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## **Houston Leaders Convene to Discuss Region's Overseas Business Opportunities at Global Cities Initiative Forum**

*Greater Houston Partnership Announces New Regional Initiative*

HOUSTON, TX – Forging new city-to-city partnerships to grow Houston businesses and strengthen the region's global competitiveness will be the focus of a major forum convened by the Global Cities Initiative—a joint project of JPMorgan Chase and the Brookings Institution—today in Houston. Business and civic leaders from around the metro area and Mayor Annise Parker will participate in the forum held at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy.

*Going Global: Metro Houston's Economic Future* is the sixth in a series of domestic and international forums convened since 2012 by the Global Cities Initiative (GCI), a \$10 million, five-year joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase. The project equips both U.S. and global metropolitan leaders with the information, policy ideas, and global connections they need to bolster their position within the world economy. Houston was selected due to its leadership in a variety of industries, including top private sector companies, academia, and government.

"Houston is on its way to becoming a great example of a global city," stated Richard M. Daley, former mayor of Chicago and senior advisor to JPMorgan Chase. "The region has tremendous assets such as Fortune 500 companies, universities, and arts and cultural institutions—all of which form the basis of a world class innovation hub. Houston is clearly a region making the most of the growth opportunities globalization brings."

Before the forum, the Greater Houston Partnership will announce a new regional workforce development initiative to strengthen Houston's global platform.

“Houston has tremendous potential in the global market and greater collaboration between public, private, and nonprofit sectors can accelerate our ability to compete,” said Gina Luna, Chairman of JPMorgan Chase in Houston. “We are looking forward to the momentum that this Global Cities forum will build.”

The Global Cities Initiative combines Brookings’ deep expertise in fact-based, metro-focused research and JPMorgan Chase’s longstanding commitment to investing in cities. The initiative equips metropolitan leaders with tools to expand the global reach of their local economies by leveraging their assets and focusing on key indicators such as advanced manufacturing, exports, foreign direct investment, and immigration.

Ultimately, the Global Cities Initiative will create an international network of leaders from global cities who are intent upon deepening global trade relationships and collaborating to compete more effectively. Last year, GCI events held in San Diego, Columbus, and Tampa Bay inspired public-private partnerships to create Metropolitan Export Plans, and a GCI forum in Los Angeles helped to secure additional business, government, and university contributions toward implementing its new global economic strategy.

“The locus of economic power in the world is shifting,” said Bruce Katz, Brookings vice president and co-director of the Metropolitan Policy Program. “The rising metro performers today are in Asia and Latin America. We need to reorient our economy so more firms in more sectors trade more goods and services seamlessly with the world. Metro areas like Houston will be on the forefront of this nationwide effort.”

The Global Cities Initiative is chaired by Richard M. Daley, former mayor of Chicago and senior advisor to JPMorgan Chase, and managed by Bruce Katz, vice president and co-director of the Metropolitan Policy Program. Other 2013 forums are being held in Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, and Mexico City.

*Launched in 2012, the Global Cities Initiative (GCI) is a five-year effort aimed at helping U.S. city and metropolitan leaders become more globally fluent by providing an in-depth and data-driven look at their regional standing on crucial global economic measures, highlighting best policy and practice innovations from around the world, and creating an international network of leaders who ultimately trade and grow together. For more information please visit <http://www.brookings.edu/projects/global-cities.aspx>.*

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