



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
March 21, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Holly Tillman (Chair); Rachel Hernandez (V. Chair); Debbie Baker; James Boito; Jennifer Bullard; Kelly Chastain; Sara Cowell; Ken Domer; Christine Engel; John Erickson; Jennifer Fisk-Becker; Eddie Flores; Kelly Fujio; Jose Garcia; Debra Garnes; Greg Gomez; Jay Ingram; Benjamin Jones; Jenny Knisley; Larry Koman; Lynette Lee Eng; Malcolm Lillenthal; Janice Lim; Jessica Lobedan; Octavio Martinez; Lisa Murphy; Sharona Nazarian; Maria Nunez; Lori Ogorchock; Ariel Pe; Pa'tanisha Pierson; Kashef Qaadri; Todd Rigby; Christina Rudsell; Terry Sayre; Michelle Shoresman; Alysson Snow; Joshua Sweeney; Tamala Takahashi; Holly Tillman; Bill Uphoff; Clint Weirick; Anissa Williams

Cal Cities Partners: Jordan Chriss

Staff: Caroline Grinder, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist  
Zack Cefalu, Legislative Affairs 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 Tillman and Vice Chair Hernandez welcomed the committee members and introduced themselves, and present Cal Cities staff.

**III. Public Comment**

Chair Tillman opened the meeting up for public comment. However, there was no public comment given.

**IV. City of Burbank: Responding to Homelessness**

The City of Burbank presented on the City of Burbank's response to homelessness. The three presenters spoke on Burbank's history of homelessness and how they previously dealt with the issue. The City of Burbank began to hold internal meetings focusing on obtaining grants for community development and how to coordinate efforts between departments to address homelessness in the city. The city added outreach services, such as StreetPlus, to provide services in the city, focusing especially on Downtown Burbank.

The presenters also provided an overview of Burbank's current services. The city constructed "The Safe," which includes safe storage places and showers, with plans to create emergency shelters on-site. The city currently offers an array of

services and plans to expand or create new services to address homelessness in the city by connecting people with shelter, financial assistance, housing vouchers, and access to financial education. Presenters stressed the need for a secured and continuous line of funding for services to ensure success in outreach.

**V. USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute Presentation**

Presenters Saba Mwine-Chang, the Managing Director of the Homelessness Policy Research Institute and Benjamin Henwood, Professor of Social Policy and Health at the University of Southern California, spoke on the USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute (HPRI) research. The HPRI advocates for evidence-based practices to alleviate homelessness, such as permanent supportive housing and a housing-first approach.

HPRI has conducted research on the effect of universal basic income on reducing homelessness, in which 103 people were randomly selected to receive \$750 a month for a year. The results found that of those 103 people, 27% exited homelessness altogether, which is twice the rate of those on waitlists for services.

HPRI also led a discussion on the myths perpetuated about homelessness. The presenters discussed how homelessness has its roots in systemic issues dating back hundreds of years. They argued that the current situation of homelessness cannot be considered only a present-day issue but an issue that has been impacted by centuries of inequality.

**VI. Legislative Agenda**

The Policy Committee was provided an overview and took action on the following bill:

**[SB 1011 \(Jones\): Encampments: Penalties](#)**

Cal Cities staff, Caroline Grinder, provided an overview of the bill.

This bill would establish a statewide camping ban, prohibiting a person from lying, sleeping, or placing personal property in a public place if a homeless shelter is available. The bill would impose that failure to comply could result in a public nuisance violation or even misdemeanor charges. Individuals must be given notice at least 72 hours beforehand to allow for compliance before any legal action is taken.

The committee engaged in a discussion about the efficacy of enforcing a statewide public camping ban, how this bill would prioritize connection with housing services for those who are homeless, and what the penalties for refusing services would be. Several members commented that this legislation could provide an ordinance template to serve as a floor of enforcement on public camping in California.

A motion was made to take a “watch” position on this bill and discuss new Cal Cities policy in the June Policy Committee meeting after the Supreme Court's decision is released. This motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Budget and Legislative Update**

Caroline provided committee members with an overview of the Governor's proposed \$291.5 billion budget. This budget does not include redirection of city funds to address state budget shortfalls, draws upon \$13.1 billion in reserves, and projects a \$38 billion deficit. In response, the Senate has put forth an early action plan that reduces the budget deficit by \$17.1 billion by doing the following:

- \$3.2 billion in delays;
- \$2.1 billion in deferrals;
- \$3.4 billion in program reductions;
- \$4.7 billion in revenue/borrowing; and
- \$3.9 billion in fund shifts.

Caroline then provided a brief overview of the bills she is sponsoring this session, including:

- [AB 2081](#) (Davies) Substance abuse: recovery and treatment programs.
- [AB 2121](#) (Dixon) Substance use disorder treatment: licensing.
- [AB 2574](#) (Valencia) Alcoholism or drug abuse recovery or treatment facilities.
- [SB 913](#) (Umberg) Substance use disorder treatment: facilities.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

**Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, June 20, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**