



Delegation:

Ralph Becker, Mayor, Salt Lake City, UT

Roy D. Buol, Mayor, Dubuque, IA

Christopher Coleman, Mayor, Saint Paul, MN

James B. Kraft, Councilman, Baltimore, MD

Tom LaBonge, Council Member, Los Angeles, CA

Matthew Zone, Council Member, Cleveland, OH

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David Ebersole, Department of Economic Development, Cleveland, OH

Biographies:



**The Honorable Ralph Becker
Mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah**

Over 30 years ago, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker was taken by the same allure that brought many residents to Utah's Capital City, drawn by the area's unique mix of geographic beauty, metropolitan energy and year-round recreational opportunities.

Ralph earned two graduate degrees at his new home's University of Utah – a Master's in Planning and a JD – after completing undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania in 1973. He served as the Utah State Planning

Coordinator under Governor Scott Matheson and then went on to launch his own Salt Lake City-based consulting firm, Bear West, specializing in community planning, environmental assessment, public lands use and public involvement before acting on his long-held desire to serve the public.

Elected to the Utah State Legislature in 1996, Ralph was a member of the House of Representatives for 11 years and battled for the issues most important to his Avenues constituents. He served in legislative leadership positions for most of that tenure, including five years as House Minority Leader.

In 2008, Ralph brought this considerable body of education, experience and engagement with local issues to his new office of Mayor of Salt Lake City.

In the first three years of his first term, Mayor Becker has greatly expanded transportation options for the City's residents and visitors, with a special focus on public transit, trails and bikeways. He also championed the state's first municipal protections in the areas of employment and housing for the City's LGBT community – an effort that has since been replicated by Salt Lake County and over a dozen local governments throughout Utah. Under Mayor Becker's leadership, City government has become much more transparent, and new opportunities have been created for residents to engage and participate in the decision making process.

Mayor Becker is a leader who has made, and will continue to make, collaboration and partnerships an essential element in his efforts to see Salt Lake City as an even more vibrant, livable and sustainable community for its current residents and into the future.

Mayor Becker is an avid outdoorsman who, when he is away from work, can be found backcountry skiing, river running or backpacking. He is also the proud father of two sons and a 17-year-old granddaughter.



The Honorable Roy D. Buol **Mayor of Dubuque, Iowa**

Roy D. Buol was first elected to a four-year term as Mayor of Dubuque, Iowa in November 2005, and was re-elected in November 2009. He previously was elected as Second Ward Representative to the City Council in 1995 and, was re-elected in 1999 and again in 2003.

Mayor Buol is a Dubuque-native and a 30-year retired employee of John Deere Dubuque Works. Since 2002, he has been Director of the Landscaping & Grounds Department at the University of Dubuque. Mayor Buol holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a double-major in Business and Marketing from the University of Dubuque,

where he also completed graduate coursework toward a Master of Arts in Communication. He is currently enrolled in the National League of Cities Certificate of Achievement in Leadership Program and represents Dubuque in the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

During his mayoral campaign in 2005, Mayor Buol's platform was based on "engaging citizens as partners," and what he heard from thousands of citizens was a consistent theme surrounding water quality, recycling, green space, public transit, cultural vitality, accessibility, and downtown revitalization. During the first City Council goal-setting session following his election in 2006, Mayor Buol proposed and received the full support of his council colleagues to focus on sustainability as a City top priority, stating "cities that get out in front on sustainability will have competitive economic advantages in the future." Sustainability has been a top priority every year since his election. This leadership paved the way for the creation of Sustainable Dubuque, a citizen-engaged process to define sustainability for our community and create a national model for cities under 200,000 in

population. In 2009, Mayor Buol was instrumental in the launch of “Smarter Sustainable Dubuque,” a unique public/private partnership between the City of Dubuque and IBM Research, the division of IBM responsible for its “Smarter Planet” campaign. The project was initiated in September 2009 when the City of Dubuque and IBM announced their intentions to make Dubuque one of the first “smarter” sustainable cities in the U.S.

Connected World Magazine named Mayor Buol one of its top ten M2M (Machine to Machine) Pioneers for 2010, a group of leaders who pave the way for ground-breaking innovation and implementation in the world of connected devices and the underlying machine-to-machine technology that powers them. Connected World also named Dubuque one of the seven “Most Connected Locales” in the United States in 2010 and Fast Company named Dubuque one of the 10 Smartest Cities on the Planet in December 2010.

Since Mayor Buol was elected mayor, Dubuque has been named an All-America City by the National League of Cities (2007), the Most Livable Small City by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (2008), the Best Small City to Raise a Family by Forbes (2010), and was named a 2010 third-place finalist and gold-standard community at the International Awards for Livable Communities (LivCom).

During his 16-year tenure as a member of the City Council, Mayor Buol has served on the City’s Long Range Planning Advisory Commission; the Community-Based Task Force on Gangs, Drugs and Youth Violence; the Dubuque Racing Association Board; the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce Board; the Dubuque Initiatives Board; Every Child Every Promise Board; Safe Community Task Force; the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation (GDDC) Board and Executive Committee, and as Past Chair of GDDC’s River Valley Initiative Foundation; Chair, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study Committee; Chair, City Conference Board, and Chair of the City’s 175th Anniversary Planning Committee.

Mayor Buol’s community involvement includes serving as the City’s spokesperson in multiple venues locally and around the nation, and as guest host for non-profit fundraisers and other significant occasions throughout the community. He serves on the United Way Budget Committee, is a member of the Loyal Order of Moose #355, Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Dubuque County Historical Society, the Dubuque Museum of Art, and is a long-time supporter of the Grand Opera House and Dubuque Symphony Orchestra.

Mayor Buol and his wife, Deborah, are parents to four children and grandparents of nine!



The Honorable Christopher Coleman Mayor of Saint Paul, Minnesota

As a former attorney, community and neighborhood leader, investment advisor and city councilmember, Chris Coleman brings a wealth of experience to the office of mayor. Mayor Coleman regularly works on the national level, serving as Second Vice-President of the National League of Cities (NLC) and working on the Youth, Education, and Families council at NLC. In his six years as mayor, Chris Coleman has been an advocate for education and public safety, and was instrumental in championing the Central Corridor Light Rail line – the largest transit project ever undertaken in the state of Minnesota. These efforts and initiatives are all accomplished with sound fiscal management in mind and

guided by a passion for the City of Saint Paul.

Bridging the education gap for children has been at the core of Mayor Coleman’s agenda. Mayor Coleman has recently introduced revolutionary programs such as the [Promise Neighborhood](#) and [Sprockets](#), which focus on how our students spend their crucial time outside of the classroom. Mayor Coleman has marshaled the best minds and resources to enrich the lives of children by extending social and academic opportunities beyond the school day, opening new doors of opportunity to a better life and creating a safe environment for them to live and play.

Mayor Coleman is a strong advocate for police, fire and emergency management services, committed to building world-class departments that set the standard for service to residents and community. Mayor Coleman continues to invest in emergency personnel and training, as well as improved technology to assist them in keeping our communities safe.

Economic development has been one of Mayor Coleman’s main focuses. Through his leadership, downtown Saint Paul has come alive with new music and restaurant venues. He championed the [Central Corridor](#) Light Rail project, and continues to provide leadership during its planning and construction. The Central Corridor will not only transform one of Saint Paul’s most iconic streets, but connect our residents to workplaces and schools.

Mayor Coleman is committed to fiscal responsibility. Measuring value by return on investment, he has worked in partnership with the City Council to consolidate and improve city services despite devastating cuts in state aid. Under Mayor Coleman, Saint Paul residents are receiving better services at a better price while the City retains its high bond ratings from all the major rating agencies.

Mayor Coleman and his wife, Connie, live on the West Side, where they raised their two children, Molly and Aidan.



The Honorable James B. Kraft Councilman, City of Baltimore, Maryland

Born and raised in Baltimore city, Jim Kraft has fought for the community - as an activist, community leader, and neighbor - for over 40 years. A father of three and grandfather of eight, Jim understands the opportunities and challenges of supporting a family in the City.

Since his election to the Baltimore City Council in 2004, Jim has worked to make the First District "Safe, Smart, Green and Growing." On the City Council, he is Chair of the Judiciary & Legislative Investigations Committee, the Vice Chair of the Budget & Appropriations and Land Use & Transportation Committees, and a member of the Recreation & Parks Committee. He represents Baltimore City to the Maryland Municipal League and currently sits on the Baltimore City Hispanic Commission. He is also the former Council representative to the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation.

A member of St. Casimir's Church, Patterson Park Neighborhood Association, the Friends of Patterson Park, the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance, Friends of Canton Library, Creative Alliance, and the Greektown CDC, he is committed to serving the neighborhoods of the First District. Jim served three terms on the Baltimore City Democratic Central Committee and was State Senator for the 46th legislative district in 1998. He has also been Vice President and Treasurer of the Fells Prospect Community Association.

Growing up in a tight-knit Waverly community, Jim got his first taste of politics as a 10-year-old during the 1960 presidential race, when he helped put up signs and campaign for the Democratic nominee, John F. Kennedy. As a teenager he would become active in his Parish Council and community association.

"I'm that generation," he says. "I'm a Catholic kid who grew up watching JFK saying, 'Ask not what your country can do for you.'"

Jim graduated from Towson University with a degree in secondary education, history, and political science. While there, he joined the Young Democrats, volunteering for Paul Sarbanes' first run for the Maryland House of Delegates. Jim's work with the Maryland Democratic Party Executive Committee would continue for over 30 years.

In his twenties, Jim worked at Union Memorial hospital, Western Auto, and as a part-time organizer for St. Bernard's Parish and the North East Community Organization. In the community he was in his element, working with neighbors to stop blockbusting and redlining practices.

Later Jim worked as a store manager during the day to put himself through law school at the University of Baltimore. Although his job with Western Auto took him to Howard County, Jim remained invested in the City and decided to move home to Baltimore. The strong sense of community in Patterson Park reminded him of the neighborhood where he grew up, and that year he purchased his home where he lives with his wife, Tammy.

"It's the Baltimore I grew up in, and it's the Baltimore that will be here for the next 50 years," he says. Jim is a Baltimorean by birth and a Baltimorean by choice.



The Honorable Tom LaBonge

Councilman, City of Los Angeles, California

Councilmember Tom LaBonge has been serving the City of Los Angeles and the 4th District long before he was elected to the City Council in 2001. The Councilmember was re-elected in 2003, 2007 and, most recently in 2011. Declared “Mr. LA” by Los Angeles magazine, Tom LaBonge is known for his infectious civic spirit and encyclopedic knowledge of Los Angeles.

Councilmember LaBonge has worked for the city for more than 35 years, starting as a volunteer with Mayor Tom Bradley’s Youth Council in 1974 and 1975 and Mayor Bradley’s Summer Youth Beautification Team. Councilmember LaBonge served on the staffs of Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson, the late great City Council President John Ferraro, the Honorable Mayor Richard Riordan, and the Department of Water and Power as its Director of Community Relations.

He currently serves on the City Council as Chair of Trade, Commerce and Tourism Committee; Vice Chair of its Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee, Rules and Elections Committee and Ad-Hoc River Committee. Councilmember LaBonge is a member of the Council’s Transportation Committee, the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee and the Jobs and Business Development Committee.

Councilmember LaBonge is also an alternate member of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission. He serves as President of the Los Angeles Sister Cities, Inc., a people to people program between the City of Los Angeles and its 25 sister cities around the world.

Councilmember Tom LaBonge has had a career-long involvement with public parks and the preservation of open-space. He is a daily hiker and climbs to the 1600-foot (490- Meter) peak of Mt. Hollywood in Griffith Park. Councilmember LaBonge established the annual “Hike for Health” to introduce elementary school students from Los Angeles to “Get to Know” nature and healthy

lifestyle habits. “Hike for Health” was expanded to the sister city of Vancouver, Canada and Guangzhou, China in 2011.

Councilmember LaBonge worked tirelessly for nine years to acquire Cahuenga Peak, the parcel adjacent to the iconic HOLLYWOOD Sign, from real estate developers. In late 2010, Councilmember LaBonge and the Trust for Public Land announced the completion of their “Save the Peak” campaign to buy the 138-acres of pristine hillside, thanks to generous donations from Aileen Getty, Hugh Hefner and the Tiffany Foundation. Earlier this year, Councilmember LaBonge signed a Partnership Agreement between Los Angeles’ North Atwater Industrial Estate and Berlin Marzahn Hellersdorf to promote green space and economic development with a focus on green technology.

Councilmember LaBonge has also conducted regular cleanups of the Los Angeles River, collaborating with other river organizations and educational groups to inspire young people to protect the environment recycle and respect the delicate eco-systems all around us.

Throughout the course of his extensive career with the City of Los Angeles, Councilmember LaBonge has received several distinguishing recommendations and awards. In 1997, Councilmember LaBonge received the National Park Service Award. In 2007, he was the recipient of the People for Parks Awards “Legislator of the Year”.

In 2010, Councilmember LaBonge was named “Local Legislator of the Year” by the University of California Los Angeles, UCLA. And Councilmember LaBonge was awarded the Officers Cross of the Order of Merit, the Bundesrepublik Deutschland by German Consul General Wolfgang Drautz.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Tom LaBonge grew up with his seven brothers in the Silver Lake District of Los Angeles. In 1971 he graduated from John Marshall High School and in 1975 from the Cal State University Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Sciences in Sociology.

He lives in Silver Lake today, with his wife Brigid and their two children, Mary-Cate and Charles.



The Honorable Matthew Zone **Council Member, City of Cleveland, Ohio**

Councilman Matt Zone grew up in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood on Cleveland's near west side and was elected to office in November of 2001. Councilman Zone chairs Cleveland City Council's Sustainability Subcommittee and is a member of the City Planning, Community & Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Personnel and Operations and Public Safety Committees.

Councilman Zone is recognized nationally, regionally and locally as a leader on environmental and arts & cultural issues. Currently, he serves on the board of the National League of Cities. Regionally, Councilman Zone is the former President of the Northeast Ohio City Council Association (NOCCA) and one of the original members of the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force, which is working to create off-shore wind generation in Lake Erie. He also serves on the steering committee of the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) which is working to create a "Smart Growth" plan and "Revenue Sharing" for Northeast Ohio.

Locally, Councilman Zone continues to be a tireless advocate for alternative energy and green building, by evidence of the fact that his ward is home to the only EcoVillage in our state and first in the country. The EcoVillage is complete with a LEED built school, theatre and certified Regional Transit Authority (RTA) rapid station, highly energy efficient homes that heat & cool for less than \$500 annually and has a model storm water demonstration project on 25 acre city recreational facility.

As a devoted supporter of the arts, Councilman Zone believes the arts and culture community can serve as an economic engine. He has been the driving force behind the development of the Gordon Square Arts District which is comprised of new housing and businesses, retail development and the construction and renovation of three theaters. Councilman Zone also sponsored the City of Cleveland's "Percent for Arts" legislation, which requires all applicable capital improvement projects over \$350,000 to set aside 1.5 percent of the total budget to include artists in their design.

Councilman Zone is a graduate of Cleveland State University's College of Urban Affairs and graduate of St. Edward High School. He has been married to his wife Michelle for 20 years and they have a son enrolled at Kent State University.



Mr. Michael R. Christensen, P.E.
Deputy Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles
City of Los Angeles, California

As deputy executive director at the Port of Los Angeles, Michael R. Christensen, P.E., is the second in command at the nation's number one container port and head of the Port's Development Bureau.

Christensen oversees the Engineering, Environmental, Goods Movement, and Construction divisions, which employ approximately 200 professional, technical, and clerical staff plus hundreds of consultant and contractor personnel in support of the permitting, design, construction, maintenance, and environmental management of the infrastructure and development projects at the 7500-acre complex. He also oversees the Board of Harbor Commissioners' office and is liaison with outside transportation agencies on goods movement projects related to the Port.

Christensen has more than 35 years of engineering and management experience related to maritime, rail, and general transportation projects. Prior to joining the port in October 2006, Christensen served as vice president at Parsons Transportation Group where he was responsible for a broad range of local, regional, and national goods movement, port, and rail projects.

His career-to-date also includes holding senior management positions at several other transportation consulting firms plus 16 years of service to the Southern Pacific Railroad, where he held various posts including assistant chief engineer for design and construction and chief environmental affairs officer. He has held key leadership positions on a number of major projects that include the Alameda Corridor rail expressway serving the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex, the Port of Los Angeles' Transportation Master Plan, the Port of Oakland's Maritime Development Alternative Study, and Reno's ReTRAC grade separation project.

Christensen earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Arizona State University and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association. A third-generation civil engineer, Christensen is a registered professional engineer in California and nine other states. He currently resides with his wife and four children in Redondo Beach, Calif., where he volunteers on a school board committee, as a youth soccer league referee, and as a local Boy Scout leader.



**Mr. David Ebersole,
Brownfield Program Manager
Department of Economic Development
City of Cleveland, Ohio**

David Ebersole is Brownfield Program Manager for the City of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development. David has a Bachelor's Degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University and is a licensed attorney. David's responsibilities at the City includes management of numerous brownfield redevelopment projects, including a State of Ohio Job Ready Sites Grant, the City's Industrial Commercial Land Bank projects, including 21-acre, 15-acre, and 10-acre clean-up and redevelopment sites, and management of several EPA Assessment and Clean-Up Grants.

David brings a creative approach to addressing Cleveland's brownfield issues. He is actively engaged in the revitalization of environmentally compromised, structurally obsolete, and underutilized properties. He has experience with complicated tax credit financing, significant environmental contamination, and the combination of multiple funding sources for the funding of projects. Additionally, he has experience working with multiple regulatory structures, including U.S. and Ohio EPA, HUD, and the Ohio Department of Development. David is the project manager for the Cuyahoga Valley Industrial Center – the redevelopment of a 55-acre former Coke Plant into a ready-made developable site. The \$13 Million project requires the beneficial re-use of dredged river spoils (dredgings taken from the Cuyahoga River to maintain the channel) and steel fine slag (a by-product of steel manufacturing), which mix with soil excavation to provide almost 1,000,000 cubic yards of fill material necessary to remediate and level the site. The project proposal required the approval of multiple divisions of Ohio EPA and collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to become a reality.

Additionally, David worked on the Evergreen Cooperative Laundry project, awarded as the Most Innovative Project - Community Development Project by the National Development at their 2011 NDC Academy. The \$5.6 Million project was funded through a mix of City of Cleveland Empowerment Zone HUD 108 & EDA Title IX funding, bank financing, and New Market Tax Credits. The Laundry is focused on sustainable employment and is cooperatively owned by its employees, creating jobs and wealth in the neighborhoods. It has been successful in employing Cleveland's disadvantaged populations, including minorities and the formerly incarcerated.

David has given multiple presentations on brownfield redevelopment. He has presented at two national brownfield conferences - at Brownfields 2009 on the topic of deconstruction and at Brownfields 2011 on the use of dredge materials in redevelopment. He has presented on the City's transit-oriented brownfield development strategy in the Euclid Corridor at the 2010 Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference and at the Minnesota Brownfields Forum on Transit-Oriented Development in Brownfield Corridor in 2011.

NLC Staff Supporting Delegation

Tammy Zborel

Senior Associate, Sustainability Program

Tammy joined NLC in September 2009. In addition to assisting program development, Tammy's work focuses on researching municipal sustainability initiatives to identify innovative practices and develop knowledge, tools, and resources to assist cities plan, implement, and strengthen their sustainability goals. Tammy received her Master's degree from Tufts University in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. During this time she assisted community development efforts in the Cities of Lawrence and Somerville, MA, and worked on green development issues with the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) in Boston. Tammy has served as an Americorps*VISTA, Peace Corps Volunteer, and has assisted the efforts of the international Talloires Network to strengthen the civic roles of higher education. Tammy received her Bachelor of Science from West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Raksha Vasudevan

Associate, Sustainability Program

Raksha joined NLC in 2011. At NLC, she researches innovative sustainability initiatives across the country and develops content around city best practices. Raksha holds a Master of Urban Planning from Virginia Tech. With a background in Architecture and a passion for housing, social equity, and people, she chose to specialize in sustainable community development. As a graduate research assistant at Virginia Tech, Raksha worked closely with Professor Joe Schilling on sustainability planning (particularly in shrinking cities), co-authoring and contributing to numerous academic and conference papers on the topic. Additionally, she contributed to Dr. Derek Hyra's research on race, class and revitalization in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington DC. Raksha is currently also the 2011-2012 Groundwork USA Fellow at the Center for Community Progress.

Katie McConnell

Senior Associate, Economic Development

Katie joined NLC in September of 2005 and helped launch the NLC Economic Development program in 2009. As part of the Economic Development team, Katie focuses on conducting research, highlighting promising practices and providing resources to help city leaders build strong local economies. Her research areas focus on small business and entrepreneurship, workforce development, and trade and foreign direct investment. Prior to her efforts on Economic Development, Katie was the lead staff on NLC's Human Development (HD) and Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) committees. Katie is currently pursuing a master's degree in urban and regional planning with a concentration in economic development from Virginia Tech and received her Bachelor of Science from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa.