

**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

Zoom

[Community Services Policy Committee Slides](#)

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Kevin Bash (Chair); Stacy Berry (Vice Chair); Ken Berkman, Edi Birsan; Jeff Boyles; Jaques Casillas; Ruben Chavez; Heather Cousin; Marta Cruz; Christine Engel; Thom Fowler; Lucy Garcia; Debra Garnes; John Gran; Britt Huff; Jay Ingram; Jean Josey; Alison Kerr; Henry Lo; Irais Lopez-Ortega; Jesse Loren; Peggy McQuaid; Denise Menchaca; Xavier Mendez; Leticia Miguel; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Mark Nagales; Kimberley Nguyen; Maria Nunez; Kristen Petersen; Michael Ponce; Alonso Ramirez; Todd Rigby; Matt Rinn; Nat Rojanasathira; David Ruderman; Monica Sanchez; Jesse Sandoval; Stuart Schillinger; David Shapiro; Erica Stewart; Susanne Tam; Olivia Trujillo; Wanda Williams; Scott Wolfe; Curtis Yakimow; Frank Yokoyama

League Partners: Kristen Camuglia

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative; Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

President Cheryl Viegas Walker, Mayor, El Centro, welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. Mayor Viegas Walker explained that policy committees are vitally important and are directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities. She explained that this year has been challenging for city officials, as cities are facing public health and economic challenges due to the pandemic and the shutdown of local economies. Cities are also responding to nationwide calls for equity and justice and endeavoring to root out discrimination and racism in their communities.

Mayor Viegas Walker emphasized that Cal Cities, now more than ever, is committed to providing resources and information to help cities make informed decisions for their communities during these challenging times. She closed by thanking everyone in attendance for their work as a policy committee member.

Mayor Viegas Walker then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked committee members for all their work. She explained that at a time when cities needed help, they have stepped up and have been problem solvers.

Ms. Coleman said that the work of the policy committees is central to Cal Cities advocacy, which is at the heart of the organization. She thanked committee members again for serving on the committee and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Kevin Bash, Mayor, Norco, and Vice Chair Stacy Berry, Mayor Pro Tem, Cypress, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

**II. Public Comment**

Chair Bash asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

### **III. General Briefing**

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team compiled a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

### **IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules**

Cal Cities staff briefly reviewed Parliamentary Procedures and Robert's Rules. This document is designed to provide examples of common procedural matters encounter by Cal Cities policy committees. This includes how to make a motion, vote on a motion, and determine if there is a quorum. Members were directed to the informational packet for more comprehensive detail.

### **V. Committee Orientation**

Cal Cities staff provided a brief overview of the purpose of policy committees and the appointment process. This document details key committee roles and responsibilities such as adding agenda items, taking positions on bills, and the committee schedules and processes, among other things. Members were directed to the informational packet for more comprehensive detail.

### **VI. Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

Cal Cities staff explained the importance of the guiding principles. This document contains Cal Cities policies that reflect positions taken by the policy committee and Cal Cities Board and is used as a reference tool for Cal Cities staff when reviewing legislation. Members were directed to the informational packet for more comprehensive detail.

### **VII. Cal Cities 2021 Strategic Priorities**

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2021 strategic priorities. Cal Cities staff discussed the virtual League Leaders retreat and explained the process by which strategic priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2021 strategic priorities are as follows:

- 1. Secure state and federal funding for local COVID-19 public health response and economic recovery for all.** Secure direct and flexible funding and resources for cities of all sizes so they can continue to protect residents from the pandemic, deliver essential services, support small businesses, and lead the recovery in our communities. Improve communication and coordination with regional, state, and federal governments on public health orders and programs to stimulate equitable economic recovery.
- 2. Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and resources to assist individuals at risk of – or already experiencing – homelessness while preserving local decision making.** Secure additional resources to increase construction of housing, particularly affordable housing, workforce housing, and permanent supportive housing, and ensure cities retain flexibility based on the land use needs of each community. Increase flexibility and resources to provide navigation assistance and emergency shelters, and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure mental health, substance abuse treatment, and wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of – or already experiencing – homelessness in our communities.

3. **Improve state-local coordination and planning to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.** Pursue additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, sea level rise, catastrophic wildfires, and flooding in our communities. Promote community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery in collaboration with the state and federal governments. Increase availability and access to the National Flood Insurance Program to include other natural disasters.
4. **Protect and modernize critical infrastructure.** Seek increased state and federal resources for critical and sustainable local infrastructure projects including roads, public transit, active transportation, water availability, and broadband deployment that enhance workforce and economic development and improve quality of life.

#### **VIII. Adoption of 2021 Work Program**

In order to produce the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey illustrating the top priorities for the committee to focus on in the coming year.

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the proposed work plan, followed by an open discussion. The committee agreed the work plan was broad and encompassed a wide swath of potential issues. Committee members spoke in support of the work program and provided additional suggestions that included child care, libraries, museums, and the arts.

The committee unanimously adopted the following items as their work program:

- COVID-19 Impacts to the Community;
- Parks, Open Space, and Recreation;
- Community Resiliency;
- Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response; and
- Senior and Aging Issues.

#### **IX. Caring for Seniors in the Time of COVID-19 Discussion**

Chair Bash allowed for open discussion on caring for seniors during COVID-19. Vice Chair Berry kicked off the conversation by talking about meal services for seniors. She explained how meal services help with food insecurity, provide human contact to seniors, and help address mental health needs associated with isolation during COVID-19. Many committee members shared programs provided in their city, including drive-through meal service, partnering with school districts to use their food services for seniors, student letter writing, senior check-in, COVID-19 testing for seniors, and services for undocumented seniors.

#### **X. Budget Update**

Cal Cities staff updated the committee on the Governor's record-breaking \$227.2 billion budget proposal for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The proposed budget includes a \$164.5 billion General Fund and projects \$34 billion in total reserves and surplus. The budget significantly restores the state's rainy day fund and economic support reserves that were diminished last year. A surplus of \$15 billion, largely in one-time funds, is available for spending to address COVID-19 and support resilience and recovery. Additional information on the budget can be found in the [General Briefing document](#).

Cal Cities staff also highlighted budget items pertinent to the Community Services Policy Committee. This included budget allocations to child care programs, parks, seniors, and libraries.

**XI. Legislative Agenda**

Cal Cities staff briefed the committee on bills that have been introduced and what they are expecting to see in this year's legislative session. With it still being very early in the legislative session, few bills have been introduced in the community services space. Cal Cities staff assured the committee that as new bills begin to move through the legislative process, the committee would be updated.

**XII. Open Forum**

Following the legislative update, an open discussion ensued. Specifically, committee members shared local programs and initiatives regarding equity and justice efforts in their communities.

**Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, April 16, 2021, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**