



# The United States Conference of Mayors

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## LOUISVILLE, KY AND DUBUQUE, IA NAMED "MOST LIVABLE" CITIES IN AMERICA

### *U.S. Conference of Mayors Announce 2008 City Livability Award Winners*

**Miami, FL** — Mayors Jerry E. Abramson of Louisville (KY), and Roy D. Buol of Dubuque (IA), have been awarded first place honors in the *2008 City Livability Awards Program* during the Mayors' Annual Meeting in Miami.

For the past 29 years, cities have competed for this very prestigious award, which recognizes mayoral leadership for developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities. The winning cities were selected by former mayors from a pool of over 200 applicants for their healthy hometown program and river revitalization project respectively.

Sponsored by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Waste Management, the program focuses on mayoral leadership, creativity and innovation, and broad impact on the lives of city residents.

Tom Cochran, Executive Director and CEO of the U.S. Conference of Mayors commented, "Our City Livability Awards Program gives the Conference a chance to highlight mayoral leadership in making urban areas cleaner, safer and more livable. We are grateful to Waste Management for its 19 years of support of the City Livability Awards Program, and for the opportunity to showcase the creativity and commitment of mayors and city governments across the country."

Barry H. Caldwell, Senior Vice President Government Affairs and Corporate Communications of Waste Management, Inc., presented the awards. Waste Management is the nation's largest provider of waste management services and its support makes the City Livability Awards Program possible.

"We pride ourselves in being a trusted and valued community partner. Waste Management's nearly 20-year partnership with the US Conference of Mayors on the City Livability Program evidences that as well as our strong commitment to "livability" as a vital part of urban life. We applaud the honoree mayors and their vigilance in continually seeking to improve the quality of life in their cities," said Mr. Caldwell.

**Outstanding Achievement Awards** were named for cities with populations of 100,000 or more: Chicago (IL); Honolulu (HI); Seattle (WA); Tampa (FL). Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities with populations of fewer than 100,000 people went to: Wilmington (DE); Cerritos (CA); Goodyear (AZ); and Frisco (TX).

**Honorable Mention Citations** were awarded to cities with populations of 100,000 or more to Columbus (OH); Forth Collins (CO); Las Vegas (NV); Orlando (FL); and Stamford (CT). Cities

with populations of less than 100,000 that received Honorable Mentions were Aguadilla (PR); Albany (NY); Avondale (AZ); Coral Gables (FL); and Sugar Land (TX).

**FIRST PLACE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Louisville, KY** (Large City) - The Mayor's Healthy Hometown Program is a highly visible, longterm program designed to create a community-wide effort which encourages and supports physical activity, healthy eating and lifestyles. Mayor Jerry Abramson has rallied 150 partners from businesses, academia, schools, community-based organizations and professional societies to serve on the advisory council and become involved. Activities range from holding family-oriented events involving 4,000 people to participate in a Hike and Bike events, to targeting health policy within schools, and planning the environment design to support increased physical activity. Nearly \$250,000 in mini-grants to seed grassroots activities have enabled churches, community and neighborhood groups to create their own physical activity and healthy nutrition programs. In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Healthy Hometown Program hosts worksite wellness conferences that draw over 300 area businesses and organizations, and worksite wellness awards are presented to outstanding businesses.

**Dubuque, IA** (Small City) – The America’s River Project is a \$188 million revitalization effort to Transform 90 acres at the Port of Dubuque into a destination that captures the historical, environmental, educational and recreational majesty of the Mississippi River. By reclaiming brownfield property for mixed-use development and creating a place where people connect with the river, it provided a much needed boost to Dubuque’s struggling economy, tourism, and image. Phase I has five anchor components: the Mississippi Riverwalk, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the Grand Harbor Resort, and the Star Brewery. The project is now in Phase II an expansion of the National MississippiRiver Museum and Aquarium, new offices for McGraw-Hill Higher Education and the Durrant Group, an architectural firm; Diamond Jo Casino expansion; renovation of historic Star Brewery and historic Shot Tower; a public parking ramp; the Portside Plaza mixed use development; transient boat slips in the Ice Harbor; and a 92-slip marina on the riverfront.

*For Programs Descriptions for Outstanding Achievement Awardees and Honorable Mentions, please visit our website [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*

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