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July 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. CLAYTON WONG, FISCAL OFFICER
CITY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER STANLEY CHANG *SC*

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSOC. OF COUNTIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OREGON CONVENTION CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON
JULY 17 - 19, 2011

This year's NACO conference was a great opportunity for learning about best practices in various county governments around the country. I focused on two main initiatives: learning more about waste handling and disposal and furthering support for my Young Elected Officials caucus of NACO. The first objective relates directly to my chairmanship of the Public Works and Sustainability Committee, where waste disposal has been one of the most prominent issues, and the second is part of my advancement of the voice of a rising new generation in public service and public affairs.

International Economic Development Task Force Meeting

I joined task force co-chair Nestor Garcia for a wide-ranging discussion on the direction of NACO's international efforts. The discussion centered around capturing the potential of rising global partners like China and India. I shared my recent experience in China, encouraging the establishment of sister cities as a good way to open relationships across the seas. Honolulu has been very aggressive with its sister city efforts compared to mainland counties, which I believe is currently paying off.

Breakfast with NACO 2nd Vice President Candidate Linda Langston

On behalf of HSAC, I organized and hosted a breakfast meeting with NACO 2nd Vice President candidate Linda Langston. The breakfast was well attended by nearly all the HSAC members present, including delegates from all four counties. The meeting was informal and included a brief presentation by Langston, whom HSAC had endorsed early. Langston presented her agenda, which included a focus on inventorying and maximizing each county's assets for such purposes as disaster recovery and city planning. We made great strides in cementing the goodwill between HSAC and the

future NACO leadership, which will undoubtedly pay dividends as HSAC lobbies for a discretionary national board seat.

Opening General Session

Highlights of this plenary session included a presentation by the National League of Cities, the counterpart to NACO at the city level of government, a discussion of icivics.com, which teaches awareness of county government to children, and announcement of a forthcoming Iowa Counties sponsored debate by the presidential candidates in 2012.

NACO also announced its intention to keep dues steady. NACO has been innovative in drawing revenue from sources other than dues--namely, by launching a for profit division that generates revenue from organizing prescription drug purchasing.

Workshop: The Path to Zero Waste

Net-zero waste generation is one of my top priorities as chair of the Council's Public Works and Sustainability Committee. I have currently assigned a practicum student, Yee Ting Wong, to research the issue and develop a complete proposal before the end of the year. This presentation included three speakers.

Susan Robinson of Waste Management introduced their company, which operates 266 municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills and 98 recycling facilities nationwide. They've found that "single stream recycling"--allowing consumers to dispose all their recyclable items together, much like our blue carts here in Honolulu--is the best way to increase the home recycling rate. She presented several of WM's initiatives, including transitioning their trucks from diesel fuel to natural gas, investing in waste-to-ethanol, biomass acid fermentation, gasification, and anaerobic digestion. WM also manufactures **solar-powered garbage compactors**, which can hold five times the amount of waste of a regular garbage can, minimizing labor costs for collection. Solar compactors would be ideal for public parks and high traffic areas here in Honolulu.

Mike Huycke of Republic Services introduced their new compost facility, which handles food and yard waste. Compostable waste comprises 30% of the waste stream. I was encouraged because our own Department of Environmental Services recently contracted a similar facility with Honolulu Disposal to compost both food and green waste.

Mark Schleich of Santa Barbara County discussed their net-zero initiative, which came out of a comprehensive study available to the public at <http://conversiontechnologystudy.com/>. Their Mustang Renewable Power Ventures included three components: 1) recovery of recyclable materials, 2) anaerobic digestion, and 3) thermal gasification. It is a public-private partnership that is privately designed, built, owned, and operated. They also looked at grants and bonds for renewable energy sponsored by the federal government. In addition, they started an innovative mail-in sharps program for diabetics to dispose their sharps at home conveniently and minimize risk of sharps injuring either refuse workers or members of the public should they escape the landfill.

Workshop: Make Your Land Resources Count: Parks, Trails, and Preserves for Local Economies

The panelists in this workshop presented a variety of perspectives on increasing performance of park programs. The first, from Gwinnett County, Georgia, one of the nation's fastest growing counties, recently built a LEED Silver Environmental and Heritage Center with 50,000 users per year as the centerpiece of a rapidly expanding park and recreation program. Pierce County, Washington, which includes Tacoma, recently redeveloped a wastewater facility into the Chambers Bay Golf Course. The course will host the US Open, which is estimated to bring \$115 million in spending to the county. The Trust for Public Lands presented their support for tax credits, conservation easements, and other forms of support for park and wilderness preservation. They have a six step process for ballot initiatives to raise money for public lands, and indeed a portion of Honolulu's property tax revenues are dedicated to our Clean Water and Natural Lands fund. They also fund studies on the economic benefit generated by expenditures on parks and natural lands. Finally, the US Department of the Interior presented President Obama's **America's Great Outdoors Initiative**, which channels funding toward local projects with components of outdoors, education, parks, and restoring waterways, among others. They encouraged applications for federal funding for applicable projects.

Conference-Wide Event Hosted by Multnomah County

Multnomah County, which includes Portland, hosted an outdoor dinner with several sponsors. I used the opportunity to discuss and build support for a Young Elected Officials caucus of NACO. The large majority of NACO's membership is composed of older, white men. In fact, I know of only four members under the age of 40: Ben Rogers of Linn County, Iowa (31); Brittany Smart of Hawaii County (29); Tulsie Gabbard of the City and County of Honolulu (29); and myself. NACO already has caucuses representing blacks, women, Hispanics, black women, and other demographic groups. I strongly believe that young people have unique interests and would be served better by having a special program, even a half-day mini-conference, in conjunction with NACO. I spoke with, among others, Linda Langston, the 2nd Vice President candidate, Chris Rodgers, the 1st Vice President, and Stephanie Osborn, NACO's Deputy Director of County Services, all of whom were supportive.

I also spoke with **Google** representatives who furnished information on their products for state and local governments. Among the governments who have switched are Multnomah County and the State of Wyoming. They provide cloud-based computing solutions like email for prices much below Microsoft equivalents. I intend to follow up with our DIT to determine whether Google offers competitive products at lower costs than our current vendors. As an avid Google user myself, including Gmail, Android, Calendar, Docs, Maps, and Music, I am a strong believer in the user-friendliness, speed, and innovation of Google's products.

Hawaii was one of the hosts of a retirement event for Tom Sweet, the retiring director of the California State Association of Counties. Tom has helped HSAC over the years by advising on the NACO 2nd Vice President candidate for HSAC to support. As a result, over the past several years HSAC has been lucky to receive a presidential appointment to the national board.

NACO Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting was an opportunity for HSAC to repeat its tradition of giving lei and omiyage bags to several important NACO officers, board members, and staff. This tradition helps foster good relations between HSAC and the NACO board.

Workshop: From East to West, Counties Develop Solutions for Cost Savings

Catawba County introduced their Eco Complex--a "resource recovery facility" that processes 533 tons of waste per day into various recycling and conversion streams. The facility includes wood gasification, biosolids processing, biodiesel research, and wireless emissions monitoring. Motorola Solutions presented their wireless technology. Their technology enables remote computer monitoring in command and control processes, rather than having 24 hour human monitoring, which can be very expensive.

NACO General Session

The afternoon general session included several interesting speeches and award presentations, including to City & County Magazine's City Official of the Year. Most interesting was the keynote address by Aron Ralston, the adventurer who inspired the movie 127 Hours. Ralston described in excruciating detail how he got trapped in Utah's canyon country, miles from any human settlement. After five sleepless days and nights of shivering and dehydration at the bottom of a canyon, he finally was inspired to slice his right arm off to extricate himself and find help. His speech inspired me greatly--almost to tears--and was a welcome reminder of the transience of human life and the need to persevere beyond any obstacles. I believe that he will be a deeply inspirational speaker for any conferences or events in Hawaii, and if an appropriate occasion arises, I will follow up.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Traveler: Councilmember Stanley P. Chang


Event: NACo Annual Conference *2011*

Location: Portland, Oregon

Dates: From July 15, 2011 To July 19, 2011

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	\$490.00	Online receipt attached
2. Airfare	\$579.79	Online receipt attached
3. Hotel	\$637.89	Receipt attached
4. Meals	<i>2.95</i> \$207.25	Receipts attached
5. Ground Transportation	\$42.35	Receipts attached
6. Tips	\$0.00	
7. Other	\$50.00	Baggage fees (receipts attached)
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
TOTAL COST OF THE TRIP	\$2,007.28	
MINUS REIMB. FROM HSAC	\$204.30	HSAC expense to be reimb. by HSAC (see memo attached)
REIMBURSEMENT DUE TO TRAVELER	\$1,802.98	
	<i>733.19</i>	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:


Signature of Traveler

7/21/11
Date