solicited. Articles, photographs or announcements for publication are requested to be sent to: American City Quality Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 10363, Portland, Maine 04104; 207.712.6333; e-mail address: ACQF@aol.com

Improving Americas' Cities by Better City Planning, Decisions, Design,
 Development, Management and Action.

Forward email

✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to info@smgsites.com by acqf@aol.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



American City Quality Foundation | P.O. Box 10363 | Portland | ME | 04104