

**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, January 18, 2019

League Office, 1400 K Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Carpenter Room, Sacramento, CA

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Larry Moody (Chair), Oley Olsen (V.Chair), Janet Abelson, Darlene Barber-Martinez, Gregory Barton, Kevin Bash, Ken Berkman, Sukari Beshears, Edi Birsan, Ruben Chavez, Heather Cousin, JoAnne Cousino, Melissa Crowder, Christine Engel, Maria Garcia, Karen Herrera, Jay Ingram, Janet Jimenez, Kathleen Kelly, Lionel Largaespada, Irais Lopez-Ortega, Jesse Loren, Shelly Masur, Peggy McQuaid, Heidi Messner, Bridgette Moore, Liz Morris, Kristen Petersen, Ana Maria Quintana, Todd Rigby, Matt Rinn, Lydia Romero, Bruce Roundy, Crystal Ruiz, Jesse Sandoval, Marico Sayoc, Stuart Schillinger, Mariam Shah, Lonnie Shipman, Michael Smith, Suzanne Wolf, Curtis Yakimow, Aly Zimmermann

League Partners: Joe Ahn, Emily France

Staff: Erin Evans-Fudem

**I. State Budget and General Briefing**

Thursday League of CA Cities January 2019 Policy Committee General Session:

The January 2019 Policy Committee meetings began with a General Session briefing. Stacey Mattina, League Housing, Community and Economic Development policy committee chair, welcomed the attendees. She then introduced League President Jan Arbuckle, Council Member, Grass Valley, who thanked them for their efforts and summarized recent meetings by League officers in the Capitol. Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director also provided brief remarks. The rest of the briefing was then given by the League's legislative team.

Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, Dan Carrigg, gave a brief overview that highlighted the importance of the League's 2019 Strategic Goals and discussed both the state budget and legislative issues. Mr. Carrigg then introduced Michael Coleman, the League's Fiscal Policy Advisor, to discuss the Governor's January budget.

Mr. Coleman gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the 2019-20 January Governor's budget. Governor Newsom's proposed state budget includes \$144 billion in General Fund spending and when combined with proposed special fund and bond proceed allocations, totals \$209 billion. Mr. Carrigg explained that while general fund expending has increased, Governor Newsom was being fiscally prudent. The budget proposal increased the Rainy Day Reserve to \$15.3 billion, paying down a total of \$4.1 billion state pension liabilities, allocating an additional \$700 million to a social safety net reserves and \$2.3 billion in general reserves. Mr. Coleman warned that former Governor Brown warned of a looming recession and that the state needs to be prepared for a downturn. Also discussed was the makeup of the current state Legislature, including the fact that the Democrats now have a "super-duper" majority in both legislative houses. For more information about the impacts of the budget on cities, please review the [League's analysis](#), and information on Mr. Coleman's website [here](#). Mr. Coleman then gave Dan Carrigg the floor.

Mr. Carrigg elaborated on some of the line items included in Governor Newsom proposed budget. This included homelessness funding, mental health, and disaster recovery. Mr. Carrigg also explained the new ballot initiative process where ballot measure sponsors can now pull measures

from the ballot in exchange for legislative deals. Then Mr. Carrigg introduced the League's lobbyists to discuss their respective issue areas.

Jason Rhine, League Assistant Legislative Director, focused on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. Mr. Rhine noted that housing legislation is a high priority for the Governor, Legislature, and the League this year. He noted that if achieved, Governor Newsom's goal of producing 3.5 million housing units by 2025 would create an unprecedented level of housing production in the state. Additionally, Mr. Rhine encouraged members to be active in advocating for legislation that will help local governments address their housing challenges while preserving appropriate local control functions.

Dane Hutchings, League Legislative Representative, briefed members on issues related to governance, transparency, and labor relations. He briefly discussed sexual harassment prevention legislation that would provide rebuttable presumptions and joint-several liability with contractors. Mr. Hutchings also mentioned divestment measures, the Governor's plan to extend paid family leave, and the pending outcome of the "Cal-Fire" case. He stressed that cities are struggling with increasing costs, and securing additional flexibility for cities is a priority.

Charles Harvey, League Legislative Representative, gave an update on various public safety related issues including cannabis and cannabis deliveries, drones, police use of force, and gun legislation. On the topic of cannabis, Mr. Harvey noted that the recently authorized Bureau of Cannabis Control regulations authorizing cannabis deliveries in any jurisdiction in the state would be harmful to cities and will take effect in the spring. In addition, Mr. Harvey discussed the topic of police use of force and the likely re-introduction of a police use of force bill from last year, which was authored by Assemblymember Weber.

Erin Evans-Fudem, League Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community issues that will be big in 2019. Ms. Evans-Fudem discussed the programs and proposed funding allocations in the cap-and-trade program. She explained how those programs would continue to be a priority for cities. In addition, Ms. Evans-Fudem discussed the importance for cities to engage in discussions about organic waste recycling regulations, disaster relief and wildfire response legislation, the ramifications of the PG&E declared forthcoming bankruptcy, and clean drinking water legislation.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, discussed transportation, communications, and public works. Chief among them was the concept Governor Newsom proposed to tie transportation dollars from Senate Bill 1 (Beall, 2017) to housing production. Mr. Berdugo also summarized the recent Federal Communication Commission's ruling that preempts cities' ability to site telecommunications infrastructure. This proposal is similar to SB 649 (Hueso, 2017) that was vetoed by Governor Brown in 2017 and garnered over 320 opposition letters from cities.

Lastly, Dan Carrigg briefly talked about issues related to revenue and taxation. Mr. Carrigg informed the general session about the Wayfair court case and bills that could affect city sales tax. Mr. Carrigg then adjourned the general session and policy committees commenced.

#### Friday League of CA Cities January 2019 Policy Committee General Session:

On Friday, Olivia Valentine, Vice Chair, League Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee, gave a brief introduction to the general session. After her welcome, she introduced League President Jan Arbuckle and League Executive Director Carolyn Coleman who welcomed the committee members to the general session. League lobbyists, then gave a condensed version of the

following presentation, prior to the arrival of two special guest speakers: Governor Newsom's Cabinet Secretary Ana Matosantos and Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Executive Branch Operations Jason Elliott.

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#### Special Presentation and Discussion with Governor's Representatives:

Ms. Matosantos and Mr. Elliott spoke to the general session about Governor Newsom's budgetary and legislative priorities this year. Some of these items included, housing, transportation, and healthcare. Ms. Matosanto stressed that the administration wants to work with the League and local governments on a variety of issues. Mr. Elliot talked about his decade of city service in San Francisco and how he wants to work with local governments to implement Governor Newsom's agenda. Then Ms. Matosantos and Mr. Elliott took questions from the general membership. The questions from the general session ranged, but included disaster and emergency response, implementation of the Wayfair decision, addressing homelessness, and tying transportation dollars to housing production. It was encouraging to hear Ms. Monasatnos say that cities should not be blamed or punished for things they do not control when it comes to the production of housing. After they took numerous questions, the general session was adjourned and policy committees commenced.

## **II. Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves and mentioned one unique thing about their respective cities.

## **III. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules**

Ms. Evans-Fudem referred to a handout on parliamentary procedure.

## **V. Committee Orientation**

Chair Moody and Ms. Evans-Fudem provided a brief explanation of the League's policymaking process, including the role of the committee in making recommendations to the League Board and the collaborative process between committee members and staff on preparing meeting agendas.

Chair Larry Moody went over housekeeping items including: member responsibilities on attendance and participation, protocol on debate and questioning, etc. He encouraged members to participate, but to be thoughtful and prudent in comments and questions.

Erin Evans-Fudem explained the purpose and importance of the insight provided by committee members, and how such insight helps guide League advocacy in the State Capitol. She also reminded committee members of the League's policy committee meeting calendar for the remainder of 2019.

## **VI. Review of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles**

Ms. Evans-Fudem explained the importance of the guiding principles document as the foundation League advocacy positions.

## **VII. League Strategic Goals for 2019**

Chair Moody and Ms. Evans-Fudem explained the process by which the Strategic Goals were established at the League Leaders conference.

## **VIII. 2019 Draft Work Program**

The Committee broke into four groups to brainstorm topics for the Committee Work Program. Each group selected both a scribe to record ideas and a speaker representative to communicate those ideas to the larger committee. After 15-20 min of small group discussion, they all reconvened and shared each group's top listed priorities. Ms. Evans-Fudem recorded in bullet format, all of the stated priorities and tallied those listed more than once. After all listed priorities from the small groups were recorded and made viewable by committee members on the room's projector screens, Chair Moody entertained questions and comments from the committee members. After discussion, the top four priorities were consolidated into the following topics that would comprise the Community Services Committee 2019 Work Program:

- Homelessness, including vulnerable populations, causes of poverty, services and outreach
- Library vitality and services
- Emergency/disaster prevention and preparedness
- Stages of life services, including transitional stages for children, foster youth, and seniors

## **IX. Project WeHOPE**

Pastor Paul Bains, Co-Founder and President of Project WeHOPE, addressed the committee on the organization's work. *WeHOPE stands for We Help Other People Excel.*

Homelessness is organization's largest service offering and most prominent focus. Pastor Bains began the conversation with, "We're not going to solve homelessness until we have adequate housing stock in California. California is now the largest homelessness state in the country."

As part of Project WeHOPE's offerings, the organization institutes classes and ultimately a graduation program to celebrate persons that attain self-sufficiency. Pastor Bains explained how the organization has tried to help persons back on the road to Self-Sufficiency through a combination of Shelter + Life Services + Innovation.

Project WeHOPE has had a recent focus on hygiene, and has worked to establish the "Dignity on Wheels" (DoW) program, a mobile hygiene outreach program that provides homeless persons with free showers, laundry services and access to Holistic Services. Since its creation, DoW has provided more than 21,000 showers and 7700 loads of laundry to homeless persons.

Pastor Bains reported that Dignity on Wheels is the largest mobile services provider in the country. Moreover, Project WeHOPE is currently working toward:

- Opening a respite center for homeless persons in an effort to fill the services gap for when other shelters and/or hospital facilities are unavailable.
- Establishing the first-ever RV safe parking initiative for use by homeless persons.
- Increasing the fleet of DoW Mobile Hygiene Units from four to six vehicles

Pastor Bains also answered questions from the audience. For example:

- When asked about whether rapid re-housing has been used as a mechanism to refurbish old RVs or other tools to house persons, speakers answered that East Palo Alto and Project WeHOPE use a screening and objective setting process in order to incentivize and encourage persons to make changes in order to improve their situations.
- When asked what role did you play in helping East Palo Alto change its reputation from being the "murder capital of the world?", Pastor Bains explained that as a police officer, that law enforcement and faith based entities developed a chaplaincy and various sport programs that encouraged gang members to redirect their activities. Most of the violence was coming from a very small handful (7 or so) of families in the community. The City also allocated about 58% of its budget towards putting more officers on the street, but also implored the courts to review its sentencing practices. It further renewed the focus on education.
- When asked "How are you protecting your long-standing community members from being pushed out due to gentrification, given the sharp rise in housing (about \$80k for a home from 10-15 years ago, to roughly \$1 million homes today), speakers responded that the first step we took was to check to see if persons own their homes, but it has been a delicate process

## **X. State Budget Update**

Ms. Evans-Fudem explained the process by which the state Budget is established, including the timeline for when the Budget will be complete for 2019-2020. Ms. Evans-Fudem touched on the following highlights from the Governor's Proposed Budget that might be of interest to the committee:

- Full Day Kindergarten
- Universal Pre-School
- Subsidized Child Care
- Child Savings Accounts
- California Arts Council

Ms. Evans-Fudem agreed to send out budget highlight doc at the time of policy committee's highlight distribution.

## **XI. Legislative Update**

Ms. Evans-Fudem explained the timeframe for the bill introduction period, the policy committee review process and how these timeframes and deadlines coincide with the League's Policy Committee Meeting timeline.

Ms. Evans-Fudem indicated her expectation for various bills to surface this year on the topics of vaping, flavored tobacco, etc.

**Next Meeting: Friday, March 29, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, 3050 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa, California**