

From: Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative
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Sent: Apr 24, 2025 11:01:51.000000000 UTC
Subject: Driving change faster: a research-backed framework for solving thorny problems
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**RESOURCE
HIGHLIGHT**

April 24, 2025

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DATA AND EVIDENCE

A framework for making progress on thorny issues

Sustaining a joint problem-solving effort demands capabilities that are often underdeveloped in public organizations. Explore a research-backed framework for solving thorny problems developed by the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and a teaching case with real-world dilemmas from city hall.

READ ACTION INSIGHTS

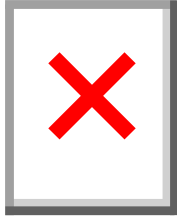


It feels like cooking a meal with someone else's hands and without the right ingredients. And still, everyone expects it to come out well.



**DANIEL RIVERA, FORMER MAYOR OF LAWRENCE,
MASSACHUSETTS**

ACCOMPANYING TEACHING CASE



City leaders often face obstacles that can make solving complex problems time-consuming. A teaching case produced by the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative examines how Mayor Daniel Rivera started the journey to leverage collaboration, data, and creativity in city hall.

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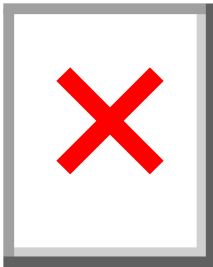
About the Initiative

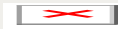
The Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, located at the **Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University**, is a collaboration between Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to equip mayors and senior city officials to tackle complex challenges in their cities and improve the

quality of life of their residents.

The Initiative advances research and develops new curriculum and teaching tools to help city leaders solve real-world problems. By engaging Harvard graduate students in research and field work, the Initiative supports current city leaders while investing in future generations. The Initiative also advances the field of city leadership through teaching, research, and new curricular materials that help city leaders drive government performance and address pressing social problems.

[Explore resources for teaching and learning](#)





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