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MAYOR PAVONE JOINS BLOOMBERG HARVARD CITY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE CITY PROGRESS AND IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR RESIDENTS

Mayor Armondo Pavone is among the 39 mayors from 27 U.S. and 12 international cities across 11 countries and five continents who will receive executive education and management training to strengthen their city hall and deliver results for communities. Two senior officials from the City of Renton will begin their participation in the program in August.

RENTON, WA (JULY 15, 2024) – Mayor Armondo Pavone today announced being selected for the eighth class of the Bloomberg Harvard Leadership Initiative, joining 39 mayors from 11 countries and five continents to participate in the yearlong professional management training program.

Established by Bloomberg Philanthropies, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Business School as a first-of-its-kind program to help close the gap in executive development for the public sector, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative equips mayors and senior city leaders with the tools and expertise to expand their problem-solving capacity, strengthen their city halls, and improve outcomes for residents as cities confront increasingly global challenges. With today’s announcement, the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative will have provided training to 314 mayors and over 540 senior city leaders across 33 countries and six continents since its launch in 2017. On his participation, Mayor Pavone said, “We have a duty to the residents of Renton to offer the highest caliber of service. By enhancing the depth of knowledge in leadership principles from some of the leading educational resources in the country, we bring cutting-edge approaches back to help us provide best-in-class service and approach the issues of our time in new and innovative ways.”



A program of 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 the mayors and their senior officials over the course of one year. Through a combination of intensive classroom, virtual, and field-based learnings and offerings, the Initiative helps these leaders bolster their teams’ use of data and evidence, drive collaboration and innovation across sectors, and deliver impact for communities.

In addition to the core coursework and convenings with peers, each city is able to access additional offerings, including executive education programs for their economic development, civic engagement, human resources, negotiation, and procurement leads; opportunities to host a Bloomberg Harvard City Hall Fellow for up to two years; and instructional research and materials to help city leaders improve key organizational practices.

“As national governments increasingly rely on cities to help them achieve their goals, there has never been a greater need for investment in the capacity of mayors and local leaders to do big things,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and Bloomberg L.P. and 108th mayor of New York City. “Our Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative is designed to help mayors become more effective managers, build strong teams, and learn from the successes of other cities. This diverse class of leaders come from 11 countries, and we’re looking forward to helping them deliver results for the millions of residents they serve.”

To kick off participation, Mayor Pavone will join Harvard faculty and renowned management leaders in New York City for a four-day immersive classroom experience. Two senior leaders from each of the 40 cities, including Chief Administrative Officer Ed VanValey and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Rowland from the City of Renton will begin their participation in the program in August.

Highlights of the Initiative’s new eighth class of mayors include:

- The mayors come from five continents including Africa (1), Europe (4), Oceania (2), North America (30), and South America (2)
- The mayors hail from 11 countries including Australia (1), Canada (3), Colombia (1), Germany (1), Iceland (1), Italy (1), the Netherlands (1), New Zealand (1), and the U.S. (27), and the first-ever Initiative mayors from Argentina (1) and Kenya (1)
- 69% (27) are from the United States and 31% (12) are from international cities
- 49% (19) are from cities with less than 200,000 people, 38% of the mayors (15) are from cities with populations between 200,000 and 1 million people, and 13% of the mayors (5) are from cities with populations over 1 million people

Members of the eighth class of mayors in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative are:

AFRICA:

- Mayor Johnson Sakaja of Nairobi, Kenya

EUROPE:

- Mayor Matteo Lepore of Bologna, Italy
- Mayor Martin W. W. Horn of Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany
- Mayor Einar Thorsteinsson of Reykjavik, Iceland
- Mayor Sharon Dijksma of Utrecht, Netherlands

OCEANIA:

- Mayor Anna Reynolds of Hobart, Australia
- Mayor Campbell Barry of Lower Hutt, New Zealand

NORTH AMERICA:

Canada:

- Mayor Amarjeet Sohi of Edmonton, Canada
- Mayor Catherine Fournier of Longueuil, Canada
- Mayor Scott Gillingham of Winnipeg, Canada

The United States:

- Mayor Shammal Malik of Akron, Ohio
- Mayor Suzanne LaFrance of Anchorage, Alaska
- Mayor Lauren Simpson of Arvada, Colorado

- Mayor Roy West of Beaumont, Texas
- Mayor Aaron Brockett of Boulder, Colorado
- Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell of Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Mayor William Cogswell of Charleston, South Carolina
- Mayor Yemi Mobolade of Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Mayor Mike Johnston of Denver, Colorado
- Mayor Connie Boesen of Des Moines, Iowa
- Mayor Leonardo Williams of Durham, North Carolina
- Mayor Stephanie Terry of Evansville, Indiana
- Mayor Eddie Melton of Gary, Indiana
- Mayor Arunan Arulampalam of Hartford, Connecticut
- Mayor Cyril Jefferson of High Point, North Carolina
- Mayor Victor Trevino of Laredo, Texas
- Mayor Paul Young of Memphis, Tennessee
- Mayor Andrea Davis of Missoula, Montana
- Mayor Scott Wehrli of Naperville, Illinois
- Mayor Freddie O'Connell of Nashville, Tennessee
- Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert of New Rochelle, New York
- Mayor Cherelle Parker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Mayor Cory Mason of Racine, Wisconsin
- Mayor Armondo Pavone of Renton, Washington
- Mayor Lisa Gillmor of Santa Clara, California
- Mayor Bruce Harrell of Seattle, Washington
- Mayor Tom Arceneaux of Shreveport, Louisiana

SOUTH AMERICA:

- Mayor Alejandro Eder of Cali, Colombia
- Mayor Pablo Javkin of Rosario, Argentina

“The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative brings together city leaders from across the nation and the world,” said Harvard University Interim President Alan Garber. “They work with one another and draw on resources from throughout the University to address pressing social problems, improving the lives of millions of people. Part of the Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard, the Initiative represents the University’s commitments to advancing rigorous scholarship, to putting cutting-edge research into practice, and to empowering and inspiring leaders to make a difference. I am pleased to join Bloomberg Philanthropies in welcoming our eighth cohort of mayors and senior leaders to the program.”

Notable alumni of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative include Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyer of Freetown, Sierra Leone; Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mayor Karen Bass of Los Angeles, California; Stephen Benjamin, Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement and former President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, African American Mayors Association, and Mayor of Columbia, South Carolina; Mayor Justin Bibb of Cleveland, Ohio; Keisha Lance Bottoms, former Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement and Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia; Mayor Muriel Bowser of the District of Columbia; Mayor Andy Burnham of Greater Manchester, England; U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana; Mayor Kate Gallego of Phoenix, Arizona; Mayor John Giles of Mesa, Arizona; Mayor Todd Gloria of San Diego, California; Mayor Jyoti Gondek of Calgary, Canada; Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis of Cape Town, South Africa; Mayor Marvin Reeves of Bristol, UK; Mayor Stefano Lo Russo of Turin, Italy; Mayor Claudia López of Bogotá, Colombia; Mayor Erin Mendenhall of Salt Lake City, Utah; Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski of Warsaw, Poland; Mayor Juhana Vartiainen of Helsinki, Finland; Mayor Randall Woodfin of Birmingham, Alabama; and Mayor Michelle Wu of Boston, Massachusetts.

About City of Renton

The City of Renton, Washington, with a population of 107,900 (2023), is located on the southeast shore of Lake Washington, just south of Seattle. Renton's strong economic base, diverse marketplace, and favorable business climate have attracted nationally recognized companies wishing to provide employees and their families with an outstanding quality of life. Renton is the home of Boeing, PACCAR, IKEA, Super Bowl Champion (2014) Seattle Seahawks, two-time (2016 & 2019) MLS champion and CONCACAF Champion (2022) Seattle Sounders FC (in 2024), and the eternal resting place of rock icon Jimi Hendrix. You can find more information on our [website](#), [news releases](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Nextdoor](#) pages.

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 2023, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$3 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 the 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.