

**Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting  
May 23, 2019**

**Members Present:** Council Member Charlie Richardson, Chair, Council Member Marsha Berzins, Vice-Chair, and Council Member Crystal Murillo, Member

**Others Present:** Brad Pierce, Dianna Pena Khribeche, Julie Patterson, Kathy Kitzmann, Lee Ann Morning, Liia Koiv-Haus, Mathew La Crue, Michael Crews, Minsoo Song, Nancy Rogers, Natalia Campbell, Porter Ingram

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 26, 2019 MEETING :**

April 26, 2019 minutes were approved as written.

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**2. CONSENT ITEMS: None**

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**3. STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION BILL REVIEW:**

Matt La Crue, the city's contract lobbyist, provided the committee with a summary of the 2019 End of Legislative Session report. M. La Crue noted that one of the last bills introduced in the legislature was SB19-263 which will delay a ballot question on transportation funding from 2019, as promised in SB18-001, to 2020. Per M. La Crue, there have been no major changes since the end of session and the Governor is in the process of signing legislation. Interim committee schedules are in the process of being finalized and committees are expected to start in July and run through late fall. CM Richardson asked to be made aware if the Governor appoints a blue ribbon commission.

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**4. AURORA WATER STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Kathy Kitzmann, Water Resources Principal with Aurora Water, provided the Committee with an update on the Department's legislative activities. Per K. Kitzmann, Aurora Water monitored 52 bills during the legislative session. K. Kitzmann indicated that this was a mild session with no actively support and actively oppose bills. The Department was tracking 2 bills which failed related to instream flows. Interim committees will be working on the issue and will likely introduce legislation to address concerns around instream flows. HB19-1327, which will be on the ballot this November would authorize sports betting in the state. Revenue from the bill will fund the state water plan and the Department was supportive if asked on the bill.

CM Berzins asked if the sports betting bill excludes Arapahoe Park. M. La Crue explained if the sports betting bill is approved by voters, it will be located in the mountain casino towns. M. Crews stated that there is still the online component but there is no clear link between off-track sports betting and online betting.

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CM Berzins suggested working on messaging on the rules of fireworks. Julie Patterson stated that the Communications department along with AFD will work on messaging.

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**5. CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Diana Pena Khribeche introduced herself as the City of Aurora's Census Coordinator and introduced Lee Ann Morning, Partnership Specialist with U.S. Census Bureau.

D. Pena Khribeche stated that Census day is April 1, 2020, and the city and Census Bureau are focusing on hard to count communities across the city. Per D. Pena Khribeche, in the 2010 census, 15,000 kids in Colorado were not counted and this brings out the point that we need to make sure that everyone is counted. The city's Complete Count Committee kick off and 2-hour training by L. Morning is scheduled on July 19, 2019.

CM Berzins asked about the pay scale of Census positions. D. Pena Khribeche answered that there are different levels of positions and the pay varies. People can apply through USAJobs or through the census office in Aurora. Requirements for Census positions include that the applicant is a U.S. citizen who is at least 18 years old.

L. Morning said the pay range in the Denver Metro area is between \$16 and \$21 an hour. The Aurora Census office will be open this summer. Currently, they are hiring for the management team for the Aurora office.

R. Venegas noted that D. Pena Khribeche is one member of the city Census team, working in the Planning Department, and the Communications department has hired a person to work on communications and marketing. D. Pena Khribeche will be reaching out to community members interested in joining the city's Complete Count Committee. R. Venegas asked the Committee to make recommendations of those they thought should be on the Complete Count Committee.

CM Berzins asked if Census positions are a full-time position and D. Pena Khribeche answered yes. Some of the field jobs are more flexible for evenings and weekend. CM Richardson asked if the FSIR committee would be responsible for the Census effort and R. Venegas confirmed that it would be.

CM Murillo stated that the Census will be discussed during her Ward I Town hall meeting in August. D. Pena Khribeche stated that she or L. Morning would attend the meeting.

CM Murillo asked how we could make the Census more relevant to people's everyday life. L. Morning answered she would prefer to have meetings early on and multiple times. For areas where there is so much concern, fear, and unease, we need to get the message out from multiple sources and it will ease those concerns. L. Morning continued by addressing the citizenship question stating that a decision should be made by the end of June. We need to give out as much and as accurate information that we can to get the best count.

R. Venegas said through a various public campaign channels and through an extended period, the city is hoping to achieve complete count.

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Outcome: The Committee decided to move the presentation to Study Session for information only.

Follow-up: Staff to place this item on a future Study Session.

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**6. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**Denver Metroplex Environmental Assessment**

Porter Ingrum, Senior Planner with the Planning Department, provided the committee with a brief overview of the Denver Metroplex Draft Environmental Assessment. Per P. Ingrum, staff has been reviewing the Denver Metroplex Environmental Assessment by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and it is very technical and not accessible to the layperson. Staff did complete an analysis of the draft and the overall level of noise experienced by Aurora residents is not expected to increase as the draft is currently written.

Brad Pierce shared the concerns of Centennial Airport with the proposed BRNKO route. There is no information provided to describe the route under prevailing wind conditions. Centennial Airport's other concern is that the FAA is not following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under FAA rules, this environmental assessment should be under the NEPA guidelines but it is not. Contained within the FAA's reauthorization bill, the FAA must consider the following when conducting environmental assessments: improving community input, noise exposure studies, studies on health impact, and studies of alternative noise metrics. Since these provisions have not been implemented yet, Centennial Airport does not want the Metroplex Environmental Assessment to go forward and is asking neighboring cities to support their position.

B. Pierce is looking for Council's guidance on this matter because the public comment period ends on June 6 and he would like to know if the city would like to formally comment on the issue. CM Richardson proposed to continue observing the proceedings. CM Murillo asked to clarify that the Metroplex Environmental Assessment will not have a high negative impact on our constituents. B. Pierce confirmed that it will not have a significant impact. CM Murillo stated that giving input if there is legitimate concern is reasonable but the committee does not know what proper language for the comment would look like. The Committee asked staff to provide the draft comment and they will review it.

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**7. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 28, 2019, at 1:30 PM in the Mt. Elbert conference room.

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Approved:

  
CM Charlie Richardson  
Committee Chair

8-9-2019  
Date