



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Friday, January 19, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Claudia Frometa (Chair); Walt Allen; Robert Amparano; Jan Arbuckle; Gerry Beaudin; Steve Bird; Mike Calderwood; Christian Clegg; Tony Daddario; Bea Dieringer; Phil Dupper; Jim Ellis; Ray Gennawey; Rene Golder; Larry Gonzalez; Gerry Gonzalez; Susan Harvey; Jean Josey; Mike Judge; Mark Kairis; Stan Liu; Michael MacDonald; Ray Marquez; Briid Martin; Darlene Martinez; Brian McCarthy; Kevin Mensen; Mark Mezzano; Crystal Miles; Ed Miranda; Scott Nassif; Eric Nelson; Greg Park; Amy Phan West; Gaby Plascencia; Rick Robinson; Steve Sanchez; Cameron Sasai; Shannon Shaw; Marty Simonoff; Scott Smith; Larry Spicer; Tami Trent; Jeff Wang; Dan Wright; Rita Xavier; Stephanie Youngblood

Cal Cities Partners: Stephen Garcia; Tim James.

Staff: Jolena Voorhis, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
Betsy Montiel, Policy Analyst

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Claudia Frometa welcomed committee members and introduced themselves.

Chair Frometa introduced President Dan Parra who explained that policy committees are vitally important and emphasized the need to protect local governments.

President Dan Parra introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director. Ms. Coleman welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year, emphasized the significance of the policy committee's work, and thanked members for their service to all California cities.

Ms. Coleman said that the work of the policy committees is central to Cal Cities advocacy, which is at the heart of the organization. She thanked committee members again for serving on the committee and wished them a great meeting.

II. Public Comment

Chair Frometa 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. The Advocacy

team's complete analysis of the Governor's Budget for 2024-25 can also be found in the [General Briefing Update Document](#).

IV. Cal Cities 2024 Advocacy Priorities

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2024 Advocacy Priorities. The Cal Cities 2024 Action Agenda is as follows:

1. Safeguard local revenues and bolster local economic development.
2. Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.
3. Improve public safety in California communities.
4. Expand investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.

V. Update to Existing Policy and Guiding Principles

Staff reviewed the proposed changes to the public safety section of the existing guidelines which are as follows:

The Committee approved these changes on a 38-1 vote with one abstention.

- Formal adoption of the policy on substance use disorder and fentanyl as approved by this Policy Committee and the Board in 2023.
- Removal of outdated policy on violence, but retain the existing policy related to gang violence which is proposed to be moved to the public safety section.

The Committee voted to approve these changes on a 38-1 vote with one abstaining.

VI. Retail Theft Panel Discussion

The committee received a presentation on retail theft 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 including drug courts. Also noted was the coalition recently formed with several business, local government, labor organizations which will all be working together to make changes to Proposition 47 and review legislation regarding retail theft.

There were several questions from members of the Committee regarding the possibility of making headway this year. The panelists provided more detail on some of the reforms needed and that as partners with Cal Cities we needed to advocate for fixes to Proposition 47 and focus on repeat offenders as the top priority. CRA also wanted to focus on fixing the organized retail theft statute and repealing the sunset date.

VII. Adoption of 2024 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 for the 2024 work program:

- Addressing crime.
- Retail theft, organized retail theft and shoplifting.
- 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 2024-25 Budget Proposal, which includes a proposed \$291.5 billion. The proposed budget forecasts a \$38 billion deficit and does not assume a recession.

Cal Cities budget request called on the state to honor funding commitments made to cities in the prior year's budget, create a permanent dedicated funding stream of \$3 billion annually to address homelessness and construct more affordable housing, and safeguard local revenue. For more information see the [Cal Cities Budget Letter](#).

Cal Cities staff provided a legislative outlook, including an overview of potential public safety-related issues and bills of interests, including updates on [AB 742](#) (Jackson) and [SB 719](#) (Becker).

A list of the Cal Cities public safety bills can be found [here](#).

[AB 797](#) (Weber) – Action Item

Staff provided an overview of the bill and its impact on cities. Several members of the committee wanted to oppose the bill, even though it was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on January 19, 2024. Members expressed concern over the new mandate and believed the bill was unnecessary.

The Committee recommended to the Board that Cal Cities oppose AB 797 on a 32-2 vote with 4 members abstaining.

[AB 1725](#) (McCarty) – Action Item

This bill would require local government to post police settlements on their websites every year.

After a brief discussion, the Committee voted to not take a position until the March policy committee meeting on a 32-2 vote with one member abstaining.

Other Issues

Members requested additional information on the SB 357 (Wiener) reform issue and staff provided a more detailed description of the concerns and potential legislation.

One member asked about the Cal Cities policy on card rooms and asked that it be discussed at a future committee meeting.

One member also asked if other cities were experiencing protests regarding building a new policy headquarters. Jan Arbuckle indicated that this also happened in her city.

IX. Adjourn

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

Next Meeting: In Person, Friday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank