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For more information, contact:  
Milly Hawk Daniel, [milly@policylink.org](mailto:milly@policylink.org)  
Cell: 917-658-6468

## **Eight Black Women Mayors Join First-of-Its-Kind Network from PolicyLink and ESSENCE**

OAKLAND, Calif. — Over the past few years, the political power of Black women has been on full display, particularly in America's cities where a growing number of Black women have taken over as chief policymaker. Today [PolicyLink](#) and [ESSENCE](#) are proud to announce the **ESSENCE-PolicyLink Mayors Roundtable**, a network for Black women mayors to exchange ideas, share best practices, develop strategies to create equitable cities, and shine a spotlight on their work and communities.

Participating mayors include: **Catherine Pugh**, Baltimore, MD; **Sharon Weston Broome**, Baton Rouge, LA; **Vi Lyles**, Charlotte, NC; **Karen Weaver**, Flint, MI; **LaToya Cantrell**, New Orleans, LA; **London Breed**, San Francisco, CA; **Muriel Bowser**, Washington, DC; and **Lovely Warren**, Rochester, NY.

The network kicked off last Friday in Washington D.C. following the U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting and will close July 4-7, 2019 during the ESSENCE Fest in New Orleans. In the interim, the mayors will participate in monthly virtual roundtables on topics related to policy and leadership hosted by the PolicyLink [All-In Cities Initiative](#). ESSENCE will also be publishing a series of articles and videos profiling the mayors and highlighting the work that they are championing. Today, coverage of the network features [highlights from the last week's convening](#).

"This gathering is not just to focus on challenges, but solutions that will meet the needs of the people that we serve every single day," said Mayor Cantrell.

"I am grateful for the opportunity for PolicyLink to partner with ESSENCE to bring this network together, and am thrilled to share our equity vision with such a dynamic group of Black women mayors," said Michael McAfee, President and CEO of PolicyLink.

"ESSENCE is extremely proud to partner with PolicyLink on this groundbreaking initiative," said Michelle Ebanks, Chief Executive Officer of ESSENCE. "Our audience understands that now more than ever, it is critical to have our voices heard and to stay engaged in the political process. We know that this powerful network of Black women mayors will help to stimulate much-needed changes in our communities."

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**ESSENCE** is Where Black Women Come First for news, entertainment and motivation. ESSENCE occupies a special place in the hearts of millions of Black women—it's not just a magazine but her most trusted confidante, a brand that has revolutionized the magazine industry and has become a cultural institution in the African-American community.

**PolicyLink** is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by Lifting Up What Works®. All-In Cities launched in 2015 and was designed to provide local leaders with the policy ideas, data, and strategy support they need to put their cities on a new course of racial inclusion and equitable growth.