



Civic Action

A monthly update from the National Civic League

December 2016

Peace on Earth Begins with Goodwill to All

By Doug Linkhart, President of NCL

"As a nation, we need a healing." These words, spoken by former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick at a gathering in Southern California last week, reflected the dual concerns at the conference about racial divisions in our country and the political divisions caused by the recent presidential election. At a time when we are wishing for "peace on earth," many people are feeling a lack of peace in our country and in their community.

More than 550 people gathered last week at the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Summit sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg



Foundation. One of the results of the summit was a call for a [National Day of Healing](#), to be held on January 17, 2017, and in which communities across the country will be encouraged to take steps in their cities to heal divisions created by racial tensions. Such steps might include Mayoral proclamations or gatherings to have conversations about racial bias and equity.

Another speaker at the summit spoke about the need for communities to take steps to ensure respect for human rights and racial equity in the face of potential changes from the newly elected President. "If we find that this Administration does not fulfill the roles that are expected of the federal government, we may have to step in. We should not wait for this to happen, but rather begin to step up," said Salin Geevarghese, Deputy Assistant Secretary at HUD.

The [National Civic League](#) is one of many partner organizations that will be working in the next several years to help communities improve racial equity by having inclusive conversations to heal existing divisions and create plans to address racial disparities in policing,

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National Day of Healing Jan 17, 2017

W.K. Kellogg Foundation and a broad coalition of groups, including NCL, are proud to announce a National Day of Healing. [Click here for more details](#)

NCL Sustaining Members

Cities and Towns

- Asheboro, NC
- Aurora, CO
- Chula Vista, CA
- Decatur, GA
- Denver, CO
- Dublin, CA
- Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Gladstone, MO
- Rancho Cordova, CA

education and other government services.

As Kellogg's Vice President, Gail Christopher, says, "we are in the business of changing hearts and minds so that the policy structure can make a change." The National Civic League is committed to bring out the best in America's cities by helping communities create equity, unity and civic pride.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2017 from all of us at the National Civic League

Receive Free Staffing Support for Solar Efforts - Apply for a SolSmart Advisor

As a SolSmart partner, NCL is excited to announce the next opportunity to host a [SolSmart Advisor](#). SolSmart Advisors are program-funded, temporary staff members that will work in your community for approximately six months - which equates to hundreds of hours of additional technical assistance. These experienced and highly-trained individuals will collaborate with staff and elected officials to assist your community in addressing its solar goals on the path toward SolSmart designation. Applications to host an Advisor are due by January 31, 2017.



Visit <http://www.gosparc.org/new-blog/> for more information.

Linkhart Reflects on the Key Challenges Facing Cities

In the Fall, 2016 issue of the National Civic Review, NCL President Doug Linkhart [reflects on important role cities play in addressing public concerns](#). He also discusses the primary challenges facing local governments today, new trends in the field of civic engagement and future directions for the 112-year-old league. "Increasingly, people are turning to cities to resolve important public issues," notes Linkhart, who joined NCL a year ago this December. "Cities all across the country have ten-year plans to end homelessness and community health plans. When national governments were reluctant to step up, cities came together to develop plans to fight climate change. Similarly, cities are addressing job creation, youth problems, poverty, and drug problems."

[For a PDF of the Q&A click here.](#)

Roanoke, VA

Organizations

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
Colorado Trust
Delta Dental
Greenberg Traurig
Illinois Municipal League
Kaiser Permanente
Mile High United Way
Southwest Airlines
Tampa Housing Authority
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Walmart



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