

# 10 IDEAS NUTTER CAN STEAL FROM OTHER CITIES

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DURING HIS CAMPAIGN, Mayor-elect Michael Nutter made a few well-publicized trips to New York, Chicago and Baltimore to see what wisdom other cities might offer to our own. For the past two months, students and research staff at the Fels Institute of Government have been studying major cities around the country to compile a master list of "best practices." They interviewed mayors and their staffs and scoured both media reports and academic literature. Here are a few of the best practices they uncovered; go online to [www.thenextmayor.com](http://www.thenextmayor.com) to find an expanded list.

Here are 10 things that Mayor-elect Nutter can do cheaply and quickly in the first 100 days to demonstrate that he can produce results, while buying time on the monumental issues that will define his administration.

## 1. Develop & track 100-day plan.

D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty revealed his "100 Days and Beyond: 2007 Action Plan for the District of Columbia" during his first week in office.

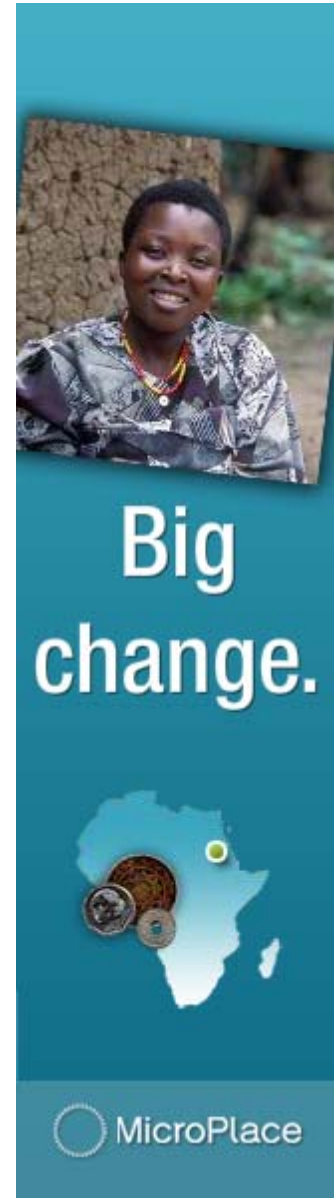
Through the city website, residents could track progress on each of the mayor's early initiatives. Not only did the plan report on the administration's priorities and activities, but it established an environment of accountability.

## 2. Win private funds for an independent audit.

Soon after taking office in 2002, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin raised \$2 million in the private sector to fund a top-to-bottom scrub of the city's finances. She used the audit to bolster the city ethics plan. A fiscal housecleaning built the foundation for her effort for clean government.

## 3. Support the city's students.

Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper used his inaugural festivities to raise money for the city's public schools, even though he (like our mayor) has no formal power over them.



Besides generating much-needed funds for the school district, this demonstrated the mayor's eagerness to engage teachers, administrators and parents.

4. Establish a mayor's fellows program.

Each summer since 1999, Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley has hired about 25 bright graduate students from around the country to staff a policy research think tank. Not only have dozens of these fellows gone on to permanent positions in city government, but their research has contributed to Daley's reputation for innovative policy solutions.

5. Host a potluck for the region's mayors.

When he took office in 2003, Hickenlooper hosted a party in his home for the region's mayors, proclaiming that the antagonism between the city and surrounding towns was over.

Since then, their improved relationship has enabled the mayors to tackle long-standing regional challenges related to economic development, transportation, and service delivery.

6. Consult police from around the country.

In 1999, Baltimore Mayor-elect Martin O'Malley recruited two New York police veterans to craft an anti-crime plan.

He then hired a NYPD deputy commissioner, Ed Norris, as Baltimore's police commissioner. After a year in office, O'Malley and Norris received national press coverage when the city dipped below 300 homicides for the first time in 10 years.

7. Organize citywide clean-up day.

In 2000, Mayor Street was praised for removing nearly 40,000 abandoned cars from city streets during his first months in office. Mayor-elect Nutter could create an equally large impact by engaging Philadelphians in a citywide cleanup.

8. Host community breakfasts.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg hosts community breakfasts in neighborhoods to discuss issues affecting the city. By showing an eagerness to listen to citizens, he's generated significant goodwill across the city.

9. Create a 311 call center.

New York, Washington and other cities established telephone response lines and online input forms to process non-emergency questions and comments regarding city government services.

Pittsburgh's 311 system also collects anonymous crime tips. 311 systems let cities monitor services and take action to improve government responsiveness.

10. Implement PhillyStat.

Baltimore Mayor O'Malley launched the CitiStat program in 2001 to track and improve government performance.

Replicated in countless cities, CitiStat enables leaders to use data to make decisions and hold city workers accountable. In just six years CitiStat saved Baltimore \$350 million by reducing overtime and absenteeism, finding efficiencies and developing new revenue streams. \*

This list is part of the ongoing work on government management at the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government. It was supported by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

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