



**Oct. 10, 2016  
Issue #86**

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## **League of California Cities' Annual Conference Brings Together Over 1,800 City Officials for Education, Recognition, Networking and Resources**

Over the course of three days last week, more than 1,800 California city officials joined together at the League's 118th Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach. The event featured approximately 55 educational sessions, 250 exhibitors, engaging keynote speakers, recognition of excellent work by cities, along with individual recognitions, the adoption of one resolution and the swearing in of new League's executive officers and board of directors.

*For more, see Page 2.*



## **After Extensive Deliberations League Board of Directors Adopts Oppose Position on Proposition 57, Due to Public Safety Concerns**

The League board of directors on Oct. 6 voted to oppose Proposition 57, the Public Safety Rehabilitation Act of 2016, (36–1) with two directors abstaining. The vote followed an extended deliberative process commencing with the League's Public Safety Policy Committee in April, and initial discussion by the board of directors in June and a board delegation attending a meeting requested by Gov. Jerry Brown to discuss the measure in July. Fundamental to the League's opposition to the measure are public safety concerns stemming from reducing sentences for specific crimes which –despite debates over legal definitions — are clearly violent.

*For more, see Page 2.*



## **Loomis Wins \$3,000 U.S. Communities Voucher for Grand Prize during League Annual Conference**

The city of Loomis won the grand prize drawing on Friday, Oct. 7, during the closing general session of the League's 118th Annual Conference & Expo. For the third year in a row, the League sponsored [U.S. Communities](http://www.uscommunities.org/lcc) <http://www.uscommunities.org/lcc> program offered a \$3,000 voucher as the grand prize to be used with any of the program's 40 suppliers to purchase a wide range of products or services.

*For more, see Page 2.*

'Conference' Continued from Page 1...

League President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael welcomed attendees on Wednesday afternoon at the start of the first general session.

"I am honored to be here with so many of our colleagues from cities throughout California. This is our largest gathering of city officials each year and the Annual Conference is always an amazing three days full of education and networking. Attending this conference is an investment in your city," said Michael. "Thank you for being part of an organization dedicated to making our cities stronger! The Annual Conference is an opportunity to gather new information and resources that we can all put to use in our cities and celebrate the accomplishments of an organization that formed 118 years ago to protect local control and provide an educational forum for city officials. That mission is as strong today as it was in 1898 when a group of California city officials originally came together to work on common issues."

Attendees were also welcomed on Wednesday by city of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

Thursday National League of Cities President and Joplin, Mo. Council Member Melodee Colbert-Kean provided an update on NLC's efforts.

The lucky city of Loomis won the Grand Prize Drawing on Friday afternoon taking home a \$3,000 U.S. Communities voucher to use at any of the program's 40 vendors for the products and services they provide to help cities meet their residents' needs.

### **Helen Putnam Award for Excellence**

The first general session included the prestigious Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, given to cities for their outstanding efforts to deliver services and engage residents. This year's winners are the cities of:

- CCS Partnership Intergovernmental Collaboration Award: Concord for its Central Valley Family Justice Center.
- Community Services & Economic Development: Manhattan Beach for its Connected! program.
- Economic Development through the Arts: Palm Desert for its First Weekend Palm Desert.
- Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics & Community Involvement Rancho Cucamonga for its Kitten Nursery.
- Health & Wellness Programs: Woodland for its Commit2Fit.
- Housing Programs & Innovations: Fairfield for its Neighborhood Revitalization at Parkway Gardens.
- Internal Administration: San Diego for its Performance & Analytics Department.
- League Partners Award for Excellence in City Business Relations: Bakersfield for the Bakersfield Homeless Center Workforce Partnership.
- Planning & Environmental Quality: Claremont for the Claremont Tree Crisis Intervention & Outreach.
- Public Safety: Santa Clarita for its Special Needs Registry.
- Public Works, Infrastructure & Transportation: Oxnard for its Public Works/City Corps Partnership.
- Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government: Lodi for its Storm Drain Detective Student Volunteer Program.

[The League produced a short video](#), which was played during the session, highlighting each of these outstanding cities.

### **Chris McKenzie Delivers Final Annual Report before Retirement**

League members had an opportunity to hear from their executive director for the last time in his 17 year tenure with the organization. Chris McKenzie, who retires later this month, reported on the League's accomplishments in the past 12 months, focusing on both legislative advocacy and the new Health Benefits Marketplace, which the League launched in August to provide cities with

a cost-saving option to provide health care and other benefits to their current and retired employees.

On the advocacy front, McKenzie discussed how the news for cities was largely positive in 2016, with Gov. Jerry Brown agreeing with the League 76 percent of the time. He highlighted several bills, such as AB 2220 (Cooper) and AB 350 (Alejo), which will help improve implementation and reduce legal costs associated with the California Voting Rights Act. The Governor, McKenzie reported, signed two helpful economic development bills — AB 2492 (Alejo and E. Garcia) and AB 806 (Dodd and Frazier). In addition, McKenzie reported that the Governor vetoed numerous bills that would have undermined local authority.

Attendees also heard McKenzie reflect on his career in public service, most specifically his service to the cities of California.

“Public service is a joy when you serve with people of integrity who believe passionately in democracy and their duty to nurture and protect it. I am so grateful for the experience I have had the last 17 years as the League’s executive director because I have been graced with colleagues, officers and directors, committee chairs and members, division officers and members, department officers and members, and caucus officers and members who believe having strong local government institutions is the bedrock of democracy and the foundation of our relationship with those we are privileged to serve,” said McKenzie. “It has been a joy to work day in and day out with you and our many, many colleagues over the years. Our 17 years together have included four successful ballot measure campaigns to protect city authority and revenues and more legislative campaigns than I can ever hope to count.”

### **Special Recognition**

Charlotte Dickson, who founded the HEAL Cities Campaign was honored on Thursday for founding this important effort that has led 185 cities throughout California to adopted policies and practices that will ensure healthy outcomes for California children and families.

To date, cities representing a combined 14 million residents have joined the campaign, pledging to build more bike lanes and sidewalks, create complete streets, bring farmers markets into underserved areas of town, start worksite wellness programs and include health policies and goals into General Plan updates.

### **Institute for Local Government Beacon Award**

Thursday’s general session also included the recognition of the four recipients of the Institute for Local Government’s prestigious 2016 [Beacon Award](#), which honors local governments that lead the way on climate, energy and sustainability through voluntary action. Seven received silver level recognition, the city of Colma received gold.

The eight winning cities are:

- Davis;
- American Canyon;
- Benicia;
- Emeryville;
- Hermosa Beach;
- Santa Monica;
- Manhattan Beach; and
- Colma.

The Institute for Local Government, the nonprofit research affiliate of the League of California Cities, launched the Beacon Program in 2009 with support from the California Public Utilities Commission to mobilize voluntary local action to achieve energy savings and reduce GHG emissions.

### **Keynote Speakers**

Annual conference featured two engaging keynote speakers whose presentations inspired and educated the assembled city officials.

Jason Roberts, an arts activist and co-creator of the Better Block Project engaged League members on Wednesday with his philosophy on how to build a better block and make real change in communities today.

Thursday, League members heard from Dr. Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics, who dived into the California economy and the forces at play in this state.

### **League Honors Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León as Legislator of the Year**

The League's Legislator of the Year Award is designed to recognize legislators who, over the course of the past legislative session, have done extraordinary work that will help California cities. President Dennis Michael announced that this year, the League officers selected Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) for his herculean efforts on homelessness.

Sen. De León was unable to attend the Closing General Session on Friday, and the award will be given him at a later date. The League selected him because he championed the passage of the No Place Like Home proposal that will fund housing and supportive services for California's mentally ill homeless men, women and children.

### **New League Officers and Board of Directors**

Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce advanced into the role of League president, replacing Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael, who has held the position for the past year.

Palos Verdes Estates Council Member James Goodhart was elected first vice president.

South San Francisco Council Member Rich Garbarino joins the executive officers as second vice president.

Under the League's bylaws officers serve a one-year term with the outgoing president, Michael, becoming immediate past president and continuing as an active member of the League's executive committee. Mounce fills the role of her current position after serving the past year as the first vice president and Council Member Goodhart becomes first vice president after serving his past term of second vice president.

### **Resolution**

The General Assembly approved one resolution on Vision Zero and Towards Zero, which addresses traffic safety. The final resolution is available on the League's website.

More information is available at [www.cacities.org/resolutions](http://www.cacities.org/resolutions).

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### **'Prop. 57' Continued from Page 1...**

The provision generating the most concern is the change to parole rules for offenders defined as "non-violent" under current law. Under Prop. 57, many offenders would be eligible to seek parole after serving the full term of their primary offense, without factoring in any sentencing enhancements they received in addition to the base term.

Offences that could trigger earlier parole under the measure include:

- Assault with a deadly weapon;
- Throwing acid with the intent to disfigure;
- Rape of an unconscious person;
- Rape accomplished by the use of an intoxicating or controlled substance;
- Discharging a firearm at a motor vehicle; and
- Discharging a firearm at an unoccupied dwelling; and the furnishing of a weapon used in a crime.

If Prop. 57 passes, offenders convicted of such crimes would be eligible for parole at an earlier date. While the Board of Parole Hearings would retain the discretion it has under current law to weigh for itself an inmate's progress toward meaningful rehabilitation, and deny parole to any offender, the possibility that this particular universe of offenders would potentially be released early has fueled concerns among city officials and the law enforcement community alike.

Compounding concerns of city officials have been the public safety impacts of two recent changes affecting sentencing of offenders which law enforcement officials allege have contributed to recent increases in crime: the 2011 prison realignment measure, that shifted many state offenders into county jails thereby reducing bed space for local offenders, and Prop. 47 in 2014, which further re-categorized many serious crimes as misdemeanors.

The League joins the California Police Chiefs Association and many other law enforcement organizations in opposing Prop. 57. Visit <http://www.stop57.com> for more information on the opposition.

[A sample resolution](#) for cities to use in opposition to Prop. 57 is available on the League's website.

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#### **'Voucher' Continued from Page 1...**

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, an important strategic partner of the League of California Cities<sup>®</sup>, is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S. Communities provides world class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education, and nonprofits.

Through U.S. Communities, state and local governments have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with best in class national suppliers. Participating in this cooperative is easy, efficient and especially helpful for the small and medium sized cities because it allows them to get the same cost-saving discounts that are often available to larger cities.

The League is a founding sponsor of U.S. Communities and purchases made through the program help keep the League's membership dues low.

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### **League Board Establishes Governance, Transparency & Labor Relations Policy Committee**

On Oct. 6, the League board of directors took the formal step to establish a new league legislative policy committee — voting unanimously to establish the new Governance, Transparency & Labor Relations (GTL) policy committee. GTL will have a renewed focus on technology (open data), healthcare, elections and political reform. Additionally, the committee will oversee pension (OPEB) and workers compensation reform as well as other related issues.

The move comes after a subcommittee established by the board looked at consolidating both the Administrative Services (AS) and Employee Relations (ER) policy committees. The subcommittee held a series of meetings, reviewed past attendance records, committee action items and policy trends dating back nine years. Additionally, the subcommittee hosted an informational webinar for League division presidents as well as members of both AS and ER policy committees to solicit feedback and provide direction during the consolidation process.

Subcommittee members felt that a consolidation and a rebranding of the committees was the best way to drive attendance and engage our elected officials on these critical issues. As both a board member and co-chair of the consolidation subcommittee, Grass Valley Council Member Jan Arbuckle applauded the board for Thursday's action. "It's critical that we have active engagement from elected officials from across the state to weigh in on some of the most dynamic issues that affect our cities and towns. I was pleased to co-chair the subcommittee that oversaw this consolidation — and I commend the board for their swift action as we tackle these tough issues in the coming years."

Similar to the Leagues other policy committees, the GTL policy committee will use their collective knowledge and experience to recommend to the League board of directors preliminary positions on legislation.

A full description of the GTL Policy Committee is available on the League's website. Looking to get involved? Contact your professional department president, division president or your regional public affairs manager for more information.

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### **Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce Elected League President**

Lodi Council Member JoAnne Mounce was installed as League president on Oct. 7 during the 118th Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach and will now lead the organization for the coming year. Elected as League second vice president in 2014, she advanced to the office of first vice president in September 2015.

"Working with the League of California Cities for years has been an important priority for my service on the Lodi City Council because I truly believe in the effectiveness of this dynamic organization that advocates on behalf of all cities. I am honored to be elected president by my peers and come to this leadership position with a desire to represent all of California's diverse cities in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. I look forward to working with my League colleagues on the most pressing issues facing local government in this coming year."

First elected to the Lodi City Council in 2004, Council Member Mounce has since been appointed mayor twice. She has held many positions within the League of California Cities, including member of the board of directors, served twice as president of the Central Valley Division, member of the Administrative Services Policy Committee and member of the Audit Committee. Council Member Mounce has worked to gather signatures and raise funds for several League sponsored ballot measures.

Her professional experience includes 30 years in the accounting and tax management industry. As a small business owner, Council Member Mounce focuses on business start-ups and assisted many San Joaquin County businesses untangle governmental compliance. For the past 10 years, she has managed the Stockton-based accounting firm Dougherty CPAs, Inc.

Council Member Mounce has served locally on the Lodi Youth Commission, the San Joaquin Council of Governments, and as liaison to the Central Valley Division of the League of California Cities. As a third generation Lodian, she is an active volunteer with LRWF Unit, the Lodi Historical Society and many other community organizations.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie congratulated Council Member Mounce on her new presidential role for the League of California Cities. "JoAnne is an incredibly dedicated public servant who believes in the power of local engagement and understands the impact cities have when they work together. Her professional background in financial planning and accounting is an incredible asset to our organization because she is able to look at issues through both the macro and micro lens and evaluate the long-term effects of policies."

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### **Palos Verdes Estates Council Member James Goodhart Elected League First Vice President**

Palos Verdes Estates Council Member James Goodhart was elected League first vice president during the League's 118th Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach. He will serve as first vice president for a one-year term before advancing to president in September 2017.

"California's cities are integral to the success of this state. Statewide policies that support local control benefit the state as a whole and our ability to innovate. We have made great progress in the economic recovery but there is more work to be done, and we need greater investment in infrastructure to ensure our continued success. I am honored to serve the League as first vice

president and continue working with our executive officers, board of directors and greater membership on major statewide policy issues facing California cities,” said Council Member Goodhart.

First elected to the Palos Verdes Estates City Council in 2005, Council Member Goodhart was re-elected to the council in 2009, and he is now serving his third four-year term. He previously served four years on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District Board of Education and the Southern California Regional Occupation Center. Along with his commitment to education, Council Member Goodhart served as a Peninsula Education Foundation trustee, a director of the San Pedro/Peninsula YMCA, and a member of the city’s Planning Commission and Finance Committee.

Prior to his election as a League officer, Council Member Goodhart was actively involved with the League of California Cities. He has served on the League’s Los Angeles Division’s board of directors, as chair the Environmental Quality Policy Committee and as president of the New Mayors and Council Members Department from 2012-2013. In addition, Council Member Goodhart sits on the South Bay Service Council of the Metropolitan Transit Authority and has been a member of the Palos Verdes Transit Authority board of directors since 2005. He is also the immediate past chair of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments.

Professionally, Council Member Goodhart was employed in the aerospace industry and is a retired registered mechanical engineer.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie congratulated Council Member Goodhart on becoming first vice president for the League of California Cities. “Jim’s extensive background in business and project management combined with his contributions as a public servant will be an asset to the League’s executive committee. He brings his expertise and commitment to his community and to all California cities”

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## **South San Francisco Council Member Rich Garbarino Elected League Second Vice President**

South San Francisco Council Member Rich Garbarino was installed as second vice president during the League’s 118th Annual Conference & Expo in Long Beach and will advance to the office of first vice president in September 2017.

Council Member Garbarino remarked on his great appreciation for the League and why he is looking forward to his new leadership position. “It is a privilege to serve as the League’s second vice president and contribute to the cities of California in a greater capacity. We have worked very hard to create solid relationships with legislators and I am committed to continuing this priority. When the Legislature passes policies that support California cities, the entire state is stronger.”

Rich Garbarino was first appointed to the South San Francisco City Council in December 2002 to fill the vacancy left by the election of Gene Mullin to the California State Assembly. In 2003, he was officially elected to his first four-year term on the South San Francisco City Council and then subsequently re-elected in 2007, 2011, and 2015 with his current term expiring in 2019.

Engaged locally, Council Member Garbarino is also very involved regionally and statewide through the League of California Cities on the board of directors, the organization’s Peninsula Division and Public Safety Policy Committee. Locally he worked on the passage of Measure W to fund city services and infrastructure improvements as well as served as chair of several Association of Bay Area of Governments committees and the Local Agency Formation Committee.

Professionally, Council Member Garbarino worked at San Francisco State University in several capacities, Homart Development, Bechtel Power Corporation, Bekins Building Maintenance Corporation and in a family-owned business.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie congratulated Council Member Garbarino on becoming second vice president for the League of California Cities. “Rich is an incredibly

engaged public servant whose experience locally in so many capacities on behalf of the city of South San Francisco gives him great leadership skills with the League. He brings a great deal of experience to our organization and will be an asset to our officers as they work to continue legislative relationships and focus on issues effecting cities.”

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