



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, March 16, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Ray Marquez (Chair); Claudia Marroquin-Frometa (Vice Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Soheila Bana; Drew Bessinger; Steve Bird; Jonathan Bowers; Phil Brock; Mike Calderwood; Liang Chao; Christian Clegg; John Dumitru; Bob Dunn; Jim Ellis; Goran Eriksson; Felicia Escover; Paz Gomez; Gerry Gonzalez; Susan Harvey; Melissa Hunt; Jean Josey; Mike Judge; Deborah Klein Lopez; Malcolm Lienthal; Stan Liu; Brigid Martin; Consuelo Martinez; Darlene Martinez; Brian McCarthy; Kevin McNamee; LeeAnn Phillips; Lesley Milton; Ed Musgrove; Eric Nelson; Brenda Olmos; Greg Park; John Pena; Rodney Rego; Todd Rogers; Tessa Rudnick; Steve Sanchez; Karin Schnaider; Marty Simonoff; Salvador Solorio-Ruiz; Larry Spicer; Tami Trent; Michael Vargas; Malia Vella; Rita Xavier

Cal Cities Partners: Barigye McCoy; Eric Ustacian

Staff: Elisa Arcidiacono, League of California Cities

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member, Artesia, welcomed everyone and acknowledged the importance of the work that the public safety policy committee provides to the organization and our state. 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 Joanne Genis for sharing her son's story. Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

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

II. Public Comment

Chair Marquez asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

III. General Briefing

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:** Securing ongoing funding to support cities' efforts to reduce homelessness continues to be a top priority for Cal Cities. This spring, the Legislature is hyper-focused on local "accountability" for state homelessness funding. Cal Cities is working diligently to ensure any new accountability measures do not limit local flexibility to address this critical issue. Cal Cities is also in strong support of Senator Eggman's [SB 43](#) and [SB 363](#), which would improve the state's behavioral health care system.
 - [Caroline Cirrincione](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Environmental Quality:** Cal Cities continues to promote the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the natural environment, public health, and quality of life for all residents. Cal Cities is engaging with the author and affected stakeholders of [AB 1000 \(Reyes\)](#), which would require minimum setbacks and additional requirements for logistic centers, warehouses, and related infrastructure. Cal Cities is also working with our Coastal Cities Working Group on [SB 272 \(Laird\)](#).
 - [Nick Romo](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations:** Cal Cities is sponsoring two measures that aim to modernize the Brown Act: [AB 817 \(Pacheco\)](#) and [AB 557 \(Hart\)](#); and a measure that would reform council member pay: [SB 329 \(Dodds\)](#). Cal Cities is also opposing [SB 251 \(Newman\)](#), which would limit an elected officer from employment with another elected officer with the same constituencies.
 - [Johnnie Ping](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
- **Housing, Community, and Economic Development:** Cal Cities continues to focus on our advocacy priority to increase the supply of and affordability of housing, while also maintaining local decision-making. Cal Cities opposes [SB 423 \(Wiener\)](#), which would expand SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) provisions and eliminate the January 1, 2026 sunset date.
 - [Jason Rhine](#), *Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs*
- **Public Safety:** As concerns about repeated retail theft continue to grow, Cal cities is sponsoring [AB 1708 \(Murtsuchi\)](#), which would increase accountability or repeat offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming. During the February Board meeting, the Cal Cities Board of Directors approved a resolution to address the fentanyl overdose crisis in California. Cal Cities will support bills [AB 367 \(Mainschein\)](#) and [SB 44 \(Umberg\)](#), which would have great impacts on cities' ability to mitigate the fentanyl crisis.
 - [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 sponsoring [AB 972 \(Maienschein\)](#), which would streamline the state grant application process for local governments so every



- community has the same opportunity to compete for funding. Cal Cities continues to strongly oppose 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.
- [Ben Triffo](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*
 - **Transportation, Communications, and Public Works:** Cal Cities is working with the Office of Broadband and digital Literacy within the California Department of Technology, to provide input towards the development of the State Digital Equity Plan to promote the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool for organizations throughout the state. Cal Cities is co-sponsoring [AB 400 \(Rubio\)](#) and [SB 706 \(Caballero\)](#). These measures are both related to the expanded use of design build and progressive design build delivery methods for public works projects.
 - [Damon Conklin](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*

IV. **Impacts of Fentanyl**

Joanne Genis, Community Member invited by Chair Marquez, spoke of the fentanyl crisis and its impacts on family members.

V. **Sponsored Fentanyl Legislation - City of San Diego**

Adrian Granda, Director, Department of Government Affairs, Office of San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria presented on AB 367 (Maienschein) and SB 44 (Umberg), both related to addressing the fentanyl crisis and both being sponsored by Mayor Todd Gloria.

The committee discussed supporting these measures and next steps. Cities shared community-based responses to addressing this growing concern and expressed support for increased education regarding substance use and overdose reversal resources. Concern was expressed regarding county jail populations and capacity in relation to increased accountability.

VI. **Substance Use Discussion**

Sam Quinones, Author, "The Least of Us, True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth" and "Dreamland, The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic" discussed supply creating demand in the proliferation of drugs. Quinones discussed fentanyl and meth and the population and culture feeding them both and how jail sentencing can be an important intervention point in preventing an escalation of crimes.

VII. **Legislative Update**

Cal Cities staff Elisa Arcidiacono provided a legislative update.

VIII. Legislative Action

AB 15 (Dixon): Public Records: Parole Calculations and Inmate Release Credits.

Cal Cities staff, Elisa Arcidiacono, provided bill overview.

Committee discussed importance of the bill in increasing transparency.
Concerns were expressed regarding privacy and safety.

Motion was brought forward to support the measure and was approved.
Vote: 29-2, Abstain: Ling-Fang

IX. Adjourn

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 22, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Pomona (in-person)