National Urban League Conference in Cincinnati

NUL President Morial: Cincinnati’s confrontation of challenges brought Urban League Conference here

Above
Key leaders in bringing the 104th National Urban League Conference to Cincinnati July 23-26 hosted an opening press conference Wednesday at Duke Energy Convention Center. They are, from left, W.I. King, president of Toyota Manufacturing Kentucky; Donna Jones Baker, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio; Marc H. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League; Rahquel Purcell, director of Global Supply Chain Innovation at Procter & Gamble; Delores Hargrove-Young, chair of the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors; and Michael Laatsch, vice president Public Relations and Corporate Communications, Western & Southern Financial Group. All of the sponsors have partnered with the local Urban League through the years. Photos by Dan Yount

The positive manner in which Cincinnati confronted the challenges brought about by the racial unrest in the early part of the new century earned the region an Urban League National Conference, said Marc H. Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League. Morial revealed that information at the opening press conference for the 104th National Urban League Conference being held July 23-26 at Duke Energy Center in Downtown Cincinnati.

"Every community faces challenges. It's important how the leadership of that community responds," said Morial, a former New Orleans mayor. "I met with business leaders here in 2010, learned how Cincinnati confronted its challenges, and with some arm bending by both (former) Mayor Mark Mallory and Donna Jones Baker (president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio), we decided to return to Cincinnati. Our return to Cincinnati is a vote of confidence in the leadership here. We're proud to be in Cincinnati."

The National Urban League, which is one of the country's oldest and most respected civil rights organizations, cancelled its conference planned here 11 years ago following the 2001 civil unrest.

"We are especially excited to bring this year's conference to Cincinnati and to partner with our Affiliate, the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, which is making a notable impact in the community," Morial said.

See National Urban League on page A2

'More than just a sewer system'
MSD's Tony Parrott plans to transform communities with $3 billion in projects

Above
James "Tony" Parrott, executive director of Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, says his model for the first phase of a $3 billion upgrade in the utility's infrastructure will transform Cincinnati, starting soon with the Lick Run Valley Conveyance System in South Fairmont. Photo by Dan Yount

By Dan Yount
The Cincinnati Herald

James "Tony" Parrott, executive director of Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, wants to leverage the $3 billion plus the sewer district plans to spend during the next 15 to 20 years to upgrade the deteriorating sanitary and stormwater sewer systems so that investment will spark other development in neighborhoods, create a sustainable local workforce, and make neighborhoods more attractive.

Parrott and his staff soon will be rolling out his model to accomplish these goals in the first phase of the massive wastewater improvement project, starting with the $240 million Lick Run Valley Conveyance System in South Fairmont.

A second phase of the work begins in 2018, when another estimated $2 billion will be spent, and a lot of the work will be done in the City of Cincinnati. With no outside sources of funding for the federally mandated projects, ratepayers will foot the bill.

Most major cities in the country are facing similar projects, also

See MSD's plans on page A6
**NEWS**

**MSD starting massive project continued from page A1**

MSD Executive Director Tony Parrot has become nationally visible by offering groundbreaking sewer line improvements, inspiring a project that is shown speaking at a National Forum meeting in Washington, D.C. Photo provided

Billion of gallons of sewer overflows pose hazardous situations to Cincinnati neighborhoods. Provided

---

**The Lick Run Watershed showing the proposed tunnel.** MSD has better solutions for handling runoff from the watershed. Provided

In addition to the local meetings, MSD officials have joined a consortium of 20 other major central European cities organizing around thecountry to share best practices as they all work forward through these upgrades. Parrot’s model for this work has brought together utilities to help envision projects and get local people to work.

This summit will result in site visits of “rain-sharks,” because this is the only source of funding for the projects.

The summit will bring together utilities, including: The Carlsbad, Lafayette, Colorado; The City of Cincinnati; The City of Columbus; The City of Indianapolis; The City of Madison, Wisconsin; The City of Nashville, Tennessee; The City of Philadelphia; The City of St. Louis; The City of St. Paul; The City of Seattle; The City of Toronto; The City of Washington, D.C.; The City of Richmond, Virginia; and The City of San Antonio, Texas.

**Small Business Enterprise** forms a key part of the project.

The utility is seeking to meet $100 million in contracts with small businesses. MSD has spent $80 million on small and women-owned businesses in the last three years. It is important that we recognize and support the involvement of women-owned businesses in our workforce, including employment in our workforce.

The role of the project is to create opportunities for local businesses, including employment in our workforce, including employment in our workforce.

In addition to the local meetings, MSD officials have joined a consortium of 20 other major central European cities organizing around the country to share best practices as they all work forward through these upgrades. Parrot’s model for this work has brought together utilities to help envision projects and get local people to work.

This summit will result in site visits of “rain-sharks,” because this is the only source of funding for the projects.

The summit will bring together utilities, including: The Carlsbad, Lafayette, Colorado; The City of Cincinnati; The City of Columbus; The City of Indianapolis; The City of Madison, Wisconsin; The City of Nashville, Tennessee; The City of Philadelphia; The City of St. Louis; The City of St. Paul; The City of Seattle; The City of Toronto; The City of Washington, D.C.; The City of Richmond, Virginia; and The City of San Antonio, Texas.

**Small Business Enterprise** forms a key part of the project. The utility is seeking to meet $100 million in contracts with small businesses. MSD has spent $80 million on small and women-owned businesses in the last three years. It is important that we recognize and support the involvement of women-owned businesses in our workforce, including employment in our workforce.

The role of the project is to create opportunities for local businesses, including employment in our workforce, including employment in our workforce.