

# NEWS



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### **National Forum for Black Public Administrators' 21st Annual Conference in Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, Pa. – *Public Administration: Managing in an Era of Transformation* is the theme of *Forum 2004*, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference **April 3, 2004, to April 7, 2004**, at the **Loews Philadelphia Hotel**. NFBPA members represent more than 350 federal jurisdictions/regions/ areas in 44 states and collectively manage more than \$25 billion in annual public sector spending.

Over 1,500 NFBPA members and guests are expected to attend this conference of the nation's premier association for African American appointed managers and executives serving public organizations throughout the United States. Attendees will participate in more than 40 strategically designed workshops that showcase best practices and seek to help managers make smarter investments with public dollars.

**Mayor John Street** is the honorary chair of Forum 2004. Plenary speakers include national and local leaders such as **Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education; Rep. Elijah Cummings (D., Md.); Rep. Chaka Fattah (D., Pa.);** chief executive officer and president of Philadelphia International Records **Kenny Gamble;** and educator and author **Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson**. Several African American mayors will also be in attendance including: **Mayor James Baker, Wilmington, Del.; Mayor Anthony Williams, Washington, D.C.; Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jackson, Miss.; and Mayor Eddie Perez, Hartford, Conn.**

The Philadelphia Chapter was founded in 1984 by then - Mayor Wilson Goode. Today, under the leadership of the current president, Rutherford C. Thomas, the local chapter has been the recipient of the Chapter of the Year Award twice and provides over \$12,000 in scholarships each year to deserving youth. "We are calling upon all Black leaders in the Philadelphia region to support and participate in this powerful gathering of public servants."

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**NFBPA Conference**

“What better location than Philadelphia – recognized as a city of transformation – in which to prepare to become masters of our fate. From the beginning of America’s history, Philadelphians have questioned the status quo, stepping up to the plate as agents of change. NFBPA members now have the opportunity to do the same thing,” says Cheryl Perry League, president of NFBPA’s board of directors.

Forum 2004 is designed to provide in-depth training on topics of critical interest to public administrators, explore solutions to key challenges facing the Black community, and support the career development of future public administrators. Workshops topics include “Crisis in Urban Education,” “Philadelphia’s Housing Renaissance,” “Strategies for Fund Development,” “Black Enterprise on Economic Development,” “Faith in the Public Square,” and “21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership.” Additional activities include the pre-conference workshops, a Public Policy Forum, the Forum 2004 Golf Tournament, and the Marks of Excellence Awards Banquet that recognizes an individual who has excelled in public administration.

Founded in 1983, the NFBPA membership has grown to include managers and executives in virtually all disciplines represented in state and local governments. In addition to public service professionals, the association's membership embraces graduate students, deans and faculty at schools of public administration and executives in the corporate sector.

For more information about NFBPA or Forum 2004, please contact (215) 557-9380 or visit the website at [www.nfbpa.org](http://www.nfbpa.org).

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