

Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
August 28, 2020

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

Others Present: Luke Palmisano, Nancy Rodgers, Kathy Kitzmann, Totsy Rees, Lauri Hettinger, Natasha Campbell, Roberto Venegas

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** JULY 31, 2020 minutes were approved as written.
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2. **CONSENT ITEMS:** None.
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3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Chair CM Angela Lawson welcomed the committee to the video conference call and introductions were made.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

4. **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Lauri Hettinger, federal lobbyist, gave an update on current federal legislation. There is not much new happening since Congress is still in recess. The Senate is in recess until the week of September 7 and the House will be out until the week of September 14. There have been some conversations between Speaker Nancy Pelosi and White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows regarding a COVID stimulus bill, but they have not been able to move anything forward. There is a possibility that something could get passed prior to the election. The COVID bill will probably be added to the funding package for federal agencies. The fiscal year for the federal government ends on September 30. Since the Senate has not passed any appropriations bills it is likely Congress will have to pass a continuation resolution (CR) to provide money for all the federal agencies through early December. The transportation-related FAST Act also expires on September 30 and will most likely be extended with the CR. CM Lawson said she is very concerned about unemployment benefits being extended and would like to know if there will be any movement on this in the COVID stimulus bill. She stated that there is a big concern for Aurora constituents who have either lost jobs or had to resign because their children are schooling from home and September may be the start of a very difficult month for many individuals in our city. L. Hettinger said that has been a priority for the Democrats and they are hopeful they will get something passed in September.

There has been no movement on police reform. It looks like there may be some movement on that in the first or second quarter of 2021 with the change in Congress.

L. Hettinger briefed the committee on new federal guidance related to DACA. On Monday, August 24th, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued guidance regarding DACA renewals & applications. This guidance comes as a result of a policy change by Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf and outlines the following changes: All new applications for DACA will be rejected; Renewals of DACA will still be processed but they will only be for one-year terms instead of the 2-year terms originally established. This guidance follows a landmark US Supreme Court decision stating that the Trump administration must restore the DACA program and open it up to new applicants.

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Information only.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Totsy Rees, state lobbyist, gave an update on the state legislation. There is not much going on at the State level since most people are running for office this year. There have been some conversations about setting up some meetings with the Aurora delegation before the election in order to keep Council up to speed on what is happening at the Capitol. T. Rees said they can plan something if the committee agrees. L. Palmisano said he and P. O'Keefe did have some conversations regarding setting up meetings with the Aurora delegation and Council. There had been some discontent with some of the council members not being kept in the loop of the Governor's decision to initiate an independent investigation into the Aurora police department. The feeling is that having a video conference meeting before the election would be beneficial. No date has been set until there is approval from the committee. CM Lawson said she agrees with having a meeting in September since the legislative session starts in January and it would be interesting to see what the Aurora delegation priorities are so we know where to focus our lobbying efforts. CM Murillo also agreed. L. Palmisano said it would be a good idea to have a call in September to update the delegation on Aurora's police reform efforts, the hiring of the new chief, and investigations related to the Elijah McClain case as well as hearing from the delegation regarding police reform. Then there can be another call in December once the new legislative members are in place. The focus for that call can be on what Aurora's priorities are going forward. CM Lawson said Senator Fields is working on an unemployment fix that could be done at the State level. She is interested to know more information about that. L. Palmisano said he will work on setting up the calls.

T. Rees said there was a meeting at the CDPHE where they said there would be no water bill from them this year. They are trying to find out what Waters of the US will be doing if there should be a new administration next year. K. Kitzmann added said that all could change rather quickly if there is not a change in administration or if the federal lawsuits go in a different direction. K. Kitzmann said that Aurora Water got an RFP out for the state lobbying services. Proposals are due September 11. A selection should be made by October 1 and a contract to start on November 1.

Outcome: Staff will work on setting up a video conference call with the Aurora delegation and council members.

Follow-up Action: Staff will send out email with possible dates for video conference call.

6. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

L. Palmisano said he has a couple of items for September's meeting. The State lobbying contract as well as the Federal lobbying contract will be on the agenda in September. The ballot initiatives are almost finalized so they will be on the agenda as well. L. Palmisano said he wanted to follow up on the police agenda item. He had been waiting to see what would happen with CM Gardner's ordinance. L. Palmisano said he has been in contact with the Aurora Police Department (APD) regarding attending FSIR meetings. At this point they are discussing protocols because APD has expressed reluctance with tracking all police related legislation. There will be an update on this item in September. CM Lawson said since there is so much legislation and reform going on from the city level all the way up to the federal level it would be important to have a standing police item on the agenda. CM Murillo agreed. CM Murillo stated there have been conversations about police reform in this committee for a long time and we should have police in on the conversation regarding policy.

CM Murillo gave an update on the RTD Accountability Committee. They have created 3 sub-committees; Operations, Finance and Governance. CM Murillo said her emphasis has been equity and sustainability and how to implement those ideas into all the sub-committees. L. Palmisano will be helping to come up with some questions to guide those conversations. The committee discussed having more discussion at a future FSIR meeting regarding equity and diversity topics including what the City Manager is currently doing and possibly having Janice Napper, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer come to a meeting as well.


Outcome: Staff will add Police as a standing item to the FSIR Agenda

Follow-up Action: Add agenda item

7. **CONFIRM NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2020, 1:00 PM WebEx video conference meeting.

Approved:


Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

10-8-20
Date