I. State Budget and Issues Briefing
The January 2018 Policy Committee meetings began with a General Session briefing. League President Rich Garbarino, Council member, City of South San Francisco, gave a brief welcome, which included highlighting the importance of the League’s 2018 Strategic Goals, then introduced League Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, Dan Carrigg, to discuss state budget and legislative issues.

Mr. Carrigg stated that the state budget revenues continue to be strong and that the Governor plans to allocate additional revenues to fully-fund the state’s Rainy Day Reserve fund at $13.5 billion. Healthy reserves were also good for local government, he said, because it gave the state options during a downturn, rather than attempting to shift funds from local government as it had in the past. 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 2018 January Governor’s budget. 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 briefly discussed the large amount of housing bills passed by the Legislature last year and how if more housing legislation were introduced this year could be difficult for cities to navigate. He also discussed the uncertainty California faces in regards to the President’s recent tax reform legislation and plan to open up offshore drilling. Then Mr. Carrigg introduced the League’s lobbyists to discuss their respective issue areas big topics. First, he introduced Dane Hutchings, League Legislative Representative, to discuss pensions and other labor and governance issues.

Mr. Hutchings gave an overview of what will be happening on pensions this year. Cities are struggling with increasing costs, and securing additional flexibility for cities is a priority. Additionally, Mr. Hutchings discussed two measures (not in print yet) that could have big effects on cities. The first measure would apply prospective and retroactive joint and several liability to agencies who have entered into a JPA for all retirement related liabilities for any public retirement
system. This measure would not just apply to CalPERS but any county retirement system as well. The second measure would expand the number of days allotted in the safe harbor provision of the California Voting Rights Act to provide cities more time to convert to district-based elections.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, discussed how the landmark passage of SB 1 (Beall, 2017) doubles the amount of funding cities receive for road maintenance and rehabilitation projects. He stressed that if the voters repealed SB 1, another funding package would not come together for a long time. He encouraged cities to proactively document and promote their road improvement work as the best way to protect their funding and to join in League efforts to support Proposition 69, the constitutional protections for new transportation revenues, and to participate in efforts to oppose the transportation funding repeal. Additionally, he thanked the Governor for his veto of SB 649 (Hueso) and how the League was taking steps to draft its own proposal on telecommunications deployment. This proposal would help preserve local control, while also providing a streamlined process for cities to roll out wireless “small cell” technology.

Jason Rhine, League Legislative Representative, focused in on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. Mr. Rhine noted that housing legislation is a high priority for the Legislature and the League this year. He reminded attendees to look through the 2018 Guide to New Housing Law in California, which was provided. 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. Mr. Rhine discussed SB 827 (Wiener), which would exempt certain housing projects from locally developed and adopted height limitations, densities, parking requirements, and design review standards. Cities were encouraged to submit an opposition letter.

Erin Evans-Fudem, League Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community issues that will be big in 2018. With successful reauthorization of the cap-and-trade program last year, monitoring the programs and proposed funding allocations will continue to be a priority. 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, as well as offshore drilling, and clean drinking water legislation.

Tim Cromartie, League Legislative Representative, updated members on the continued rollout of cannabis regulations and the different ways cities can stay engaged on this issue. On the topic of public safety, he informed members they should be aware of a ballot initiative, sponsored by the Police Chiefs and the Grocers associations, seeking to amend the list of violent offenses as it relates to the provisions of Proposition 57, which provides for expanded parole considerations and increased rehabilitation programming for non-violent offenders. In addition, cities must stay alert for the drone industry to push for federal preemption in the annual Federal Aviation Administration’s reauthorization bill.

II. Welcome and Introductions
Chair Jan Arbuckle gave an introduction to the committee. All members introduced themselves and how long they have been on this committee.

III. Public Comment
Joe Vinatieri, Mayor of Whitter gave a short speech about the need to continue to keep cities safe and promote public safety. His remarks were related to but did not directly refer to the Police Chiefs-Grocers Initiative, and cited instances of offenders on community supervision who killed police officers in Whittier and Sacramento in 2017.
IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules
Chair Arbuckle stated all should have read the rules and procedures.

V. Committee Orientation
Chair Arbuckle spoke about how this committee makes recommendations to the board.

VI. Strategic Goals for 2018
Chair Arbuckle spoke about the 2018 strategic goals and referred the committee to the packet for the current strategic goals.

VII. Update of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles
The Committee reviewed the Existing Policy and Guiding Principles for Public Safety and discussed a number of potential revisions including gambling, cannabis, and police surveillance.

Committee motion to accept existing policy changes was moved and seconded.
Committee Action: MOTION PASSES, UNANIMOUS SUPPORT

VIII. 2018 Draft Work Program
League staff then gave an overview of the draft public safety work plan. Committee members then asked a couple of clarifying questions.

Committee motion to accept the 2018 draft public safety work plan was made and seconded.
Committee Action: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUS SUPPORT

IX. Federal and State Legislative Update
Police Chiefs-Grocers Initiative
This item was pulled from agenda by the initiative backers and was not heard by the committee. Chair Arbuckle explained that this item would most likely come back for consideration at the April policy committee.

Governor’s Budget
League staff discussed the Governor’s January budget proposal with the committee, including funding levels for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, juvenile justice reform, and local public safety.

Attorney General’s Announcement/League Response
On January 4, 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he would rescind the “Cole Memo.” League staff discussed the impacts and potential ramifications of Attorney General Sessions’ memorandum repealing the Cole Memo. Committee members asked questions and were concerned over how this would affect the implementation of cannabis legalization.

AB 1578 (Jones-Sawyer) Cannabis: Cooperation with the Federal Government
League staff gave an overview of AB 1578 (Jones-Sawyer), a two-year bill, and led a discussion of the bill with the committee. The League opposed the bill last year, and staff agenized it for the Committee’s consideration in the wake of the Jan. 4th announcement by Attorney General Sessions.

Committee motion to oppose AB 1578 (Jones Sawyer) was made and seconded.
Committee Action: MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUS SUPPORT
**Update on $25 Million for Local Siting Grants**
League staff discussed a state funding source for local governments to agree to site transition facilities in their localities. $17 million dollars have been spent out of the total fund of $25 million.

**Update on State’s Cannabis Regulations**
League staff gave a summary of the Bureau of Cannabis Control’s new regulations regarding cannabis and highlighted that local governments are not prohibited from banning deliveries in their communities.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 13, Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, 601 W. Mckinley Ave, Pomona