From: Local Progress, the National Municipal Policy Network
To: Stoffmacher, Bruce
Subject: Historic Win on Policing Reform, 2013 National Convening, and more . . .
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September Newsletter **Volume 1, Issue 6**

Join Us for the 2013 Local Progress Annual Convening

From October 25-27 in Washington, DC, Local Progress will hold our Second Annual National Gathering, and we hope you can join us. At the convening, Local Progress will celebrate our first birthday by bringing together dozens of progressive local elected officials and community members from around the country.

The gathering will be a valuable opportunity for local elected officials like you to share knowledge about your work and learn more about issues like voting rights, immigrant integration, housing policy, sustainable cities and the creation of good jobs. We're looking forward to developing solutions and creating partnerships across

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municipalities.

The weekend will overlap with the annual gathering of the Progressive States Network and will include speakers, receptions and panels all centered around what local elected officials can do to promote progressive policy. We also have some funding to support your travel and accommodations. For more information and to RSVP please click here.

Historic Win for Civil Rights in NYC

Local Progress members and Community Safety Act co-sponsors Jumaane Williams and Gale Brewer describing inefficient stop and frisk policing tactics.

On August 22, the New York City Council took a historic vote to override Mayor Michael Bloomberg's veto and enact bold measures to address the New York Police Department's "stop and frisk" program and other discriminatory tactics. The passage of the Community Safety Act is a major victory for residents – particularly in communities of color – who have fought for years to end police behavior that unjustly targets them. The Act's two chief sponsors were Local Progress members Jumaane Williams and Brad Lander, who serves on the Local Progress Board.

After the legislation passed, Williams said that it is "a monumental civil rights victory for New Yorkers. With the establishment of an enforceable ban on bias-based policing practices and independent oversight of the NYPD, New Yorkers know that police officers will now 'serve and protect' all New York City residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation."

Over the past decade, the NYPD has stopped people over 4 million times. Eighty percent of those stopped were black or Hispanic and 90% of the stops resulted in no arrest or ticket. Just this summer, a federal judge declared the program unconstitutional and ordered major reforms.

The Community Safety Act expands and strengthens the City's prohibition of police profiling, gives residents a private right of action to sue to stop unlawful profiling, and establishes an Inspector General with the power to oversee the Department's policies and operations.

The Act is a model for efforts to combat discriminatory policing that are underway or emerging in states and cities nationwide. It is also an excellent example of how broad-based coalitions of advocates and

Philly School Crisis

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Local Progress Has a Beautiful New Flyer

You can use it to recruit your colleagues to join us!

Please download it here and invite a few of them to become members.

Follow us on Twitter

Follow Local Progress @LocalProgress for useful updates from around the country.

Forward to a friend

Tucson Welcomes Immigrants

Tucson, AZ has created an online portal that provides information about services such as health care, legal assistance, English classes, and childcare, regardless of the user's immigration

community-based organizations can partner with progressive legislators to achieve historic policy victories.

Local Progress members Melissa Mark-Viverito and Brad Lander rallying support for the City Council override vote on August 22, 2013 at NY City Hall.

Seattle Passes Investing Ordinance

Seattle is taking a stand against irresponsible and harmful banking by incorporating social responsibility principles into the city's banking practices. Washington State law does not allow the city to deposit significant amounts of money at a credit union and limits Seattle to only doing business with big banks. So the City Council developed a solution that would still require banks to be responsible and reinvest in their community. Last month the Council unanimously passed a socially responsible investing ordinance.

The bill is meant to ensure that banks use their resources to support and invest in Seattle. Sponsored by Local Progress board chair and Seattle Councilmember Nick Licata, the ordinance mandates that the City consider socially-responsible banking practices as at least 15% of the total point value for determining winning bids when selecting vendors for depository services.

The bill outlines specific socially-responsible banking bid criteria, including facilitating community involvement and reinvestment; meeting community banking needs; supporting small business lending; and assisting distressed homeowners. "We want to assure that where we deposit public funds, they're used as best as possible to benefit the citizens of our city," said Licata. Because Seattle deposited $20 billion through its operating account in 2011, this law will have substantial positive impact on communities throughout Seattle.

Local Progress Issue Group: Fighting the Foreclosure Crisis

Local Progress members from around the country are forming an issue group about local strategies to fight the continued foreclosure crisis, learn from one another, and share updates and questions. If you'd like to join, please email us.

Tired of waiting for meaningful relief from the banks or the federal government, local community leaders and elected officials in **North Las Vegas (NV)**, **Richmond (CA),** and **El Monte (CA)** are moving forward with plans to reduce mortgage principal down to fair market

status. This is one of Tucson's efforts to open the city to non-citizens after officially becoming a welcoming city to immigrants.

With the leadership of Councilwomen and Local Progress members Regina Romero and Karin Uhlrich, the City Council voted 6-1 to designate Tucson a "welcoming city." Although Arizona's immigration laws remain among the harshest in the nation, this resolution makes it clear that Tucson's city council does not agree with the state's immigration policy. Councilwoman Romero said that the resolution establishes "a city that values the contributions of all residents, regardless of background."

"We don't want people to feel fear when traveling to work, to school, to the store," said Romero. "We also don't want people to be afraid to call the police to report a crime." By providing services to people regardless of their legal status, Tucson is improving lives for immigrants in Arizona.

School Crisis in Philadelphia

A new policy brief from Local Progress lays out a progressive vision for education reform.

Philadelphia school children are facing a crisis this fall as the city's school district is set to start the year without enough teachers or support staff.

values so that families can stay in their homes and local economies can finally recover from the housing crisis. The three city councils recently voted to initiate a process of getting control of hundreds of troubled underwater loans that Wall Street investors have been unwilling to fix. If the current investors won't sell the loans, the cities will use eminent domain to purchase them at fair market value. Other cities, including **Seattle** and **Newark (NJ)**,are exploring similar initiatives.

Local Progress hosted a webinar on this issue in the spring. On our website, you can watch it and read helpful supporting documents. We have launched an issue group for elected officials and staffers who want to learn from and share their experiences with one another about these plans. You can sign up by emailing us.

Spotlight: Local Progress Members

Susan Shepherd Stands Out in Denver, Colorado

In 2004, after being inspired by Howard Dean, Susan Shepherd began campaigning for progressive candidates and soon directed field operations for a Colorado Congressional legislative race. She then joined the Denver Area Labor Federation as a political organizer, where she managed teams of staff members and volunteers on a number of issues, including a successful campaign to raise Colorado's minimum wage.

In 2011 Councilwoman Shepherd decided to make her way into local politics and was elected to represent District 1 on the Denver City Council. The Councilwoman has fought to ensure access to nutritious foods for families in low-income areas. Outside the Council, much of her volunteer work has been centered in the education system, including building garden beds at a middle school and teaching students how to grow fresh produce. She has helped plant student gardens and also developed a community wellness program.

Shepherd has been a vocal proponent of creating a more inclusive, sustainable, and healthy Denver, including supporting a new library, a new Bikeway, and affordable housing development. But her strong progressive voice and dedication to public service do not stop at the city limit. Shepherd has worked as a fellow focused on economic development at the Big Horn Leadership Center, and is a graduate of both the Colorado Institute of Leadership Training and the White House Project's Leadership training program.

She lives in Denver with her husband and son.

Washington Post highlights Jane Kim's leadership

A recent *Washington Post* article lauded Local Progress member Supervisor Jane Kim of San Francisco for her legislative efforts to end the spread of misinformation at crisis pregnancy centers. Authored by Katrina vanden Heuvel, the article discussed the need for women representatives in all levels of elected office and highlighted

In June, the district laid off about 3,800 teachers, assistant principals, aides and other staffers to close a $304 million shortfall; only about 1,000 of those are likely to be rehired before the year begins.

The district is run by Pennsylvania, and Governor Tom Corbett is working hard to impose his right-wing, anti-public school agenda on the city. He has starved the public system of funds and spent tremendous money on for-profit management, charters, vouchers, and experimental reforms like cyber schools.

Local Progress has summarized a set of policy options for cities that seek to empower parents in helping to turn around troubled schools while resisting the privatization agenda that undermines high quality education for all children.

You can read them here.

Rockefeller Foundation Offers Money for Resilient Cities

Take note: The Rockefeller Foundation has unveiled an innovative new grant, the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge, and your city may be eligible.

The foundation will select 100 cities across the world and provide resources and technical support to help them better "address the increasing shocks and

legislation passed by strong female legislators across the country. Crisis pregnancy centers often offer anti-choice rhetoric while claiming to be non-biased and, as a result, mislead, scare, or guilt-trip women looking for a safe and supportive environment to make personal choices about their reproductive health.

Supervisor Kim and her colleagues passed a bill that requires crisis pregnancy centers to be honest about the services they offer and provide referrals to abortion providers if requested. Because of Supervisor Kim, the information that women in San Francisco receive at times of crisis is more accurate and helpful.

stresses of the 21st century."

The grant is intended to encourage cities to develop and implement "plans for urban resilience."

Municipal elected officials should register here. The deadline to register is September 23, 2013. The application will be distributed afterwards.

If you would like support in developing or designing an application, please email Josie Duffy.

Employment Situation Remains Bleak

A new article in *USA Today* shows that a full recovery for the unemployed is a long way off in most metro areas, despite the lower unemployment rate. There is some good news – 98 metro areas now have more workers than they did pre-recession. By the end of the year that number will grow more than 10%.

But for most cities in America the jobs crisis is far from over. Less than one third of cities have recovered the total number of jobs they lost in the recession and over half of the country's metro areas will not regain the jobs lost in the recession until at least the latter half of 2015.

Even those who have found employment in recovery are making significantly less money than they were pre-recession. The National Employment Law Project reports that 21% of jobs lost in the recession were low-wage. However, those jobs constitute 58% of jobs created in recovery.

Local Progress is a national municipal policy network. For more information please visit www.localprogress.org

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