MAYOR
Renard U. Johnson

CITY MANAGER
Dionne Mack

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Alejandra Chávez

District 2
Dr. Josh Acevedo

District 3
Deanna M. Rocha

District 4
Cynthia Boyar Trejo

District 5
Ivan Niño

District 6
Art Fierro

District 7
Lily Limón

District 8
Chris Canales

NEWS RELEASE

08/ 21/ 2025

City Leadership Participates in Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative Executive Management Training Program

47 Mayors, 94 Senior City Officials received training to solve pressing local challenges and improve residents' lives

EL PASO, Texas—Mayor Renard U. Johnson, City Manager Dionne Mack, and City Attorney Karla Nieman recently participated in the ninth class of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, joining leaders from 47 cities across 17 countries in this executive management training program.

Established by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Business School, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative equips mayors and senior municipal officials with the tools and expertise to solve pressing local challenges, strengthen their city halls, and improve outcomes for residents. Since its launch in 2017, the Initiative has provided training to 359 mayors and more than 635 senior municipal officials across 41 countries.

"Participating in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative was an incredible opportunity for El Paso," said Mayor Johnson. "Having myself, our City Manager, and our City Attorney together in this program ensures that the lessons we learned will be applied collaboratively across City leadership. This training strengthens our ability to serve residents more effectively and prepare our community for long-term success."

Housed at the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative brings together Harvard faculty, staff, and students, alongside experts from Bloomberg Philanthropies' global network, to work with mayors and senior officials over the course of nine months. Through intensive classroom, virtual, and field-based offerings, the Initiative helps these leaders bolster their teams' use of data and evidence, drive collaboration and innovation across sectors, and deliver results for communities.

To launch their participation, Mayor Johnson, City Manager Mack, and City Attorney Nieman joined Harvard faculty and renowned management leaders in New York City for a four-day immersive classroom experience. They will continue with program coursework and peer collaboration throughout the year.

Notable alumni of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative include Mayor Tim Keller of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Mayor Femke Halsema of Amsterdam, Netherlands; Mayor Lauren McLean of Boise, Idaho; Mayor Jyoti Gondek of Calgary, Canada; Mayor William Cogswell of Charleston, South Carolina; Mayor Justin Bibb of Cleveland, Ohio; Mayor Mike Johnston of Denver, Colorado; Mayor Eddie Melton of Gary, Indiana; Mayor Andy Burnham of Greater Manchester, England; Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mayor Paul Young of Memphis, Tennessee; Mayor Andrea Davis of Missoula, Montana; Mayor Freddie O'Connell of Nashville, Tennessee; Mayor David Holt of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mayor Cherelle Parker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mayor Kate Gallego of Phoenix, Arizona; Mayor Brett Smiley of Providence, Rhode Island; Mayor Pablo Javkin of Rosario, Argentina; Mayor Ron Nirenberg of San Antonio, Texas; Mayor Paige Cognetti of Scranton, Pennsylvania; Mayor Bruce Harrell of Seattle, Washington; Mayor Tom Arceneaux of Shreveport, Louisiana; and Mayor Stefano Lo Russo of Turin, Italy.

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About Bloomberg Philanthropies:

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 700 cities and 150 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on creating lasting change in five key areas: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a philanthropic consultancy that advises cities around the world. In 2024, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed $3.7 billion. For more information, please visit bloomberg.org, sign up for our newsletter, or follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, Threads, Facebook, and X.

About the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative:

The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative–a program of the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University–is a collaboration between Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to equip mayors and senior city officials to tackle complex challenges in their cities and improve the quality of life of their residents. The Initiative has also advanced research and developed new curriculum and teaching tools to help city leaders solve real-world problems. For more information, please visit cityleadership.harvard.edu or visit us on LinkedIn and X.

About the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University:

Founded in 2021 with Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University serves a global community committed to improving public management, leadership, and governance. The center's cross-Harvard collaboration unites expertise focused on cities across disciplines and schools to produce research, train leaders, and develop resources for global use. The center is designed to have widespread impact on the future of cities, where more than half of the world's people now live, by informing and inspiring local government leaders, scholars, students, and others who work to improve the lives of residents around the world. For more information, please visit cities.harvard.edu or follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, and X.

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