

For Immediate Release

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FACT SHEET on the “Tech-Team” of Municipal Leaders Assembled by the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy to help Revitalize Detroit

A team of top municipal-government technology officials led by the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy is travelling to Detroit for two days of meetings with city officials and local technologists and innovators to identify ways that technology can be leveraged to support Detroit revitalization efforts. This municipal “Tech Team” will develop actionable recommendations about how the city of Detroit can use technology to help boost the economy, stimulate innovation, streamline government processes, cut costs, and benefit citizens. In conjunction with the Administration’s efforts to support Detroit revitalization, an important commitment from foundations and private-sector partners will provide funding to support local tech training and mentoring and to bring in innovation fellows to help carry out recommendations made by the Tech Team.

Members of the municipal Tech Team include:

- **Gail Roper, Chief Information Officer, City of Raleigh, NC:** Gail M. Roper has more than 28 years of experience in the technology industry, in both the public and private sectors. As the first chief information and community relations officer for Raleigh—a city that Forbes magazine called “America’s Most Wired City” in 2010—Roper works to strategically align technology solutions for one of the fastest growing cities in the Nation. Roper focuses on the innovative application of technology to enhance business objectives and service delivery for Raleigh communities. Prior to joining the City of Raleigh, Ms. Roper served as CIO for the City of Austin, Texas, and for the city of Kansas City, Missouri.
- **Allen Square Jr., Chief Information Officer, City of New Orleans, LA:** Allen Square, Jr. is the Chief Information Officer for the City of New Orleans. As CIO, Allen and his team are responsible for developing and executing technology strategies to support the delivery of critical city services. Sqaure’s team is also accountable for driving innovation and cultivating a culture of performance-improvement throughout New Orleans’ City Hall. Previously, Square spent five years working as a strategic management consultant in the private sector. Square holds a Masters of Business Administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, an MS in Telecommunications from Southern Methodist University, and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Tulane University.

- **Beth Niblock, Chief Information Officer, Louisville-Metro Government, KY:** Beth Niblock was appointed as the first Chief Information Officer for Kentucky's merged Louisville-Jefferson Country Metro Government in 2003. She transformed the city's web site, which led to a first-place national ranking for louisvilleky.gov in the Center for Digital Government's "Best of the Web Awards." Niblock's team also launched the city's "Your Tax Dollars at Work" web portal, which residents can use to see where the city gets its money, how the city spends money, and how much money city employees earn. In addition, Niblock and her team have created new mobile applications for smartphones, live-streamed the Mayor's news conferences, and enabled citizens to more easily obtain permits and access services online.
- **Nigel Jacob, Co-founder of the City Hall Office of New Urban Mechanics, Boston, MA:** Nigel Jacob is co-founder of Boston's Office of New Urban Mechanics—a civic innovation incubator and R&D Lab within Boston's City Hall—and also serves as Boston Mayor Menino's advisor on emerging technologies. In both roles, and with an extensive background in collaborative, citizen-facing technology projects, Jacob works to develop new models of innovation for cities in the 21st century. Prior to joining the City of Boston in 2006, Jacob worked for and launched a series of technology start-ups in the Boston area. Jacob is a board member at Code for America as well as a fellow at the Center for the Advancement Public Action at Bennington College.
- **John Tolva, Former Chief Technology Officer, City of Chicago, IL:** From May 2011 to November 2013, John Tolva served as the City of Chicago's first-ever Chief Technology Officer, under Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Tolva was hired to set high standards for open, participatory government for all Chicagoans. Before joining the city of Chicago, Tolva worked at IBM for more than 13 years, concluding his tenure as Director of Citizenship & Technology. Tolva began his career at IBM Interactive Media, building systems for live-event coverage and cultural heritage projects. Tolva received an MS in Information Design and Technology from Georgia Tech in 1998. He lives in Chicago with his wife and three children.