



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

JERRY E. ABRAMSON
MAYOR

November 8, 2005

Delegates to the National Forum on Regional Stewardship: Welcome to Louisville!

Louisville recently took its place among the most populous cities in the United States when we merged our city and county governments. By unifying our community, we believe we now have become not only the 16th largest city in America, but one of the best as well. I hope that after you spend a short time here, you'll think so too.

Louisville is the heart of a 23-county economic region of 1.4 million people that covers eight counties in Southern Indiana and 15 counties in north central Kentucky – all of whom send commuters each day into Louisville-Jefferson County Metro for jobs. Our public transit system, water and sewer services, air pollution control, emergency management, and a variety of other basic services are delivered across county – and sometimes state – lines. Our economic development programs, workforce services, and arts and human services funding are among many initiatives that are regional in scope.

Greater Louisville has consistently been ranked nationally as one of the nation's most livable cities. Our diverse cultural assets include historic Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby; an eclectic variety of museums and performing arts including world-renowned Actor's Theatre; and one of the nation's largest park systems designed by noted landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

Our Louisville population of 700,000 is served by a unified public school system encompassing 96,000 students, and a myriad of post-secondary educational institutions in two states, linked by reciprocal agreements for student interchange. We are home to the international headquarters of YUM! Brands, the overnight air hub of UPS, and the health insurance giant Humana. Well-known products made in Louisville include the Ford Explorer, GE dishwashers, the Louisville Slugger Baseball Bat, and Louisville Stoneware.

Louisville is a caring community where some of the nation's most innovative social service programs have been developed: The Harvest USA food distribution network, which started in Louisville as Kentucky Harvest; the National Center for Family Literacy, founded by a Louisville teacher; the Safe Place system for helping runaway youths; and the Ali Center for cultural diversity and conflict resolution, which opens in late November of this year.

I look forward to meeting with you during the Forum, and hope you enjoy your stay in Looavul...Luhvul...Loeeyville...Looaville...however you say it, we call it home!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry E. Abramson".

Jerry E. Abramson
Mayor

cc: Joan Riehm