



July 29, 2004

Dear Local Leader:

Please join me on **September 28** in a national effort to draw attention to disparities between rich and poor, haves and have-nots that threaten the well-being of our cities and towns and our country and to discuss local, regional, and national solutions to this growing problem.

The American dream is about ensuring a brighter future for our children and their children. It is about having and eventually owning a safe, affordable place to live. And, it is about getting a good education that will lead to a job that provides for a decent and improving quality of life. Recent data from a variety of sources have confirmed that the situation is getting worse – the **inequalities are widening**, the **division between haves and have-nots growing**, and the **need for collective action more urgent than ever**.

That's why I am asking every mayor and city or town council to hold a meeting on **September 28** to demonstrate your **commitment to this campaign**. Our goals for **September 28** are to (1) dedicate ourselves as local leaders to **ensuring access** to the American dream in our hometowns; (2) **raise awareness of the importance of these issues** in every community across the country through local and national media; and (3) call upon **national leaders** – current and prospective – to **join in our commitment** to taking action to increase access to the American dream.

I have attached a **campaign action sheet** that provides some general guidance to help you prepare for a meeting or event in your community, a **draft resolution** for action at your meeting, and a **press release** for you to distribute to your local media. We will provide additional resources over the coming weeks to support your effort on September 28.

Today, I need your **commitment to be part of the voice of America's cities and towns on September 28**. The more local and regional meetings we can identify, the more media attention we can draw to our work. Please complete the **enclosed commitment form** or visit the NLC web site at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org) to use the online commitment form.

Thanks for your commitment to expanding opportunities for all Americans – for taking us a step closer to resurrecting the American dream.

Sincerely,

Charles Lyons  
President  
Selectman, Arlington, Massachusetts

9/27/2004  
7.A.2.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
PASADENA REGARDING THE CITY OF PASADENA'S  
COMMITMENT TO THE AMERICAN DREAM CAMPAIGN

**Whereas**, the American dream is rooted in principles of fairness, opportunity, and a chance to succeed; and

**Whereas**, growing divisions between rich and poor, haves and have-nots, and people of color and whites stand in the way of the success of all American communities today; and

**Whereas**, too many people in America's cities and towns no longer have access to what most of us take for granted— a safe and affordable place to live, the opportunity to support themselves adequately through work, and the ability to help their children take the next step up the ladder; and

**Whereas**, recent studies and polls show that the economic gaps are getting wider, more and more young people are being left behind because of unequal education opportunities and limited job opportunities, and countless workers do not have the needed skills to take advantage of new jobs; and

**Whereas**, the leaders of America's cities and towns face the challenges and costs of these divides and disparities everyday by trying to meet growing needs for an affordable home, a good education, access to basic medical care, and much more; and

**Whereas**, the National League of Cities believes that government at all levels has a fundamental responsibility to address the growing disparities by developing policies and programs that will give every American an equal chance to achieve the American dream.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the Mayor and Council of the City of Pasadena, California, join the National League of Cities in calling for a national commitment to ensure access to the American dream;

**Be it further resolved** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Pasadena are committed to do our part at the local and regional level to maximize access to affordable housing, strengthen public education, create opportunities to develop marketable job skills, and build an inclusive community; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Pasadena, call on all 2004 candidates for public office to speak directly to the issues of divides and disparities in America and specify what they are willing to do to put the American dream within reach for all families; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Pasadena join the National League of Cities in calling for a national domestic agenda in 2005 that: (1) supports families and children care, especially through schools that work for every child and affordable health care; (2) puts affordable housing and homeownership within reach for every American; (3) grows our local economies to increase jobs and opportunities to learn new skills to match job penings; and, (4) supports all governments working together to better serve Americans.

Adopted at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANE L. RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

Approved as to form:

  
MICHELE BEAL BAGNERIS  
City Attorney