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January 24, 2014

The Honorable Joe Davis, Sr.  
City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street  
Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Davis:

On behalf of Cities United I am writing to invite you to speak at our Inaugural Convening, ***Why We Can't Wait - A Convening for Mayors Committed to Eliminating Violence Related Deaths of African American Males***, which will be held February 26-27, 2014 in New Orleans, LA. This is the inaugural convening and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities, you will provide critical information for mayors that have expressed their interest to raise awareness on this epidemic that is crippling so many cities across the country.

Cities United supports a national network of Mayors who are committed to developing and implementing plans working in partnership with community leaders, families, youth, philanthropy, government officials, and other stakeholders to reduce the epidemic of murders among African American men and boys. This convening is also a great opportunity for mayors to cultivate peer-to-peer relationships, plan strategies, and learn of comprehensive violence prevention and reduction strategies as part of the Cities United Agenda. Additionally, mayors and their teams will hear the latest research and evidence-based models from national experts and engage in peer to peer learning networks focused on issues ranging from funder engagement, juvenile justice reform, and youth organizing.

The convening will take place February 26-27, 2014 at the JW Marriot Hotel in New Orleans. Specifically we are inviting you to speak to convening attendees during a breakout session focused on building political will, February 27th from 2:00 PM CST to 3:00 PM CST. Your experience, knowledge and skills in building political will to promote Black male achievement will help us to further engage mayors, city staff, youth, and community-based organizations in this effort.

We do hope you will be able to join us in New Orleans and be a part of this important convening for mayors. Someone from the Cities United planning team will contact you within the week to provide more details, answer any question you may have and hopefully confirm your availability to participate in this convening. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Jerrilyn Black via phone 202-626-3128 or e-mail [black@nlc.org](mailto:black@nlc.org). If you are able to attend please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MLZBPL9>. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leon Andrews  
Senior Fellow

