

THE GATEWAY CITIES COMPACT FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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MassINC
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THE GATEWAY CITIES COMPACT FOR



Whereas since its founding the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has built economic success and an enviable quality of life by capitalizing on its unique assets and human capital, and



Whereas the Commonwealth has enjoyed one of the most successful economic transitions to a knowledge-based economy anywhere in the world over the last two decades, and

Whereas that success has attracted increased investment within the Greater Boston core but also higher costs for both businesses and residents, resulting in progressively more viable competition from lower-cost regions of the nation and the world, and



Whereas the Commonwealth's historic Gateway Cities, as identified in the MassINC/The Brookings Institution report of February 2007, provide myriad opportunities to further the Commonwealth's national and international competitiveness, and

Whereas the Gateway Cities offer unrealized assets to the Commonwealth, including middle-class housing, infrastructure to accommodate smart growth principles, and an expanding, energized, and diverse labor force, and



Whereas the Commonwealth's policy focus must alter to recognize the economic growth and financial and social potential within the Gateway Cities, and

Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must initiate a major new state-local partnership with the Gateway Cities to advance the economic vitality of both the Commonwealth and the Gateway Cities;

Now, therefore, be it



Resolved that we, the undersigned chief executives of Massachusetts' Gateway Cities (Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester), hereby agree to form an association of municipalities to pursue common interests supporting the community and the economic revitalization of our historic cities for the purposes of contributing to the general economic well-being of the Commonwealth.



We call on this association to be built on a commonality of interests among the Gateway Cities and a framework of collective action developed to meet the following goals:

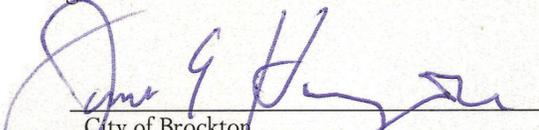
- Initiate a cooperative effort to forge a common agenda with specific public policy action items to help the Commonwealth and the Gateway Cities better compete for residents, jobs, and economic growth;

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Work with the Governor, the Legislature, and state officials for a new comprehensive urban economic development vision for Massachusetts;
- Provide the Commonwealth with innovative strategies to address the state's housing, infrastructure, environmental, and labor force challenges;
- Support the community and economic development efforts of the Gateway Cities;
- Market, promote, and facilitate the many opportunities in Gateway Cities for economic growth;
- Strengthen the Gateway Cities' roles as anchors for regional economic development;
- Forge a robust partnership among federal government, state government, local government, private enterprise, foundations, and colleges and universities to identify and support opportunities to overcome obstacles to community and economic development, including working with neighboring communities to promote an urban agenda; and,
- Share and embrace best practices in community and economic development, public safety, education and work force development, civic engagement, and city management.

We, the undersigned, commit to collaborate with the Commonwealth, our local elected representatives, and each other to establish and accomplish specific goals consistent with the framework outlined above, and pledge to remain unified in our commitment to a new urban agenda for the Commonwealth and our own municipalities.

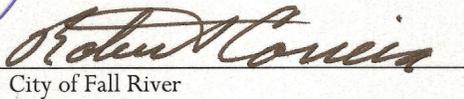
Signed,



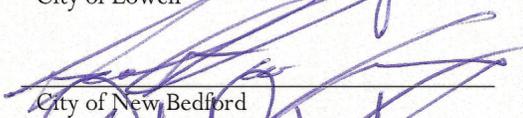
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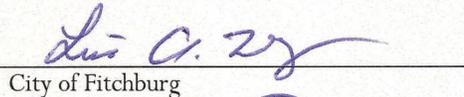
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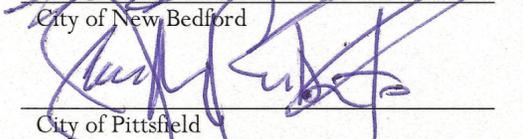
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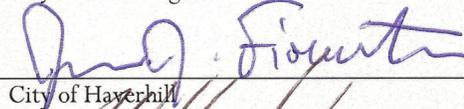
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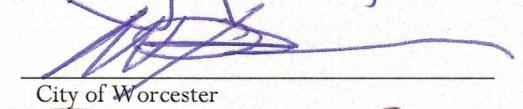
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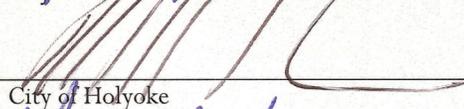
 City of Pittsfield



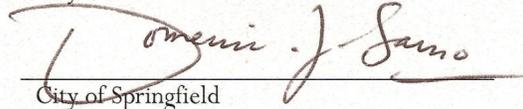
 City of Haverhill



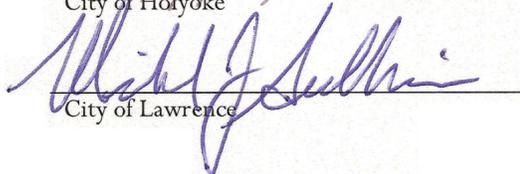
 City of Worcester



 City of Holyoke



 City of Springfield



 City of Lawrence

