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Having led C40 through a major transformation, and placed it at center-stage in leading global climate action, Jay Carson to step down as C40 Executive Director in Spring of 2013

Global Search for new Executive Director Begins Immediately

New York (December 18, 2012) - The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) announced today that Executive Director Jay Carson will step down in the Spring of 2013 but will continue to work with Bloomberg Philanthropies, which represents the charitable efforts of C40 Chair New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. A search for a permanent Executive Director will begin immediately.

Carson will remain as Executive Director until his successor is installed at which time he will transition to advising Mayor Bloomberg in his role as Chair of C40. The C40 team, developed under the leadership of Carson will continue to execute on the strategic direction set by its Steering Committee and Board.

During Mayor Bloomberg’s term as Chair, which ends in 2013, Carson’s key mission at C40 was to implement the merger between the C40 and cities portion of the Clinton Climate Initiative of the William J. Clinton Foundation, and transition the C40 into a fully integrated, professional organization. That mission is largely complete, and will be fully completed by the time Carson steps down in 2013.

"Jay has done an excellent job of managing the C40 through the last two years, and he will continue to support C40 as long as I’m chair,” said C40 Chair, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. “Under his leadership and management C40 has made tremendous strides. He will be hard to replace, but we now have a strong management team in place and solid organizational structure that will carry this mission forward. C40’s next step is to have a permanent executive director who will provide further continuity even as the organization’s chair will shift from city to city over the course of time.”
The C40’s chair is selected by the organization’s ten-city steering committee. Carson has been on loan to C40 and serving as its chief executive since April 2011. He joined Bloomberg Philanthropies in October 2010 to help advise Mayor Bloomberg on C40 issues, long-term strategy and other special projects.

“Jay has made a truly unique contribution,” said Rohit T. Aggarwala, the Special Advisor to the Chair who serves as the president of C40’s board of directors and leads the environmental program at Bloomberg Philanthropies. “When we developed an agenda for Mayor Bloomberg’s term as chair, we knew the choice of Executive Director would be critical. As a trusted member of both the Bloomberg and Clinton teams, he was uniquely able to manage the dynamic partnership between C40 and the Clinton Foundation. Under his leadership, the C40 has installed a strong team that is truly committed to the mission of the organization. And with his experience working for the City of Los Angeles, he brought credibility with senior city officials all over the world and an understanding of how decisions in city halls are actually made.”

Carson has overseen the execution of a strategic plan for the C40 that Mayor Bloomberg announced in his inaugural speech in Hong Kong. This has included incorporating the C40 as a legal entity and applying for 501(c)3 non-profit status; refocusing the C40’s staff and programs to focus on peer-to-peer learning networks that leverage the deep expertise that resides within many C40 city governments; dramatically increasing the public profile of the C40 and its megacities through press, events, and a fully redesigned website; raising operating funds from outside organizations; developing an ambitious research and accountability agenda; and hiring regional directors as the key senior presence for C40 in each part of the world.

“It has been an exciting honor to work with and for C40 Cities, because while national governments debate and discuss climate change, cities are taking action,” Carson said. “I’m particularly proud that C40 doesn’t try to tell cities what to do. Cities around the world already have aggressive agendas for action on climate; what really has impact is giving them the help, connections, and knowledge they need to do their jobs smarter and faster. With Mayor Bloomberg’s leadership and direction we have grown and built the organization to better serve cities, and C40 has a particularly strong team in place now that is focused on doing just that.”

The search for the next C40 executive director will be managed by its Board of Directors, with the full involvement of C40’s Steering Committee. Other stakeholders will also be consulted appropriately. A public posting for the role will appear in an upcoming edition of The Economist and on C40’s website.

“The C40 is increasingly one of the world’s most important climate change organizations, and it is poised to have massive impact on the world,” Aggarwala said. “We’re looking for someone with senior-level experience in city government of a C40 city, deep knowledge of climate change strategies at the city level, clear leadership ability, and the skill to manage a global organization. It’s a tall job but I’m confident this will be one of the most important jobs in climate change to be filled in 2013.”
Prior to joining C40, Jay was Chief Deputy Mayor for the City of Los Angeles under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa where he led successful strategic changes including the overhaul of the city's economic development and job creation efforts. A seasoned political strategist, Carson has worked in government and politics for over 15 years for elected officials including Senator Charles Schumer, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, Senator Bill Bradley, Governor Howard Dean and then-Senator Hillary Clinton as well as serving as Director of Communications for President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Foundation during the creation of the Clinton Global Initiative. Carson previously worked for Mayor Bloomberg during the New York City 2012 Olympic bid and was also recently named as one of Fortune Magazine’s “40 Under 40: Ones to Watch.”

**ABOUT C40:**

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) is a global network of the world’s largest cities committed to implementing meaningful and sustainable climate-related actions locally that will help address climate change globally. C40 was established in 2005 and expanded via a partnership in 2006 with President William J. Clinton’s Climate Initiative (CCI). The current chair of the C40 is New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. To learn more about the work of C40 and our Cities, please visit [www.C40.org](http://www.C40.org) and follow us on Twitter @C40Cities.