

The Public's Health and the Law in the 21st Century
5th Annual Partnership Conference

Keynote Address

“New Public Health Strategies for a New Era”

Hon. Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City

Wednesday, June 14, 2006
1:00-2:00 pm

In his address, Mayor Bloomberg will outline the need for a comprehensive approach—one in which Federal, State and City officials all play a part—for confronting today's most urgent public health challenges.

Building on his Administration's groundbreaking successes in improving public health in the nation's largest and most diverse city, he will present a strategy for action on such issues as: bioterrorism preparedness; reducing firearms-related violence; and targeting non-communicable, chronic diseases, such as tobacco addiction, hypertension, and diabetes, which are among today's greatest public health threats.

Michael R. Bloomberg is the 108th Mayor of the City of New York. Since taking office, he has continued to make New York the safest big city in the nation; crime today is almost 25% lower than it was in 2001. He has launched the most ambitious affordable housing initiative ever undertaken by an American city—one that will preserve and create affordable housing for half a million New Yorkers by 2013. Because of his aggressive economic development strategy, a record number of New Yorkers are working. The mayor's historic reforms of the city's public schools are also producing encouraging results; last year, students posted record-setting gains on standardized reading, writing, and math tests.

In the public health arena, Mayor Bloomberg has led aggressive and successful efforts to reduce smoking, improve the city's public hospitals, establish new systems to identify and monitor health trends in the city, reduce infant mortality, and target interventions to communities most in need. New Yorkers today live, on average, longer than Americans in the rest of the nation for the first time since World War II.

In November 2005, the voters of New York City gave the mayor a resounding vote of confidence, returning him to office for a second term.