

Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting

May 1, 2020

1:00 PM

WebEx Meeting

Access information provide to Internal Staff

Public Participation Dialing Instructions

Dial Access Number: 1-877-820-7831

Enter Participant Code: 254610#

Council Member Angela Lawson, Chair

Council Member Allison Hiltz, Vice Chair

Council Member Crystal Murillo, Member

Serve as leaders and partner with other governments and jurisdictions

1. Consent Items (None)
2. Federal Legislative Update - Hettinger
3. Federal Priorities Related to the Immigrant and Refugee
Community and COVID-19- Lawson
4. State Legislative Update - O'Keefe/Palmisano
5. Water Update - Kitzmann
6. Miscellaneous Matters for Consideration

Next meeting – May 15, 2020

Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
April 17, 2020
Video Conference Meeting

Members Present: Council Member Angela Lawson, Chair; Council Member Crystal Murillo, Member

Member Absent: Council Member Allison Hiltz, Vice-Chair

Others Present: Roberto Venegas, Luke Palmisano, Nancy Rodgers, Natasha Campbell, Kathy Kitzmann, Council Member Gardner, Council Member Gruber, Barbara Dahl, Totsy Rees, Council Member Berzins, Lauri Hettinger, Cammie Grant, Peggi O'Keefe.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 3, 2020 MEETING

The minutes were approved as written.

2. CONSENT ITEMS: None

3. Welcome and Introductions:

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Chair CM Angela Lawson welcomed the committee via video conference call.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

4. Federal Legislative Update:

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Laurie Hettinger, federal lobbyist, gave an update on what is happening in Washington DC. Congress is still in recess, they were supposed to come back on Monday. The earliest they will reconvene back in session is May 4, but more realistically they will come back around Memorial Day. This is challenging because Congress does not have a way to vote remotely. Any legislation they pass has to be done unanimously. Right now Congress is considering a 4th Emergency Relief Coronavirus bill. The priorities laid out in this bill by Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer is \$150 billion for the coronavirus relief fund. This program is dedicated to states and municipalities for funds from HUD and to mitigate any losses from dealing with the pandemic. The challenge with how the bill is currently drafted is that there are few municipalities and counties that are over the 500,000 population. The only city in Colorado that qualifies for the funding is the city of Denver. The mayor sent a letter earlier this week to the

delegation, thanking congress for creating this new program but also said that as additional funds go into the program to make sure cities with population less than 500,000 will be eligible to benefit from the program. Both the House and the Senate have introduced bipartisan bills to address this very issue and there is hope that this issue will get worked out. The Democratic leadership has also drafted legislation asking for \$250 billion in additional funds for small businesses and an additional \$150 billion for hospitals and medical centers for more rapid testing and funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The final item they are asking for is an increase in the maximum Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit. Congress is now working on CARES Act part 2 which will provide more money which could potentially cover housing assistance, tax credits and first responder funding. After that they would like to focus on an infrastructure stimulus bill.

The letter that went out to the delegation from the Mayor regarding the city's priorities was very well received. L. Hettinger is working on setting up some phone calls with the Mayor and the delegation as well to discuss the city's priorities.

CM Angela Lawson asked if Congress is not going to reconvene until Memorial Day how is that going to work with all the pending COVID-19 bills? She states that there are a lot of needs that the city has including more small business assistance so how can we as a city continue to convey the importance to Congress that something needs to be done so money can get to the city. L. Hettinger said the next bill will get more money in to the PPP small business program. There is no contention over that bill it will most likely pass. The disagreements of the Coronavirus Relief Fund at that Democrats are asking for more money for healthcare that would go to municipalities and the states. Sen. McConnell is staying in DC and there are some Democratic senators who live close by if there is an objection they can come in. Speaker Pelosi is going back and forth to DC quite often and also has representatives who live near by who can come in to object if necessary. Congress is in recess but they are still technically in session and bills are being passed. L. Hettinger said that another way that council can help with advocacy of bills being considered by Congress is by using their contacts in the different national committees they are members of, such as National League of Cities.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

5. State Legislative Update:

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Peggi O'Keefe, state lobbyist, gave an update on the state legislature's recess which has been on adjournment due to the coronavirus. The Supreme Court gave the General Assembly back its lost time from being on recess due to the coronavirus outbreak. The state legislature will be focused on priority issues such as the state budget, school finance, a series of sunset bills and bills dealing with COVID-19 and workforce creation. There is still some discussion if they are going to only focus on priority bills or try to address the 450 bills that are still out there and if they are they going to stay focused on bipartisan legislation. They are scheduled to go back into session on May 18. It is not positive if that date will stick. In the mean time the joint budget committee is working on finalizing the budget as much as they can.

CM Lawson asked for an update of the budget shortfall. P. O’Keefe said they have not come back with another analysis yet. There should be an update before they go back on May 18. At this point the shortfall looks to be between \$2 and \$3 billion.

CM Dave Gruber said that it is his understanding the county commissioners have been informed that of the \$2.23 billion that have been allocated to Colorado, the Polis administration has allocated \$560 million to city and county of Denver, along with Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson and El Paso counties. The other cities will not receive any money from the federal distribution including Aurora. Has anyone else heard about this yet? Aurora has spent a lot of money on different projects in support of COVID-19 with the expectation of some federal money in that allocation. If we receive nothing from the Governor in way of those federal funds it will leave the city in a bind. P. O’Keefe said that she had not heard anything about those funds yet. And asked that CM Gruber forward any information he might have to Luke Palmisano. CM Gruber said he does not have any official information only that the governor has notified the county commissioners. L. Palmisano said this is new to him as well but he will look into it. He also said this is the reason they have been advocating for additional money.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

6. Water Update:

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Kathy Kitzman, said Aurora Water did not have any new items to update. They are working on a legislative letter for the infrastructure stimulus bill. It should go out for approval next week. There will be a short item for the May 1st meeting.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

- 7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:** L. Palmisano said the state lobbyists would like to set up a video conference call with council members and as many of the state representatives who might be available. Would the committee members be interested in setting up such a call? CM Lawson and CM Murillo said they would be interested in the call. CM Murillo asked if it would make sense to include the county commissioners in the call. It might be helpful to have them in on the conversation. L. Palmisano said he agrees whether there are 2 calls or one larger call it would be helpful to have them included. CM Lawson said with all the information that is out there it would be great to collaborate and all be on the same page. CM Murillo said her personal preference would be to have one call with everyone but will leave it up to staff to decide. CM Lawson agreed with CM Murillo. CM Lawson asked what the time frame would be. L. Palmisano said he before the session starts back up. Maybe as soon as Friday, April 24.

Outcome: The Committee unanimously agreed to initiate video conference calls with the State Delegation and County Commissioners.

Follow-up Action: Set up video conference call with State Delegation and County Commissioners.

8. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2020, 1:00 PM via video conference call.

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

Date

April XX, 2020

The Honorable Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Bennet and Gardner:

Aurora is facing unprecedented challenges due to the emerging coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as the city strives to maintain basic levels of service for our residents. The health and economic effects of COVID-19 do not discriminate based on national origin, race, language spoken, or immigration status. In areas with a large immigrant population such as Aurora, it is crucial that key services are available widely, regardless of immigration status.

As the city works to address a growing number of critical needs, we respectfully request that future COVID-19 response legislation benefit our immigrant and refugee populations. These include:

1. **Testing and Medical Care** - Making sure that critical testing for coronavirus is available widely is an important priority for the city. We respectfully request that states be given the option to provide Medicaid to all individuals regardless of immigration status, including DACA recipients, TPS holders, green card holders, and undocumented individuals to ensure that they have access to testing and treatment. Further, we request that undocumented immigrants be granted access to qualified health plan (QHP) coverage for COVID-19 care and reduce or eliminate QHP premiums/cost sharing for those under 200% of the federal poverty line.
2. **Direct Cash Assistance & Unemployment** - The City of Aurora requests that you remove the provisions of the CARES Act stipulating that people who use Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) for anyone in the family are excluded from the direct cash assistance, and remove the provision that “non-resident aliens” are excluded from unemployment insurance.
3. **Health Care Workforce** – Immigrants and refugees are a critical part of the national health care infrastructure. We request Congress to create a program for at least 18 months

for current DACA recipients that participate in our nation's health care response to COVID-19.

- 4. DACA & Work Permits** – The city requests that Congress authorize an automatic extension of work permits for individuals with DACA, TPS and nonimmigrant visas for the same time period as the individual's status or work authorization. Further we request an extension of USCIS filing deadlines and an excuse of late filings.

Municipalities are at the front lines fighting this pandemic. In order for Aurora and other local governments to combat the deadly effects of COVID-19, it is crucial that Congress considers additional legislation that addresses the needs of immigrants and refugees in Aurora and cities across the state of Colorado.

Sincerely,

MEMORANDUM

TO: FSIR
FROM: LUKE PALMISANO: INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
DATE: 5/1 /2020

FSIR Action Items

Species Conservation Trust Fund Projects: SB20-201

The bill appropriates \$4 million from the species conservation trust fund for programs submitted by the executive director of the department of natural resources that are designed to conserve native species that state or federal law list as threatened or endangered or that are candidate species or are likely to become candidate species as determined by the United States fish and wildlife service. **City staff recommend an active support position.**

The bill includes \$1,900,000 in funding to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program that provides Aurora and other water users with ESA Compliance for South Platte River water supply operations.

May XX, 2020

Governor Jared Polis

200 E Colfax Ave

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

Homeless people are a high-risk population for COVID-19 because many are seniors and suffer from underlying health conditions. Cities in Colorado are taking actions to incorporate social distancing protocols into our existing emergency and interim shelters, standing up temporary shelters, and securing motels that can be used for people that will require quarantine. Despite these measures, the unique nature of the coronavirus crisis means cities must explore alternatives to the typical community sheltering approach during a disaster.

Their lives are not only at risk – the lives of all Coloradans are at risk if an outbreak spreads any further among this under-served and under-resourced population. We cannot allow our community members who can't "stay at home" during this public health crisis to disproportionately bear the burden of the COVID-19 outbreak.

As the State of Colorado considers coronavirus response legislation to support and revive the economy, the city of Aurora urges you to consider additional needs of the homeless and unhoused. These include:

1. Implementing an aggressive strategy for motel/hotel room acquisitions across the state including in rural communities where there are no shelter options.
2. Deploying national guard personnel to communities across the state to assist with de-densification efforts in current shelter environments and to staff motel/hotel spaces as they become available.
3. Providing more testing resources across the state and prioritizing those that are providing and utilizing shelter services for testing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our population of people experiencing homelessness.
4. Providing more personal protective equipment (PPE) for homelessness services providers who are in contact with thousands of individuals daily that are seeking assistance, healthcare, and shelter.
5. Immediately deploy federal resources and funding as they become available to all areas of the state to assist with the emergency needs of people experiencing homelessness.
6. Immediately identify and deploy state resources and funding that can assist people experiencing homelessness across the state.

Thank you for considering these urgent requests and for your continued leadership in helping to prevent and end homelessness in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Holland & Knight

800 17th Street, NW, Suite 1100 | Washington, DC 20006 | T 202.955.3000 | F 202.955.5564
Holland & Knight LLP | www.hklaw.com

Memorandum

Date: April 29, 2020
To: City of Aurora
From: Holland & Knight LLP

This memo provides a brief overview of services offered by cities and states for undocumented immigrants during the coronavirus pandemic:

State of California

In early March, Governor Newsom issued an [executive order](#) that California is working to ensure care in treatment for COVID-19 for its residents regardless of immigration status.

On March 18, the state released [guidance](#) for immigrant communities. This guidance assured individuals concerned about the “public charge” rule, confirming that testing, treatment, nor preventative care related to COVID-19 will be considered as a part of public charge.

On April 15, Governor Newsom [announced](#) that California’s \$75 million Disaster Relief Fund will support undocumented Californians impacted by COVID-19. This funding will assist those who are ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits and disaster relief due to their immigration status. Approximately, 150,000 undocumented adults will receive a one-time cash benefit of \$500 per adult with a cap of \$1,000 per household to deal hardships regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The state’s Disaster Relief Fund will be dispersed through a community-based model composed of regional nonprofits with a focus on serving undocumented communities.

City of San Francisco

On April 22, San Francisco Mayor London Breed released [Give2SF funding](#) for undocumented San Franciscans. The first round of funding from the Give2SF COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund was allocated to support vulnerable San Franciscans. The funding included \$5.35 million to focus on assisting undocumented immigrants with food security and access to housing. The Fund has been allocated to the relevant city agencies to support these priority areas:

- **Food Security:** An initial \$500,000 is dedicated to providing grocery gift cards for undocumented individuals and families. The program will distribute \$200 Safeway gift cards to roughly 2,500 low-income, undocumented San Franciscans for online or in-person purchase of food items.
- **Support for Small Businesses and Workers:** A total of \$2.1 million has been allocated to provide financial assistance to small businesses and workers, including undocumented and mixed-status households.
- **Housing Stabilization:** \$750,000 has been allocated to provide flexible short-term financial relief to individuals and families who are experiencing a housing crisis or are at imminent risk of a housing crisis related to COVID-19.

City of Chicago

On April 7, Mayor Lori Lightfoot of Chicago signed an [executive order](#) to protect immigrant and refugee communities during COVID-19. This executive order explicitly ensures that all benefits, opportunities, and services administered by the City of Chicago are accessible to all residents, regardless of current citizenship status. Immigrant communities will have access to the numerous programs the City of Chicago has implemented during this pandemic, including:

- Establishing the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant program, which provides disaster relief aid for the housing costs faced by individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Offering online Enrichment Learning Resources through Chicago Public Schools for all students at all levels, so that each student, regardless of immigration status, can continue to pursue a top-notch education.
- Starting a \$100 million Chicago Small Business Resiliency Fund to provide small businesses with disaster relief cash flow during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is available to any entrepreneur, including immigrant business owners.

New York City

On April 22, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) the COVID-19 immigrant emergency relief program with Open Society Foundations. The \$20 million fund will reach 20,000 immigrant workers and their families with direct, one-time emergency relief. This program is an essential piece of the city's commitment to providing emergency monetary relief to immigrant workers and their families, who have largely been excluded from federal COVID-19 relief programs. The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City will create a citywide network of community-based organizations that will provide direct, one-time emergency relief payments to immigrant families, including undocumented workers. The citywide network of community-based organizations and worker centers will disseminate one-time emergency relief payments to eligible New Yorkers in the following amounts:

- \$400/individual
- \$800 for couple or single parent with children
- \$1,000 for family with multiple adults and children

- And/or where identified increased additional supports

Additionally, the Open Society Foundations will provide a \$15 million donation to the Fund for Public Schools' to support New York City Department of Education's school communities during this challenging time.

City of Minneapolis

Established a \$5 million emergency response fund to provide multiple types of relief for city residents, regardless of immigration status. The Emergency Housing Assistance Program provides up to \$1,500 (with a possible extension to \$2,000) for rental assistance and utility payments, and forgivable loans for small businesses, including self-employed people, to cover payroll and other expenses.

City of Boston

Established a \$3 million fund was established to assist city residents, regardless of their immigration status, who are at risk of losing rental housing due to COVID-19.

City of Austin

Passed a resolution that allocates \$15 million dollars to the city's Relief in a State Emergency (RISE) Fund. Half the funds will go to social service providers to ensure food access, rental assistance, and other direct relief services. The other half will be distributed by organizations to Austin residents who have financial need and are ineligible for federal relief.

City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti established the "Angeleno Card", a privately funded program that provides \$700-1,500 to low-income city residents regardless of immigration status who have suffered a job loss or severe loss of income due to COVID-19.

Resources that Recap Immigration Priorities

- NILC, CLASP + 561 Orgs: [COVID-19 4.0 Health and Economic Priorities Letter](#) (sent to Congressional leadership; [press release](#))
- Immigration Hub + 228 Orgs: [Immigration-Related Requests for Coronavirus Package 4](#) (sent to Congress)
- Defund Hate Coalition: [Defund Hate during COVID-19: Divest from Enforcement, Invest in Immigrant Communities](#)
- Alianza Americas: [Alianza Americas and Over 100 Organizations Urge Congress to Protect Immigrants During a Pandemic](#)

