

**HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHT**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

Zoom

[Housing, Community and Economic Development Policy Committee Slides](#)

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Maryilyn Ezzy-Ashcraft (Chair); Denise Athas; Al Austin; La Tanya Bellow; Ana Beltran; Claudia Bill-de la Pena; Gary Boyer; Juan Carillo; Ray Casey; Leslie Castellano; Debbie Chamberlain; Liang Chao; Susan Cola; Fernando Dutra; Chris Freeland; PJ Gagajena; Marshall Goodman; Kelly Gordon; Afshan Hamid; Jeffrey Harlan; Meagan Harmon; Christy Holstege; Cecilia Hupp; Keir Jones; Dan Kalb; Paul Leon; Richard Loa; Adam Loeser; Sue Long; Elyse Lowe; Mary Luros; Tony Madrigal; Yvonne Martinez-Beltran; Stacey Mattina; Thaddeus McCormack; John McKay; Lily Mei; Susannah Meyer; Porsche Middleton; Vong Mouanoutoua; Scott Nassiff; George Nava; Ian Oglesby; Ray Pearl; Cori Schumacher; Cindy Silva; Joan Smith Freeman; Wes Speake; Tom Stallard; Fred Strong; Julie Testa; Maureen Toms; Malia Vella; Dan Wright

League Partners: Kenneth Maxey

Staff: Jason Rhine, Assistant Legislative Director; Johnnie Pina, 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. Mayor Viegas Walker 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. Mayor Viegas Walker 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 Ezzy-Ashcraft welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

## **II. Public Comment**

Chair Ezzy-Ashcraft asked if there was any public comment. The committee received public comment from several individuals.

## **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**

Jason Rhine 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**

Jason Rhine 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**

Jason Rhine 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. Jason Rhine 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.

In addition to supporting the Cal Cities' Strategic Goals, the HCED Policy Committee adopted the following items as their work program:

- Economic Development Post COVID-19
  - Job Creation and Economic Stimulus
  - Funding to Assist Small Businesses Recover From COVID-19
- Increase Housing Supply For All Income Levels
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Process
- Protect/Enhance Local Land Use Authority

The committee adopted the work program with two committee members objecting.

#### **IX. Legislative Agenda**

- **SB 6 (Caballero) Local Planning: Housing in Commercial Zones.**
  - The committee decided to give no direction to the Board of Directors but instead directed Cal Cities staff to work with the author to address the following amendments:
    - Maintaining the commercial viability of commercial and retail zones.
    - The need for an affordability housing component.
    - Prevailing wage and skilled and trained work force requirements.
    - Cities with a certified housing element or that have experienced sufficient housing development that meets state housing goals be exempt from this measure.
  - Cal Cities staff will bring this measure back to committee in April for further consideration based on amendment negotiations.

- **SB 9 (Atkins) Housing Development Approvals: Duplexes and Lot Splits.**  
HCED did not have time to consider this action item. Consideration of this measure will take place at the next committee meeting. No committee recommendation.
- **SB 55 (Stern) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone: State Responsibility Area: Development Prohibition.**  
HCED did not have time to consider this action item. Consideration of this measure will take place at the next committee meeting. No committee recommendation.

**X. Legislative and Budget Update**

Due to time restrictions, this portion of the agenda was deferred to the next meeting.

**Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**