



Human Face of Cities Leading the Way – Friday, August 3

Highlights:

- Participants:
 - Mayor of Denver, Michael B. Hancock
 - Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, Ron Nirenberg
 - Mayor of Gainesville, Florida, Lauren Poe
 - Deputy Mayor of Brest, France, Fortune Pellicano
 - Council Member, City of Aurora, Colorado, Dave Gruber
- What is the role of local officials when it comes to immigration?
 - Hancock: The role of the mayor is to mold the values of the cities, in addition to creating a safe environment. When immigrants feel unsafe, they might not report violence and crime out of fear of backlash; this affects us all
 - Nirenberg: The mayor's role is to give people hope in a divisive conversation as well as to help them navigate the complex policing and immigration systems
 - Poe: The role of the mayor is to provide security and opportunity; it is important to reassure the population that they will be cared for
 - Pellicano: The role of the city is to support the associations that aid immigrants
- What are some best practices your city has in regards to immigrants?
 - Hancock: Denver is working to allow witnesses provide a video testimony to accommodate for those who fear coming to court in person
 - Nirenberg: San Antonio has challenged the state's rule in court about police asking for immigration papers when stopping cars
 - Poe: Gainesville has made it clear that it is not the job of the police department to work on immigrant issues
 - Gruber: Aurora has developed an impact fund to create micro-loans for immigrants to support their entrepreneurial endeavors
- How do Sister City relationships have a role in these conversations?
 - Nirenberg: the role of Sister Cities is to provide dialogue for people that may be strangers
 - Hancock: Sister Cities offer the opportunity for people to educate themselves about the plights others are facing.
 - He recommends inviting refugees to committee meetings at Sister City associations and creating a partnership between Sister City committees and government bodies to encourage immigrants to go out for the next census count