



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Friday, February 11, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Pippin Dew (Chair); Ray Marquez (V.Chair); Roger Aceves; Walt Allen; Robert Amparano; Jan Arbuckle; Darlene Barber-Martinez; Drew Bessinger; Steve Bird; Dan Buckshi; Peter Castro; Chris Catren; Justin Cummings; Lara Delaney; Bea Dieringer; Bob Dunn; Phill Dupper; Felicia Escover; Iris Espino; Claudia Frometa; Bob Frutos; Carlos Gomez; Gerry Gonzalez; Susan Harvey; Jason Hedden; Laura Hernandez; Gene Hernandez; Steve Hofbauer; Peggy Huang; Melissa Hunt; Mike Judge; Andrea Marr; Brigid Martin; Consuelo Martinez; Yvonne Martinez Beltran; LeeAnn McPhillips; Peggy McQuaid; Dan Mintz; Javier Moreno; Sonya Morrison; Greg Park; John Pena; Karen Pinkos; Gabriela Plascencia; Karen Rarey; Gracie Retamoza; Ernie Reyna; Tessa Rudnick; Karin Schnaider; Martin Serna; Scott Smith; Dan Stefano; Fred Strong; Glenn Sylvester; Jim Thomas; Mario Trujillo; Michael Vargas; Alan Wapner; Bob Whalen

League Partners: Lisa Holmes

Staff: Elisa Arcidiacono, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year 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.

President Silva explained that while policy discussions can be lively and members may not always agree, Cal Cities derives its strength as a member-driven organization from this deliberative debate and recommendation process.

President Silva 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 Pippin Dew and Vice Chair Ray Marquez welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Pippin Dew 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. **Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

Cal Cities staff explained the importance of the guiding principles. This document contains Cal Cities policies that reflect positions taken by the policy committee and the Cal Cities Board of Directors and is used as a reference tool for Cal Cities staff when reviewing legislation. Members were directed to their agenda packet to review proposed changes to the document.

Ultimately, a motion was made to approve the Existing Policy and Guiding Principles document, which passed.

V. **Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda**

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda. Cal Cities staff discussed the virtual League Leaders workshop and explained the process by which these priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda is as follows:

- 1. Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and reform state housing laws to retain local authority.** Secure adequate and sustainable funding for cities to increase construction of housing at all income levels, particularly affordable housing and workforce housing. Reform state housing laws to ensure cities retain local decision-making to meet the needs of their communities.
- 2. Attain investments to strengthen and sustain critical infrastructure.** Advocate for policies that strengthen the conditions of local streets, highways, bridges, public transit, and broadband to improve workforce and economic development. Secure support for the modernization and expansion of the statewide water grid, including infrastructure, storage, and conveyance. Work with stakeholders to provide cities with access to the tools needed to ensure projects are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively to meet current and future needs.
- 3. Secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.** Secure additional ongoing, flexible resources to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. Enhance city and county coordination and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure adequate wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk

of, or already experiencing, homelessness in our communities, and effectively address mental health and substance use disorders.

- 4. Strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery from climate change impacts through improved collaboration and resources.** Secure additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and sea level rise. Promote collaboration with other city, state, and federal governments, to strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

VI. Adoption of 2022 Work Program

Ultimately, a motion was made and passed to adopt the following work program for 2022:

- Support legislative solutions to address the statewide increases in property crimes and crimes against persons.
- Support policies promoting officer safety and accountability as well as recruitment and retention efforts for staffing local agencies.
- Support policies that increase communication and community trust and promote appropriate policing alternatives and resources to build and support community-based systems of care.
- Support policies that deter criminal activity and end cycles of recidivism.
- Support additional tools and resources to address critical community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, cyber security issues, and bridging reentry for previously incarcerated individuals.
- Support legislative solutions and advocacy to support fire, rescue, emergency medical services, and emergency management.

VII. Legislative Agenda

Elisa Arcidiacono presented the committee with AB 1597 (Waldron), which would prescribe county jail time upon the fourth conviction of a theft offense.

Members discussed the implications of enforcement given the limited capacity within the county jails as well as the impacts on recidivism without appropriate resources to improve the quality of life for community members. Members then discussed the viability of the measure and the intent of sending a message to Sacramento regarding the need to address repeat offenders.

A motion was brought forward to support the measure and then a substitute motion to watch. Chair Dew called for a vote on the substitute motion first. The committee approved the substitute motion to maintain a watch position 29-23.

Ms. Arcidiacono then presented the committee with AB 1599 (Kiley), which would repeal all provision of Proposition 47, except for those relating to cannabis.

Following some conversation, a motion was brought forward to maintain a watch position and then a substitute motion to support. Chair Dew called for a vote on the substitute motion first. The committee approved the substitute motion to support this measure 36-14.

Ms. Arcidiacono then presented the committee with AB 1603 (Salas), which would reduce the threshold amount for petty theft and shoplifting from \$950 to \$400.

Following some conversation, a motion was brought forward to maintain a watch position and then a substitute motion to oppose. Chair Dew called for a vote on the substitute motion first, which failed 36-14. The committee then approved the original motion to maintain watch position 42-9.

VIII. Legislative and Budget Update

Ms. Arcidiacono presented the committee with the most recent list of bills introduced pertaining to the issues of catalytic converter theft, organized retail theft, organized package theft, and Governor Newsom's proposed budget.

Thomas Abt, Senior Fellow with the Council on Criminal Justice and Captain Jason Potts with the City of Vallejo Police Department presented their working group's findings regarding essential actions cities can take to reduce violence now.

IX. Adjourn

Chair Dew thanked the committee for their hard work this year, made some closing remarks, and adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, April 29, at 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.