June 20, 2016

Re: Conversations on race relations, justice, policing and equality

Dear Mayor:

The National League of Cities (NLC), the League’s national affiliate, is working with the White House and the U.S. Conference of Mayors to encourage local officials to convene 100 community conversations on race relations, justice, policing and equality.

As part of its efforts to support the local leaders on this call to action, the NLC is compiling a list of cities that are currently hosting or planning to host these community conversations. If you are planning to convene a meeting, please contact REAL at real@nlc.org.

REAL, Race Equity and Leadership, is NLC’s effort to equip its membership with the capacity to respond to racial tensions in their communities and address the historical, systemic and structural barriers that further inequity and racism in our nation’s cities.

Please let us know if you are interested in receiving support from REAL. NLC’s support and consultation to city’s interested in hosting these conversations include:

- framing this dialogue effectively around the local issues you have prioritized;
- developing an agenda to engage a diverse range of stakeholders (i.e., elected officials, police, clergy, civil rights groups, millennial activists, business and other stakeholders);
- identifying potential facilitation support that will be critical to ensuring community-level conversations are constructive, productive and focused on positive outcomes for moving forward.

We look forward to hearing about the efforts you have already undertaken since the events two weeks ago and discussing how NLC can be more helpful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE
Executive Director