



VILLAGE OF MAYWOOD

40 MADISON STREET, MAYWOOD, IL 60153 - www.Maywood-IL.org

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Village of Maywood Joins City Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program with National League of Cities

Commits to Venture Capital for Black-Owned Firms and Mapping Entrepreneurial Resources to give underrepresented entrepreneurs more opportunities for economic advancement

Maywood, IL – The Village of Maywood announces it has joined the City Inclusive Entrepreneurial program. This commitment was made at the National League of Cities (NLC) City Summit as part of the City Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CIE) program, which will provide Maywood with resources and support to help entrepreneurs of color and from other under-represented backgrounds achieve greater economic mobility, reduce the racial wealth gap, and improve access, opportunity, knowledge, and funding for historically under-represented groups.

“Maywood is a historic culturally rich community. By the 1960’s, our Village of Eternal Light had a Black Business District of 65 Black-Owned Businesses,” said **Village of Maywood Mayor, Nathaniel George Booker**. “Today, none of those businesses are open and the district is now residential with nothing to show it ever existed. As we focus on Elements of a Healthy Maywood and continue in Moving Maywood Forward Together, I am excited about this partnership.”

The CIE program, an initiative of the [National League of Cities](http://www.NationalLeagueofCities.org), helps cities adopt policies, programs and practices to give underrepresented entrepreneurs more opportunities for economic advancement. Participants select an area of focus for their programs to support economic growth in their communities, including working with startups, creating microlending platforms and improving access to procurement opportunities for MWBEs. Now in its fourth year, this network has grown to include more than 200 cities, 250 local partners, and \$100 million in committed resources.

“Leaders of America’s cities, towns and villages recognize that racial and gender equity are key ingredients to economic growth in communities,” said **Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and Executive Director of NLC**. “We look forward to working with new members of the City Inclusive Entrepreneurship program to bring their commitments to fruition and create economies in which everyone wins.”

Maywood joins 55 other cities from across the country that have made a total of 71 commitments. As part of its participation in the CIE program, Maywood will receive direct technical assistance, information sharing with other cities and partner organizations and financial support to help implement its program.

The CIE program is made possible in partnership with and support from [Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation](http://www.EwingMarionKauffmanFoundation.org). For more information about the program, click [here](#).

VILLAGE PRESIDENT, Mayor Nathaniel George Booker
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