



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Friday, March 22, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Claudia Frometa (Chair); Tessa Rudnick (V. Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Gerry Beaudin; Steve Bird; Phil Brock; Christian Clegg; Tony Daddario; Bea Dieringer; Vince DiMaggio; Phil Dupper; Edgard Garcia; Ray Gennawey; Renee Golder; Larry Gonzalez; Susan Harvey; Lynda Johnson; Jean Josey; Mike Judge; Mark Kairis; Stan Liu; Ray Marquez; Darlene Martinez; Kevin Mensen; Mark Mezzano; Crystal Miles; Ed Miranda; Eric Nelson; Greg Park; Amy Phan West; Gaby Plascencia; Rick Robinson; Steve Sanchez; Cameron Sasai; Shannon Shaw; Marty Simonoff; Scott Smith; Michael Vargas; Jeff Wang; Dan Wright; Stephanie Youngblood

Cal Cities Partners: Tim James.

Staff: Jolena Voorhis, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist  
Zack Cefalu, Policy Analyst

**I. 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 provided a [General Briefing Update](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Frometa and Vice Chair Rudnick welcomed the committee members and introduced themselves and present Cal Cities staff. Each committee member present did self-introductions.

**III. Public Comment**

Chair Frometa asked if there was any public comment. Council Member Art Bishop spoke public comment regarding their support for AB 1772 (Ramos) which would address rising rates of theft-related offenses in the Desert Mountain Region of the state by amending Proposition 47 and reinstating felony theft with a prior.

**IV. [AB 2943 \(Zbur\)](#) – Added to Agenda by 2/3 Vote**

Council Member Bea Dierenger provided comments of the need for the Public Safety Committee to take a position on AB 2943 (Zbur). A motion was made to discuss AB 2943 (Zbur).

The committee engaged in a discussion around the pros and cons of taking several stances on the bill and how it would address the issue of retail theft.

Several questions were raised to staff regarding the status of various retail theft bills as well as the possibility of reform to Proposition 47 in 2024. After a robust

discussion, the committee voted to take no position unless specific amendments were taken by the author, which was adopted unanimously by committee.

#### **V. Organized Retail Theft**

Los Angeles Police Department Detective Sam Arnold and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Detectives Jan Wong both gave presentation on investigative methods addressing organized retail theft and their results in Los Angeles County. Detective Sam Arnold discussed the formation and operation of a law enforcement task force between LAPD, LASD, CHP, Burbank Police, Beverly Hills Police, and Torrance Police designed to coordinate organized retail theft rings. Since the inception of this task force in August 2023, there has been over 180 arrests with 180 cases filed and \$850,000 of stolen property recovered.

Detective Jan Wong from the Major Crimes Bureau within the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department also discussed a separate Organized Retail Theft Task Force within the Sheriff's Department. This Task Force conducts surveillance and undercover operations in areas of the county with high rates of retail theft incidents. Since its inception in September of 2023 the task Force has conducted over 500+ arrests and recovered over \$8,000,000 of stolen property.

#### **VI. Legislative Review**

The Policy Committee was provided a review of and took action on several bills.

##### **AB 1725 (McCarty) – Police Settlements**

Cal Cities staff, Jolena Voorhis provided an overview of the bill. A motion was made to oppose the bill which passed with a vote of 26-1.

##### **AB 2034 (Rodriguez) – Crimes: Loitering for the Purpose of Prostitution Offense**

The Mayor of Stanton, David Shawver, spoke in support of AB 2034 and how the passage of this bill could greatly assist the City of Stanton who is seeing increased rates of prostitution and human trafficking. Cal Cities staff, Jolena Voorhis provided an overview of the bill.

The committee engaged in discussions surrounding the effects of the passage of SB 357 (2022) on their cities and regions and the need to ensure ways for law enforcement to address prostitution and human trafficking without further victimizing an already victimized population.

A motion was made to support this bill, which passed with a vote of 25 -2, with 1 abstaining.

An additional motion was made to amend proposed draft Cal Cities policy on reinstating the misdemeanor offense of loitering with intent to commit prostitution with amendments to the draft policy.

Finalized Policy:

Cal Cities supports efforts to provide additional tools and language to address prostitution while avoiding re-victimizing vulnerable individuals. This could

include reinstating the misdemeanor offense of loitering with the intent to commit prostitution, as long as there are safeguards to ensure that victims can be contacted by law enforcement in a safe and appropriate way and provides access to services over incarceration when determined appropriate.

A motion was made to support the policy as amended, which passed on a 25-2 vote with one member abstaining.

**AB 2225 (Rodriguez) – Discovery: Emergency Medical Services Review Committee**

Cal Cities staff, Jolena Voorhis provided an overview of the bill. The committee had a discussion around the need emergency medical services personnel to have necessary protection, as other medical professional already has, to engage in peer review hearings without the information being used in discovery.

A motion was made to support this bill, which passed with unanimous support.

**AB 2309 (Muratsuchi) – City Attorney: State Law: Misdemeanor**

The Mayor of Manhattan Beach, Joe Franklin, spoke in support of the measure and how this would benefit the enhancement of public safety of cities like Manhattan Beach who wish to prosecute their own misdemeanor offenses. Currently, the District Attorney of Los Angeles County is not prosecuting certain misdemeanor offenses such as theft, possession of a controlled substance, trespassing, and other offenses. There are currently 10 cities, comprising 51% of the county's population that prosecute their own misdemeanors. The Mayor indicated that this bill would be narrowed to impact only Los Angeles County.

A motion was made to support this bill, which passed on a 24-3 vote. Chair Frometa thanked the committee for their hard work and provided closing remarks. Chair Frometa then adjourned the meeting.

**VII. Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Chair Frometa adjourned at 2:00 pm.

**Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, June 21, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**