



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, June 9, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Wanda Williams (Chair); Jacque Casillas (Vice Chair); Adele Andrade Stadler; Ruben Chavez; Sara Cowell; Marta Cruz; Christine Engel; Lucy Garcia; Peter Garcia; Debra Garnes; Martin Herrera; Jay Ingram; Dan Kalmick; Alison Kerr; Eric Knight; Lydia Kou; Rich Lozano; Gloria Ma'ae; Mike McCliman; Peggy McQuaid; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Mark Nagales; Kim Nguyen; Maria Nunez; Jason Nutt; Ariel Pe; Michael Ponce; Todd Rigby; Nat Rojanasathira; David Ruderman; Amanda Saltray; David Shapiro; Michael Smith; Elizabeth Talbot; Holly Tillman; Bill Uphoff; Wanda Williams; Frank Yokoyama; Brianne Zorn

League Partners: Kevin McKusker

Staff: Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist, ccirrincione@calcities.org

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, and Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO, welcomed everyone to the third policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. They explained that the policy committee process is central to Cal Cities advocacy, ensuring it is member-driven and represents the interests of cities across California. They thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Williams, and Vice Chair Casillas, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Williams 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 Document, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

IV. Parks and Open Space Presentation

Cindy Bagley, Director of Community Services for the City of Rohnert Park and advocacy chair for the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS), presented to the committee on how parks and recreation departments across the state responded to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. She explained that residents re-engaged with parks, trails, and open spaces and that

cities took advantage of this captive audience. This included creative new activities such as local scavenger hunts and wellness checks for seniors, as well as new cleaning protocols for playgrounds and re-thinking youth sports activities. Ms. Bagley also discussed legislative priorities for CPRS, such as [AB 1737 \(Holden\)](#) related to children's camps. After her presentation, committee members discussed how their cities responded to the pandemic and asked questions related to park programming.

V. Fire Safety Councils Presentation

Brian Young, Fire Chief, City of Corona, presented on Fire Safe Councils. He explained that wildfires are an enduring threat in California and that Fire Safe Councils can be tools for local governments to prepare their residents. Specifically, there are 150 Fire Safe Councils statewide, and they operate as grassroots, community-led organizations that mobilize residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfires. Chief Young explained the City of Corona's process in setting up their Fire Safe Council, critical stakeholders in that process, lessons learned, and next steps. Following Chief Young's presentation, committee members asked for recommendations to increase community engagement in disaster preparedness and inquired about the role of utility companies as stakeholders in Fire Safe Councils.

VI. Disaster Preparedness: Access and Functional Needs Presentation

Vance Taylor, Chief, Office of the Access and Functional Needs for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, presented to the committee on the Office's work and resources available to local governments to integrate accessibility into emergency preparedness planning, response, and recovery. Mr. Taylor provided insights into his experience visiting sheltering facilities and how the lack of attention to accessibility impacted the individuals staying there. He explained that shelters need to be equipped with the assets and resources necessary to ensure the needs of individuals with access and functional needs are met in a timely and inclusive manner. Mr. Taylor explained that there is a repository of resources for local governments on the Office of the Access and Functional Needs [website](#). He offered to work collaboratively with cities to review their emergency plans with a focus on accessibility. The committee thanked Mr. Taylor for his presentation and discussed thoughtful preparedness measures for language access, access to electricity for medical needs, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, and more.

VII. Legislative and Budget Update

Cal Cities staff started with a budget update, providing an overview of community services related funding allocations included in the Governor's [May Revision](#). Staff then provided an update on the bills with positions in the community services portfolio and informed the committee that the Cal Cities Board of Directors approved the behavioral health policy statement considered at the previous meeting. These measures included issues related to children's camps, early learning, seniors and aging, homelessness, outdoor access, disaster preparedness, and more. Cal Cities CS position bills can be found [here](#).

VIII. Creative Approaches to Outdoor Access Discussion

Chair Williams provided an open forum opportunity for committee members to share what actions their city took during the COVID-19 pandemic to create opportunities for access to open space. The committee discussed various creative approaches and emphasized how important it was for cities to be proactive and embrace a can-do approach to providing outdoor activities during the pandemic.

IX. Adjourn

Chair Williams thanked the committee for their hard work this year and said some closing remarks. Chair Williams then adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Staff will notify committee members after July 15 if the policy committee will need to meet prior to the Annual Conference to consider a resolution. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Desmond, Cal Cities Associate Manager, Legislative Administration.