



**GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE**
CITIES INITIATIVE



PRESS RELEASE
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Cities Initiative Meets with Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson to Discuss Plans for Regional Collaboration

The meeting focused on facilitating economic transformation, addressing water equity, and safeguarding the basin's freshwater resources

Chicago – January 11, 2024 – Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago, Mayor Cavalier Johnson of Milwaukee and other members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative met at Chicago's City Hall today to discuss plans for regional collaboration across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. Specifically, the meeting focused on facilitating economic transformation, addressing water equity concerns and safeguarding the basin's freshwater resources.

"I was pleased to meet with Mayor Johnson of Milwaukee and other Cities Initiative members to explore regional collaboration on attracting green jobs, improving lead service line removal and protecting the Great Lakes," said Mayor Johnson of Chicago. "I am confident that such cooperation will aid my administration in our efforts to make Chicago a more sustainable, equitable city that is responsive to the needs of all residents, especially those who have experienced decades of disinvestment and neglect."

"We are impressed by Mayor Johnson of Chicago's dedication to inclusive economic development and environmental justice," said Mayor Johnson of Milwaukee, Co-Chair of the Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Water Equity. "We are looking forward to working with Chicago to seize historic opportunities to make our economies more resilient to climate change and reduce the risk of lead exposure via drinking water."

The meeting was attended by: Mayor Brandon Johnson of Chicago, IL; Mayor Cavalier Johnson of Milwaukee, WI; Mayor Gino Moretti of Saint-Anicet, QC; Mayor Billy McKinney of Zion, IL; Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr. of North Chicago, IL; Mayor Eddie Melton of Gary, IN and Mayor Anthony Copeland of East Chicago, IN.

About the Cities Initiative

The Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of local governments led by mayors and chief elected officers working collaboratively to safeguard the economic, environmental and social health of communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. It is committed to stewarding the basin's freshwater and ensuring that all residents have access to clean, safe and affordable water as the foundation for sustainable, vibrant, inclusive and resilient communities.

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