

## Des Moines Mayor Attends International Climate Meeting in Denmark

### **For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Amelia Hamilton Morris  
Public Information Office  
515 283-4795

**DES MOINES, IOWA---DECEMBER 10, 2009 ---** The City of Des Moines will have a seat at the table at the International Climate Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. Mayor Frank Cownie has been invited to participate as a local government delegate and will travel to Copenhagen, Denmark at noon today to represent the capital city and hundreds of other local governments as a delegate to the landmark international climate change negotiations. The meeting is the *15th Annual Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. The White House recently announced that President Obama will attend the negotiations December 18th.

Mayor Cownie's trip is being sponsored by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability; ICLEI is an acronym for International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. Cownie currently serves on the executive committee of ICLEI USA Board of Directors. *"I am honored to be selected to represent Des Moines and hundreds of other local governments from around the United States at these critical climate negotiations in Copenhagen,"* said Cownie. *"I am proud to share with others our local efforts in energy efficiency, regional transportation and LEED construction in our public and private sectors. I believe many delegates will be interested in our production of biogas, an alternative energy generated from the wastewater treatment process which is used to produce heat and electrical power for our WRA and Metro Waste regional facilities. I feel President Obama's pledge to attend the negotiations gives an important boost to the prospects for a meaningful international agreement, that will strengthen and acknowledge the leadership local governments have shown across this country and around the world,"* said Mayor Cownie.

Cownie will take a flight out of Des Moines today and is expected to arrive in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 11. He returns to the city on December 18. Media information is available on the ICLEI USA website at <http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=10585>

For more information please contact Amelia Hamilton Morris in the Public Information Office at 515-283-4795.