



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, January 24

Hyatt Regency, 1209 L Street, Regency E, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE

Members: Marty Simonoff (Chair); Daniel Hahn (V.Chair); Walt Allen; Jan Arbuckle; Bill Baber; John Bauters; Steven Bird; Rebecca Bjork; Lance Calkins; Ken Carlson; Peter Castro; Andrew Chou; Chris Constantin; Lara DeLaney; Pippin Dew; Bea Dieringer; Phillip Dupper; Reva Feldman; Richard Garbarino; Gerardo Gonzalez; Kendall Granucci; Jose Gurrola; Tori Hannah; Mike Healy; Marvin Heinze; Eugene Hernandez; Melissa Hunt; Kenneth Kao; Dennis Kaufman; Ty Lewis; Ray Marquez; Sean McGlynn; Peggy McQuaid; Heidi Messner; Daniel Mintz; Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto; Greg Park; John Pena; Karen Rarey; Gracie Retamoza; Scott Sedgley; Kelly Seyarto; Ed Smith; Laura Sugayan; Drew Tipton; Tami Trent; Michael Vargas; Bob Whalen; Jon Wizard; Jeramy Young

League Partners: Chris Bout; Natalie Dougherty

Staff: Charles Harvey, Legislative Representative

I. State Budget and General Briefing

On Friday, Marty Simonoff, Chair, Public Safety Policy Committee, gave a brief introduction at the General Briefing Session. After his welcome, he introduced League President John Dunbar, Mayor, Yountville, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for their commitment to the policy committee process. President Dunbar then recognized his fellow officers in the room, and shared that they had met with legislators and the Governor's staff earlier that week. He emphasized the importance of League members contacting legislators when in Sacramento to make the most of everyone's time during their visit. President Dunbar explained that there is a lot of value in building relationships and advocating on legislation that could affect cities.

Turning to the budget, President Dunbar stated that he was excited to see money heading to cities. He is encouraged by the relationship between the League and the Governor and the open lines of communication that they share. President Dunbar closed by reiterating the importance of sharing the message of protecting local authority in meetings with legislators and continued participation in policy committees.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked President Dunbar for all of his hard work, and welcomed everyone to Sacramento. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone in attendance for their time engaging and building a strong voice for the League. She explained that the League would not be as effective if it were not for the collective efforts of the policy committee members. Ms. Coleman also acknowledged the League partners present and thanked League staff for all of their hard work. She concluded by introducing everyone to Melanie Perron, League Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Affairs.

Ms. Perron expressed her appreciation for the introduction, and her enthusiasm for being a part of the League team. She gave an overview of the experience that she brings to the League, having spent many years working in state government. Ms. Perron concluded by conveying her goal of using her experience at the state level to help tackle the priorities of cities.

The League's Fiscal Policy Advisor, Michael Coleman, walked everyone through the State Budget update, which included how the State plans to spend the \$5.9 billion surplus and pay down debts while growing its reserves. He further explained how there is substantial funding in the budget to address housing and homelessness, natural resources and the environment, and fire protection. Mr. Coleman reminded everyone that this is only a budget proposal and is not final. There will be a May revision to this proposal, but this proposal is a good indication of where the Governor's budget is headed. The finalized budget will be voted on by the Legislature and signed by the Governor by the end of June.

Jason Rhine, Assistant Legislative Director, kicked off the legislative update by discussing issues related to housing, community, and economic development. Mr. Rhine emphasized that it is currently the second year of a two-year legislative session, and in addition to the two-year bills, there likely will be over a thousand new bills introduced this year. He emphasized that SB 50 is one of the biggest bills this year for housing, and despite recent amendments, the League remains oppose unless amended on this measure (this measure failed passage by the legislative deadline of January 31). Mr. Rhine then spoke about homelessness. He explained that this is the third year with significant money in the budget to address homelessness, with about \$1 billion in investment. Mr. Rhine explained that the League will continue to work with the Governor's office to address issues related to homelessness.

Bijan Mehryar, Legislative Representative, highlighted issues related to governance, transparency, and labor relations. He began by explaining that this year there will be a large focus on pensions as a component of cities overall fiscal sustainability. In relation to pensions, Mr. Mehryar highlighted SB 266, a two-year bill that may be acted upon this year to require cities to directly pay retirees disallowed retirement benefits using general fund dollars. Mr. Mehryar then discussed labor and workers compensation noting AB 418, which seeks to extend evidentiary privileges between union agents and a represented employee (this measure is a two-year bill currently on the Senate floor). He finished his update emphasizing he will continue to monitor issues related to elections and redistricting into 2020.

Charles Harvey, Legislative Representative, explained several evolving public safety issues. Mr. Harvey expressed that one of the big issues this year will be cannabis. He was happy to report that AB 1356 will not pass off the Assembly floor. Instead, a new bill related to model retail ordinances will be introduced. Mr. Harvey does expect to see a cannabis enforcement bill later this year, extending to cities the authority to impose civil fines and penalties against illicit cannabis operations. He is continuing to monitor issues related to cannabis taxation, including a recently introduced bill to lower excise taxes. Lastly, Mr. Harvey highlighted AB 1190, which the League supported regarding a framework for drone regulation. He explained this bill will be referred to three policy committees in the Senate, and he will continue working with cities in shaping drone policy this year.

Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, began his presentation by discussing environmental quality. He highlighted the League is working on issues related to utility initiated power shutoffs, grid hardening, and electrical undergrounding in conjunction with the Transportation, Communications, and Public Works, and Public Safety Policy Committees. Mr. Dolfie then turned to solid waste and recycling, thanking the cities in attendance who weighed in on SB 54 and AB 1080 related to the reduction of single-use plastic waste. He emphasized these bills are still moving through the legislative process, and there will be an updated action alert issued soon.

Mr. Dolfie then discussed community services. He mentioned the Governor issued an executive order last year creating a Master Plan for Aging and a stakeholder advisory committee. Mr. Dolfie highlighted Immediate Past President, Jan Arbuckle, Council Member, Grass Valley currently serves on this committee representing the local government perspective. Mr. Dolfie also added the Governor's budget proposal includes \$65.1 million for the creation of a "Parks for All Initiative," which seeks to expand access to parks, open spaces, and natural lands for all Californians.

Rony Berdugo, Legislative Representative and Federal Policy Liaison, gave a legislative update on transportation, communications, public works and federal issues. He began by reviewing the scooter legislation carried over from last year, AB 1286, which the League co-sponsored, and AB 1112, which the League opposes. Mr. Berdugo then turned to the active litigation that the League is in with the Federal Communications Commission. He explained the Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Policy Committee would get an update on this case later in the day. Mr. Berdugo also mentioned he has been working with the California Public Utilities Commission on closing the digital divide through broadband deployment. Mr. Berdugo finished his update by reviewing federal issues of importance to the League, including remote identification for drones, streamlining of the National Environmental Policy Act, and the recently approved federal budget.

Lastly, Nick Romo, Senior Fiscal Policy Analyst, highlighted issues related to revenue and taxation. He explained the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee will continue to work with and monitor the activities of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration as they have begun collecting sales and use taxes from out of state retailers following the passage of AB 147, regarding Wayfair v. South Dakota. In regards to annexation, Mr. Romo highlighted a two-year bill that the League supports, AB 213, currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. He reiterated the League will continue to support annexations and incorporations into 2020. Mr. Romo closed his update by addressing the Governor's recent streamlining of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) by removing the 55 percent vote requirement. While helpful, EIFDs remain difficult for cities to initiate.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marty Simonoff welcomed committee members to the Public Safety Policy Committee. Mr. Simonoff asked all of the committee members to introduce themselves, including their name, title, city, and tenure on the committee. Notably, the committee featured a number of new and first-time members.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. **Overview of Parliamentary Procedures and Robert's Rules**

Legislative Representative Charles Harvey gave a brief overview to the committee on parliamentary procedures and Robert's Rules. He specifically highlighted how to address multiple motions, reminding the committee that the last motion presented should be considered first.

V. **Committee Orientation League Strategic Priorities for 2020**

As part of the committee's orientation, Mr. Harvey gave an update on the procedural guidelines the committee will follow for the remainder of the year. These guidelines included how to bring an issue or bill before the committee by either contacting League staff two weeks prior to a policy committee meeting or by drafting a resolution for the League's Annual Conference.

VI. **League Strategic Priorities for 2020**

The committee reviewed the League's 2020 Strategic Priorities. This year, there are five main strategic goals:

1. **Improve the supply and affordability of housing.** Provide cities with financial tools to increase construction of housing, particularly for vulnerable populations, reform state regulatory barriers, and ensure cities retain flexibility based on the size, geography, demographics, impact mitigation and land use needs of each community.
2. **Advocate for increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.** Secure additional resources and flexibility to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters and permanent supportive housing and strengthen partnerships 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. **Address cities' fiscal sustainability to deliver essential services and meet pension obligations.** Raise awareness among stakeholders about the fiscal challenges cities face and work collaboratively to secure new revenue tools and flexible prudent policies to ensure cities are able to provide essential services to their residents while maintaining their ability to meet pension obligations.
4. **Strengthen community and disaster preparedness, public safety, and resiliency.** Improve community resiliency to disasters and environmental threats, and strengthen infrastructure stability and control, through expanding partnerships, including state and federal agencies, and securing additional resources and support for climate change adaptation, planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and sustainability in our cities.
5. **Address public safety concerns of California cities.**
 - Reform recently enacted criminal justice laws — enacted by both statute and initiative — that have eroded public safety protections of California residents through the passage of the Police Chiefs/Grocer's-sponsored criminal justice reform measure eligible for the November 2020 state ballot, or by equivalent reforms achieved through legislative action.
 - Protect public safety by reducing access to firearms by the mentally ill.
 - Support additional tools and resources to address critical community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehabilitation, human trafficking, and workforce development for ex-offender reentry.

Mr. Harvey explained that strategic priority number five is directly applicable to the Public Safety Policy Committee for 2020, and that it is identical to last year's strategic priority number four.

VII. Adoption of 2020 Work Program

The committee then reviewed the proposed 2020 work program. After a robust discussion, the committee amended the work program to read:

- Reform recently enacted criminal justice laws — enacted by both statute and initiative — that have eroded public safety protections of California residents through the passage of the Police Chiefs/Grocer's-sponsored criminal justice reform measure eligible for the November 2020 state ballot, and by reforms achieved through legislative action;
- Protect public safety by reducing access to firearms for the mentally ill;
- Support additional tools and resources to address critical community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehabilitation, cyber security issues, human trafficking and bridging reentry for previously incarcerated individuals;
- Support legislation and related policies on enforcement against illegal cannabis operators;
- Work with interested stakeholders in shaping drone regulatory framework that is amenable for cities; and
- Focus on victims by strengthening funding for trauma recovery centers.

Councilmember Lara DeLaney from Martinez specifically noted her objections to Work Program item number one.

- **MOTION:** To approve the amended work program for 2020. Unanimous Support

VIII. Policy Agenda

Update on the "Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020."

Speaker: Mike Ziegler, Executive Director of Keep California Safe

Mike Ziegler, Executive Director for *Keep California Safe*, and Public Safety Consultant for Assembly Member Jim Cooper, briefed the committee on the League supported 2020 ballot initiative, the "Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020." Mr. Ziegler explained that this initiative was introduced to change specific provisions of Propositions [47](#) and [57](#).

The new initiative expands the list of violent crimes for which early release is not an option. This will reclassify currently "non-violent" crimes such as rape of an unconscious person; sex trafficking of a child; and felony domestic abuse as "violent;" and would prevent the early release of inmates convicted of these crimes. Additionally, the initiative restores theft laws to before Proposition 47 status, revising the theft threshold by adding a new felony for serial theft.

Mr. Ziegler explained that Proposition 57 drastically changed the California parole program. This initiative would require the Board of Parole Hearings to consider an inmate's entire criminal history when deciding parole, and require a mandatory hearing to determine whether parole should be revoked upon a third violation.

Mr. Ziegler then directed the committee to the *Keep California Safe* [website](#), which he explained is home to helpful resources and documents that committee members can explore and share with others. Mr. Ziegler then took questions from the committee.

Update on California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Advisory Committee Meeting – Tiered Sex Offender Registration ([SB 384](#))

Speaker: Greg Park: I.T. Coordinator, City of Livermore – Public Safety Policy Committee Member

Public Safety Policy Committee member Greg Park gave an update on the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) Advisory Committee related to the implementation of SB 384. He began by explaining that the Department of Justice has been conducting several policy trainings on the deployment of SB 384, which transitions California's lifetime sex offender registry to a tier-based system. SB 384 will create three tiers for adult registrants for periods of 10 years, 20 years, and life; and two tiers for juvenile registrants for periods of five years and 10 years.

Mr. Park explained that the CLETS Advisory Committee works with the Attorney General to oversee the computer network that connects public safety agencies across the state to criminal histories, driver records, and other databases. Mr. Park mentioned that the Committee consists of representatives from nine California organizations. The committee meets twice a year, and will be doing an outreach survey that will be released soon.

Mr. Park then highlighted [AB 1747](#), which requires that the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System record a reason for initiating an inquiry for information other than criminal history information. He explained that every tech system will need to be updated in order to be compliant with AB 1747. Mr. Park then took questions from committee members.

IX. Update to Existing League Policy & Guiding Principles

Committee members reviewed the proposed update and considered whether it accurately reflected the actions taken by the policy committee (and League Board) over the last two years, and whether there were any missing policy items or errors in describing policy.

- **MOTION:** To adopt the proposed Existing Policy & Guiding Principles. Unanimous Support.

X. Legislative Update

Mr. Harvey briefed committee members on current and pending legislation of interest to the committee. This included an update on [AB 1190](#) (Irwin), which creates a regulatory framework for state and local agencies on the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones). Mr. Harvey explained that AB 1190, a two-year bill, will be referred to three policy committees in the Senate, and the League will continue to have a support position on this measure.

Mr. Harvey then turned to [AB 1356 \(Ting\)](#), a bill that would have required cities to issue retail commercial cannabis licenses based on the number of liquor licenses within that jurisdiction. He was happy to report that AB 1356 will not be moving forward this session

and instead, a new bill requiring the Bureau of Cannabis Control (BCC) to establish a model retail ordinance will be introduced in its place.

Mr. Harvey also addressed the status of the BCC's regulation authorizing the delivery of cannabis, which was issued last year. This adopted regulation prompted a litigation whereby twenty five cities and one county collectively sued the State of California, arguing the unconstitutionality of the regulation. Mr. Harvey also reported that meanwhile, a private cannabis delivery operator filed suit against Santa Cruz County for limiting deliveries only to those companies licensed by and within the county. Mr. Harvey ensured the committee that he will continue to update them on these pending cases.

Mr. Harvey mentioned that he does expect to see a cannabis enforcement bill later this year, extending to cities the authority to impose civil fines and penalties against illicit cannabis operations.

Mr. Harvey also mentioned the issue of excise taxes, explaining that for the third consecutive year there has been a bill introduced to reduce the excise tax from 15 percent to 11 percent, all in an effort to help promote more legalized cannabis in the marketplace. Mr. Harvey cautioned that while lowered state taxes are good and likely necessary to help vitality of the legitimate market, legislative efforts to lower taxes could be redirected toward local governments in the near future to help prop a fledgling industry.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 3, Sheraton Park Hotel, 1855 S Harbor Blvd, Anaheim