



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, January 26, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Ray Marquez (Chair); Claudia Marroquin-Frometa (Vice Chair); Walt Allen; Soheila Bana; Drew Bessinger; Steve Bird; Phil Brock; Mike Calderwood; Liang Chao; Christian Clegg; Bea Dieringer; John Dumitru; Bob Dunn; Phil Dupper; Felicia Escover; Paz Gomez; Gerry Gonzalez; Susan Harvey; Jason Hedden; Gene Hernandez; Melissa Hunt; Jean Josey; Deborah Klein Lopez; Malcolm Lilienthal; Stan Liu; Brigid Martin; Kevin McNamee; LeeAnn Phillips; Dennis Michael; Crystal Miles; Lesley Milton; Javier Moreno; Ed Musgrove; Scott Nassif; Brenda Olmos; Greg Park; Karen Pinkos; Rodney Rego; Todd Rogers; Tessa Rudnick; Steve Sanchez; Salvador Solorio-Ruiz; Brian Tabatabai; Tami Trent; Teresa Vargas; Michael Vargas; Rita Xavier

Staff: Elisa Arcidiacono, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member, Artesia, welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. He explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

President Taj then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director, and CEO. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their service to their cities and Cal Cities. She 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. Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Marquez and Vice-Chair Frometa welcomed committee members and introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

Chair Marquez 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, Cal Cities staff provided a General Briefing of all policy areas, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities, as detailed below. The Advocacy team's complete analysis of the [Governor's proposed budget for](#)

[2023-24](#) and the [2023 Advocacy Priorities](#) are available on the Cal Cities' website.

- **Community Services:** The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget maintains funding for homelessness and urges the Legislature to introduce new accountability measures for local governments, included in [AB 799](#) (Luz Rivas, 2023). In 2023, Cal Cities will focus on implementing the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act, modernizing the behavioral health system, addressing the substance use crisis, including fentanyl overdoses among young Californians, and securing ongoing funding for cities to address homelessness.
 - [Caroline Cirrincione](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Environmental Quality:** The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget includes reductions in climate resiliency commitments, including programs for addressing extreme heat, community resilience, and coastal resilience. The \$180 million that Cal Cities secured in the 2022 Budget Act for the implementation of organic waste diversion (SB 1383, Lara, 2016), remains in the budget. Throughout 2023, Cal Cities will focus on implementing [SB 54](#), landmark single-use plastic legislation enacted in 2022.
 - [Nick Romo](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations:** Cal Cities is focused on modernizing the Brown Act and ensuring flexibility for local governments in hiring retired annuitants, while opposing legislation that could impact CalPERS returns, such as legislation to divestment from certain industries.
 - [Johnnie Ping](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Housing, Community, and Economic Development:** The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget reduces funding for housing programs, including the Dream For All Program, CalHome Program, and Accessory Dwelling Unit Program. Cal Cities will continue to monitor and advocate for sustainable funding for affordable housing, while also monitoring restrictions on local land use authority, changes to development fees, and potential changes to [SB 35](#) (Wiener, 2017), which requires local governments to streamline certain housing projects.
 - [Jason Rhine](#), *Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs*
- **Public Safety:** The Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget prioritizes addressing the substance use crisis with nearly \$100 million to respond to fentanyl use, while also planning to close several state prisons and related prison facilities. Cal Cities will continue to monitor issues such as initiatives to change Proposition 47, emergency medical services efficiencies, emergency preparedness/response, and behavioral health.
 - [Elisa Arcidiacono](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Revenue and Taxation:** Cal Cities is committing to preserving existing local revenue streams and bolstering local fiscal sustainability. Cal Cities is strongly opposed to the [California Business Roundtable ballot measure](#) that would restrict new or increased taxes and jeopardize local fiscal sustainability and is actively monitoring introduced legislation that would create new tax exemption programs that would reduce local tax revenues.
 - [Jessica Sankus](#), *Senior Policy and Legislative Affairs Analyst*

- **Transportation, Communications, and Public Works:** Cal Cities is working with the California Air Resources Board to draft new language for its proposed Advanced Clean Fleets regulations, local and state transportation funding, broadband expansion, and recycled water.
 - [Damon Conklin](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*

IV. Proposition 47 Panel Discussion

The committee received a presentation on Proposition 47 from Jonathan Feldman with the Police Chiefs Association and Rachel Michelin with the Retailers Association. Both entities agreed that the biggest issue revolves around a lack of accountability for repeat offenders. Presenters also emphasized the lack of incentive to engage in rehabilitative programming because there is no longer a compelling intervention point.

Conversation shifted to how cities can be helpful in making these changes. Staff restated the Cal Cities priority to address crime and its underlying causes.

V. Legislative Agenda

Cal Cities staff Caroline Cirrincione gave an update on CARE Court and other homelessness-related legislation.

The Committee then contemplated a policy statement relating to substance use. To provide context to the proposed policy statement for consideration, Cal Cities staff gave an overview of fentanyl-related bills introduced and key budget allocations included in the Governor's proposed budget.

Cal Cities staff explained that historically, Cal Cities has not engaged on issues related to substance use because of the role counties play in providing public behavioral health services. In light of this, Cal Cities lacked policy to allow staff to engage on these issues.

The committee expressed support for the proposed policy and discussed the importance of increasing interdiction efforts to stop the flow of drugs into our state and country. Following the discussion, a motion was made to approve the proposed policy, which passed unanimously and was approved by the Board of Directors at their February meeting.

The final proposed statement reads:

Substance Use

Cal Cities supports additional funding and resources to address the substance use crisis through appropriate prevention and intervention efforts, educational awareness campaigns, and increased access to life-saving overdose treatment aids such as naloxone.

VI. [Cal Cities 2023 Strategic Priorities](#)

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2023 Advocacy Priorities. Chair Marquez discussed the results of the League Leaders workshop and explained the process by which these priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2023 Action Agenda is as follows:

1. Protect and expand investments to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Secure sustainable state funding that bolsters cities' efforts to support individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. While protecting existing resources, strengthen state and local partnerships to connect individuals with the care they need through coordinated care systems that provide access to wraparound services, including mental health and substance use treatment.

2. Increase the supply and affordability of housing while retaining local decision making.

Secure long-term, sustainable funding tools for cities to jumpstart the construction of housing at all income levels and ensure cities retain flexibility to achieve local and state housing goals.

3. Improve public safety in California communities.

Pursue strategies and resources to address crime and its underlying causes. Partner with all levels of government and diverse organizations to improve community safety through prevention and early intervention programming, workforce recruitment and retention, and improved reentry services.

4. Safeguard essential local revenues and support fiscal sustainability.

Protect, increase, and modernize revenue streams for local priorities. Oppose efforts that would reduce or eliminate funding for cities, including unfunded mandates.

VII. Adoption of 2023 Work Program

To inform the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey selecting their top priorities for the committee to focus on in the coming year.

Staff provided an overview of the survey responses and proposed work program and allowed for discussion. The committee agreed the work program captured high priority issues throughout the state.

Ultimately, the committee unanimously adopted the following items as their work program:

- Addressing crime.
- Homelessness.
- Fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other substance use.

VIII. Budget Update/Legislative Outlook

Cal Cities staff began with a budget update, which provided an overview of the

Governor's proposed \$297 billion 2023-24 Budget as well as our Cal Cities budget request for the year. The proposed budget forecasts a \$22.5 billion deficit but does not assume a recession.

Lastly, Cal Cities staff provided a legislative outlook, including an overview of potential public safety-related issues and bills of interest. Cal Cities staff explained that it is early in the legislative session and that hundreds of new bills would be introduced before the February 17 bill introduction deadline. A list of the Cal Cities public safety bills can be found [here](#).

IX. Adjourn

Chair Marquez thanked the committee for their hard work and provided closing remarks. Chair Marquez then adjourned the meeting.