

PRESS RELEASE
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Mayor Sinnott's Act 47 Initiative Draws Statewide Attention

On February 18, 2008 Mayor Joseph Sinnott met in Lancaster, PA (hosted by Mayor Richard Gray) with 13 other Mayors from across the Commonwealth to discuss the issues concerning long-term viability of Pennsylvania municipalities. This meeting was the result of a letter sent by Mayor Sinnott in November to Mayors all across the Commonwealth requesting that they join together in determining the real issues facing our cities and the legislative support necessary in Harrisburg to initiate meaningful change. Topics discussed at the meeting included the shortcomings of Act 47's current legislation and potential legislation necessary to allow the cities to overcome their most serious challenges to financial stability. Mayor Sinnott stated that the meeting was "a tremendous success. It is the first time Mayors have come together to address these issues and to formulate a plan to create a united front to create long term solutions for municipalities across the Commonwealth."

The Commonwealth has recognized that the current Act 47 legislation is not working to solve the financial issues facing Pennsylvania cities. More than 20 Pennsylvania municipalities are in Act 47 and are failing to solve their financial problems, thus remaining in the program for long periods of time. Mayor Sinnott's efforts to avoid such a fate for Erie, prompted him to call upon the other Mayors to become part of a statewide solution. Sinnott stated, "Who better than to help create the solutions than those of us who are battling against these problems. We have a real understating of how the legislative actions in Harrisburg effect our municipalities and what is necessary to make our cities viable again".

As a result of this meeting the mayors have agreed to work jointly on several legislative reform initiatives that they will present to Harrisburg's legislators.

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