

**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, April 16, 2021

Zoom

[Policy Committee Slides](#)

ATTENDANCE

Members: Kevin Bash (Chair); Stacy Berry (Vice Chair); Ken Berkman, Stacey Berry; Edi Birsan; Jaques Casillas; Ruben Chavez; Heather Cousin; Marta Cruz; Christine Engel; Brad Farmer; Lucy Garcia; Debra Garnes; Britt Huff; Jay Ingram; Jean Josey; Alison Kerr; James Kyriaco; Henry Lo; Irais Lopez-Ortega; Peggy McQuaid; Denise Menchaca; Leticia Miguel; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Mark Nagales; Kimberley Nguyen; Maria Nunez; Thai Viet Phan; Michael Ponce; Alonso Ramirez; Karen Rarey; Todd Rigby; Matt Rinn; Nat Rojanasathira; David Ruderman; Jesse Sandoval; Stuart Schillinger; David Shapiro; Erica Stewart; Elizabeth Talbot; Bill Uphoff; Wanda Williams; Scott Wolfe; Curtis Yakimow; Frank Yokoyama

League Partners: Kristen Camuglia

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative; Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cheryl Viegas Walker, Mayor, El Centro, welcomed everyone to the April policy committee meeting and thanked members for their service to all California cities. She explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

Mayor Viegas Walker emphasized this past year has been challenging for city officials, navigating a global pandemic while managing budget shortfalls that have forced cuts to local services. However, she explained that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The supply of vaccine doses is growing, eligibility is expanding, and assistance for cities in the recently enacted American Rescue Plan is on the way.

With the legislative session in full swing, Mayor Viegas Walker stressed the role city leaders play in advancing Cal Cities advocacy efforts. She urged policy committee members to contact their lawmakers, so their voices are heard loud and clear. She 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 welcomed committee members and thanked them for their work. She applauded the efforts of city leaders in pushing their members of Congress to pass the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Coleman explained that Cal Cities is working diligently to protect cities' interests not only in the State Legislature but also as a partner in implementing the American Rescue Plan. She explained that in the coming weeks, Cal Cities will be distributing resources so cities have the tools they need to utilize this funding in their communities. She thanked committee members again for serving on the committee and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Kevin Bash, Mayor of the City of Norco and Vice Chair Stacy Berry, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Cypress, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Bash asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment, however, one committee member asked about the Master Plan on Education, which was released in December 2020.

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.

Derek Dolfie provided a broad overview of some of the many issues Cal Cities staff is working. This included the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress, wildfire funding, and proposed budget allocations.

IV. Legislative Agenda

Cal Cities staff briefed the committee on action items for consideration. The committee took the following actions:

- [AB 536 \(Rodriguez\)](#) Office of Emergency Services. Mutual Aid Gap Analysis. Mr. Dolfie provided a detailed summary of AB 536. Committee members provided comments regarding the need to include public works in the mutual aid gaps analysis. A motion was made to support as proposed to be amended to include public works officials in the gap analysis. Motion carried 41-0, 1 abstain.
- [AB 1071 \(Rodriguez\)](#) Office of Emergency Services. Tabletop Exercises. Mr. Dolfie provided a detailed summary of AB 1071. Committee members asked questions about cost to cities; inclusion of non-English speaking community members and nonprofits; add wildfires; include school districts; emphasize compatible software and communication platforms; need clarity on mandating local agency participation; include federal installations. A motion was made to support AB 1071 if amended, with the amendments of making the “shall include” to “shall invite” local governments, and to include military installations and educational entities in the measure. Motion carried 42-3, 1 abstain.

V. Legislative Update

Mr. Dolfie briefed the committee on key bills of importance to cities, and what to expect in this year’s legislative session. Mr. Dolfie outlined the legislative resources available to committee members on Cal Cities website. He also highlighted several key funding proposals and pending legislation, including: wildfire and disaster funding; AB 118, AB 1202; AB 1344; AB 1345; SB 344; SB 468. Mr. Dolfie concluded his presentation with a discussion on community services roundtables. He highlighted recent topics covered and strongly encouraged committee members to participate.

VI. Parks and Recreation Panel Discussion

Committee members participated in a panel discussion with parks and recreation staff about challenges faced keeping programs running during COVID-19, and how they are transitioning back to “normal.” The speakers included Jenni Worsham, Recreation Supervisor, City of Cypress and Michelle Anglin, Recreation and Community Services Superintendent, City of Norco; and Brian Petree, Deputy City Manager; Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, City of Norco.

Panelists discussed how to effectively reopen parks and recreation facilities with limited capacity; standup virtually sites; allow parking lot movies; transition typical events to COVID-19 safe events; and stressed the importance of networking with other cities. After the presentation, committee members asked the panel a number of questions.

After the panel concluded, Chair Bash thanked the committee and adjourned the meeting.

VII. Next Meeting: Friday, June 4, 2021, 9:00 – 12:00 pm