

TO: City Council

FROM: Bob Engler, Mayor and Kevin McNamee, Councilmember

DATE: September 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Update on League of California Cities Annual Conference,
September 7-9, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No Additional Funding Requested. Cost for City Council attendance and administrative tasks are included in the Adopted FY 2022-23 General Fund Budget.

BACKGROUND:

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) is an association of California city officials who work together to enhance their knowledge and skills, exchange information, and combine resources so they may influence policy decisions that affect cities.

Founded in 1898 on the principles of local control and interagency cooperation, Cal Cities has grown from a handful of public officials to include the voluntary membership of 482 California cities. Today, Cal Cities and its member cities are working hard to strengthen the effectiveness of their advocacy efforts. Cal Cities mission statement reflects this commitment to “expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The 2022 Cal Cities annual conference was a live event at the Long Beach Convention Center. The conference occurred on September 7-9, 2022. The annual conference provided training opportunities, workshops, and networking for

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local elected officials and staff. Mayor Bob Engler, Councilmember Kevin McNamee, and several staff members attended the conference.

General Session Presentations:

1. Opening General Session

Cal Cities President Cindy Silva – Mayor Pro Tem, City of Walnut Creek welcomed conference delegates and provided an overview of conference events. Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia welcomed delegates to the second largest seaport community in the State.

Cal Cities CEO and Executive Director Carolyn Coleman presented the State of Cal Cities Annual Report: Although cities are still recovering from the pandemic, they are facing new challenges including a recession, inflation, and extreme heat. Cities are also adapting to new state demands on housing, streets and roads, and organic waste recycling. Cal Cities is fiscally healthy. This year over 30 online learning sessions and a new speaker's series were offered. The organization achieved its highest membership level of 479 cities. Cal Cities reviewed and advocated for 1,400 bills. This year, they launched an enterprise program called Cal Class for investment needs. Next year, the board of directors with the Housing Policy Committee will work to add a potential ballot measure to reform state housing law.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Cal Cities Past President Sadelia Sandler. She started her public service as a City of El Centro Councilmember 27 years ago. She continued on to serve as a member of the CA Commission on Aging, Cal Cities Board of Directors, National League of Cities Board of Directors, National Black Caucus, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

2. Second General Session

Ali Sajjad Taj, Cal Cities First Vice President, welcomed delegates to the second day of the conference. He welcomed National League of Cities (NLC) President Vice Williams, Mayor of Union City, GA. President Williams reviewed the accomplishments of the NLC during the pandemic. NLC lobbied the White House and Congress. Their efforts resulted in \$65 billion in American Rescue Plan funding with direct allocations to cities. NLC also worked with the White House to pass the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help cities repair and build their aging infrastructure. NLC is hosting a local infrastructure hub and a grant bootcamp to help small and medium sized cities compete for infrastructure grants. Lastly, he reminded delegates to attend the NLC's 2022 City Summit Conference in November.

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Beacon Awards for efforts in supporting greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability were presented to the Cities of Palmdale, Sacramento, Los Altos, South San Francisco, Piedmont, Rancho Cucamonga, and Maywood.

Cities for Workforce Health Awards and \$5,000 grants were bestowed upon the Cities of Azusa, Tracy, Salinas, Tulare, and Santa Barbara.

Helen Putnam Awards were presented to member cities for their achievements in specific initiatives:

City of Buellton, Economic Development Through the Arts
City of Eureka, Community Services and Economic Development
City of Gonzales, Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government
City of Laguna Niguel, Public Safety
City of Lakewood, Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement
City of Modesto, Internal Administration
City of Montebello, Health and Wellness Programs
Town of Paradise, Planning and Environmental Quality
City of Pismo Beach, Public Works, Infrastructure, Transportation
City of Placentia, League Partners Award for Excellence in City-Business Relations
City of Redondo Beach, Housing Programs and Innovations

Antonio Villaraigosa, newly appointed CA Infrastructure Advisor, addressed the delegates. California is expected to gain \$100 billion in infrastructure investments from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Half will be “passed through” to the State, while another \$50 billion will be available in eligible grant funds. As the CA Infrastructure Advisor, he will ease permitting times. Regional projects are the State’s priority. Special consideration will be given to projects that support helps reduce GHG and creates jobs. He will seek input from cities and create transparency and dashboards.

Keynote Speakers:

1. Jill Ellis, Head Coach for World Cup winning U.S. Women’s Soccer team, spoke on the theme “We Can’t Do It Alone: Leading with Courage.” She shared stories on her success as coach and lessons learned as a woman. When she began her career, she chose “passion over paycheck.” She shared that coaching helps people realize dreams. Leadership is a form of empowering people and helping them grow. Her daily mantra is “one day better.” Success is an aggregation of marginal gains. She recommends that we should surround ourselves with people better than you. It is important to lead with truthfulness and empathy, while building a connection. In her new role as General Manager for San Diego Wave FC, a professional soccer team in San Diego, she has developed a new mentoring program for the next generation, especially for young women.

2. Dr. Lande Ajose, Vice President, Walter and Esther Hewlett Chair for Understanding California's Future, and Senior Fellow of the Public Policy Institute of California, shared her perspectives on "The Future of California." Dr. Ajose posed the question, "Is the California dream dying considering the cost of living, wildfires, climate, and economy?" She shared data, trends and long-term challenges that must be addressed to keep the California dream alive. Although the population is decreasing, so are birthrates. Immigration is also declining. California is now a majority minority state. The State needs to look at marginalized communities and population who are at risk for not being able to survive the cost of living and climate impacts. Most of the people leaving the state do not have the education needed to maintain a job that pays enough to survive. This past recession it took only two years to recover. Unfortunately, job losses were greater for those who did not have education. Bolstering the educational system and providing greater access to education will help those remain viable in the state and support equitable recovery.

Conference Breakout Sessions Attended:

- Land Use, CEQA and Affordable Housing Covenants
- Fire Chief's Department Meeting
- Ending Poverty in California Cities
- Going Green by 2025: Implementing SB 1382
- Cannabis and Economic Development
- EV Infrastructure at No Cost: Can't Get Better Than That
- An Essential Breakdown for Development Impact Fees
- CalPERS: Continuing on the Path to Sustainable Pensions
- Five Steps to Take Before Applying for Federal Infrastructure Funding
- Fixing Prop 47
- Lessons Learned from the Most Destructive Fires in California History
- On-street Dining Risks: Managing Tensions between Safety and Supporting Businesses
- Creative Solutions to Reduce Homelessness

Election of New Officers

2023 Cal Cities officers were installed and provided both outgoing and inaugural comments:

Board President - Ali Sajjad Taj, Councilmember - City of Artesia

First Vice President - Dan Parra, Councilmember - City of Fowler

Second Vice President - Lisa Middleton, Mayor - City of Palm Springs

Immediate Past President - Cindy Silva, Councilmember - City of Walnut Creek

Newly elected Board President Taj provided his remarks as incoming chair.

General Assembly - Conference Resolutions

The following bylaw changes and resolutions were discussed at the General Assembly/Annual Business meeting. Mayor Engler represented the City as the voting delegate.

A. Bylaw Amendments:

1. Formalize oversight of the Resolutions Committee by establishing the Second Vice President as the chair of the committee, while retaining the President's authority to appoint the vice chair of the committee.
2. To ensure a more inclusive Nominating Committee, add one committee member appointed from among the Caucus Directors and one additional committee member appointed from among the At-Large Directors for a total of 13 committee members.

In addition to those recommendations identified by the Governance Committee and approved by the Board, Cal Cities staff identified various non-substantive revisions to the Cal Cities bylaws:

1. Clarify that, unless the Board establishes otherwise, the Cal Cities President appoints the chair of Board-established committees.
2. To avoid confusion and clarify organizational responsibilities, remove "Treasurer" from the title of the Second Vice President.
3. To promote consistency, replace the term "Board member(s)" with "Director(s)."

The amendments passed with the required two-thirds vote.

B. Resolution Introduced 'By Petition'

1. Resolution of the League of California Cities to Support a Ballot Measure to Strengthen Local Planning Authority.

The resolution passed with referral to the 2023 Housing and Community Development Policy Committee for further study.

COUNCIL GOAL COMPLIANCE:

Meets the following City Council goal:

- B. Provide municipal government leadership which is open and responsive to residents, and is characterized by ethical behavior, stability, promoting public trust,

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transparency, confidence in the future, and cooperative interaction among civic leaders, residents, business representatives, and staff, while recognizing and respecting legitimate differences of opinion on critical issues facing the City.

PREPARED BY: Mina Layba, Legislative Affairs Manager

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