



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Matt Burke and the City of Garfield Heights Join the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Chicago, IL – August 11, 2025 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is pleased to welcome Mayor Matt Burke and the City of Garfield Heights, Ohio to its growing coalition of more than 350 mayors and top elected local leaders working to advance the socioeconomic and environmental health of communities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region.

As a member of the Cities Initiative, Mayor Burke will collaborate with leaders from across the basin in the United States and Canada to advance safe and affordable water access, climate resilience, economic revitalization, and protection of our shared freshwater resources.

“If you're seeking the perfect place to raise a family, eager to start a business, or driven to pursue your dream, look no further. Garfield Heights welcomes you with open arms and is ready to support your journey,” said Mayor Matt Burke of Garfield Heights, OH.

Located in the heart of Cuyahoga County, Garfield Heights is uniquely positioned within a three-hour drive of major metropolitan areas in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Canada—making it an ideal hub for distribution and manufacturing. The city has demonstrated a strong commitment to revitalization and economic opportunity, transforming a former retail mall into the thriving Highland Park industrial development, now 95% occupied. Through the cleanup of brownfield sites and renovation of existing buildings, Garfield Heights has fostered a vibrant business environment and a growing economy.

The city's proactive efforts in lead pipe replacement, public safety, and community development are creating new pathways to prosperity and positioning Garfield Heights as a gateway to opportunity.

“We are excited to welcome Mayor Burke and Garfield Heights to the Cities Initiative. Their leadership on infrastructure renewal and economic transformation is exactly the kind of action our region needs to ensure long-term sustainability and prosperity for all communities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin,” said Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Mayor of Sheboygan and U.S. Co-Chair of the Cities Initiative.

Every new member of the Cities Initiative reflects the growing commitment of local governments to safeguard freshwater, strengthen infrastructure, and build resilient, inclusive economies.

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About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of municipal and Indigenous government executives representing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region who



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
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L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

are working to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 350 communities represented, the Cities Initiative is leading the way in advancing the environmental, economic, and social health of the region by addressing issues impacting its residents.

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