

**Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting**  
**Video Conference Call Meeting**  
October 26, 2022

Members Present: Council Member Lawson – Chair, Council Member Marcano

Members Absent: Council Member Gardner

Others present: T. Rees, R. Venegas, C. McDonald, R. Pena, P. O’Keefe, G. Koumantakis, A. Botham, C. Grant, K. Kitzmann, L. Hettinger, J. Armstrong, A. Keke

**1. CONSENT ITEMS: None.**

---

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 23, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

---

**3. AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS UPDATE**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Dr. Anne Keke and Mr. Jasper Armstrong provided updates on the Aurora Public School and Cherry Creek School Districts. CM Lawson and CM Marcano introduced the functions and responsibilities of the FSIR Committee.

**Aurora Public Schools**

Dr. Anne Keke stressed the importance of having a partnership between the city and the school districts. Colorado is one of the few states that does not have that partnership. In other states, they sit on the dais together to discuss issues pertaining to youth. Aurora Public Schools has since had several groundbreaking events for new P-8 schools in Lyn Knoll of Ward I and in Aurora Highlands of Ward II. Two new magnet schools were opened, namely the Clara Brown Entrepreneurial Academy and the Charles Burrell Visual and Performing Arts Campus. APS is currently in the boundary process where students might be moved from one district to another due to school closures and boundary changes. Meetings are in place to discuss the effects the school closures, facility repurposing, etc. The Board will be voting on the buildings to be repurposed and there will be requests for proposals to sell any of the buildings.

The Paris Boundary Open House is happening on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2 PM at Paris Elementary. The Sable Parent-Teach Conference will be on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 PM. The Murphy Creek Parent-Teacher Conference will have discussions on boundaries, repurposing, and groundbreaking. At the recent board meeting, a presentation was done on repurposing Sable and Paris. The Board was firm with the district about ensuring information on this is provided to all community members. Flyers and ads will be done. The district is also putting together a one-pager to be presented to Council. A plan is being put together to have the board speak to the full Council.

### Committee Discussion:

CM Marcano asked for more information regarding Century Elementary in Ward IV which may be converted for a different purpose for students with disabilities. A. Keke explained that Century Elementary will remain an APS building. The superintendent is figuring out if it will stay for students with disabilities or if something else is being added. Due to other school closures, Century will remain for students with severe disabilities. They are currently finding a middle-ground facility where all students will be housed. CM Marcano asked if there are estimates of the overall utilization of the existing facility. He mentioned that there is a community near the school that have brought asks to add a senior center component since the demographics of the neighborhood have changed. He added that there was also an ask for a substation for APD. A. Keke clarified that the board is simply a policy governance board, and the superintendent is the sole owner of the operations. Unless the building is being sold, the Board does not have any authority and can only make suggestions since it falls under the authority of the superintendent. She adds that there will be requests for proposals going out in the next month. The Board insisted that the RFPs be advertised properly so that everyone has a chance to bid.

CM Lawson asked for suggestions as to how collaboration between the city and the school districts can be bridged. She mentioned that the repurposings affect the city in addition to the community. A. Keke responded that other cities ensure that information is shared through a liaison between the Board and the city. In some states, it is filled by a volunteer, or it is a paid position. She suggested having meetings at the beginning of the school year, during major decisions being made by the district, and at the end of the school year. CM Lawson commented that having a liaison would be a good idea. She requested R. Venegas follow up on the next steps to put this in place. A. Keke mentioned that one person can sit on city council meetings and report a summary of it to the board, and vice versa.

CM Lawson asked for A. Keke's thoughts on the youth violence initiative and suggestions on how to make the efforts the city has implemented more successful. A. Keke mentioned that violence is still happening within schools. She suggested discussing plans as the funds are disbursed to ensure that there is no duplication of services provided by the district and the city. She stressed that the duplication of services becomes ineffective, and the parents do not know where to go. CM Lawson added that she stills see more silos instead of collaborations amongst organizations. She mentioned that we should try and do more innovative, collaborative programming. CM Marcano agreed with the suggestions presented. He added that they should consolidate services and ensure that they are pushing in the same direction to provide a more immediate impact on the community.

### Cherry Creek Schools

Currently, there are more students attending Cherry Creek Schools in the city of Aurora than at APS. The district is putting time, energy, and resources into addressing youth violence. In the summer, they started a Leadership Academy which prepares the most impacted students to be members of the community given that their behavior is incongruent with them taking membership of being a part of a larger community. The program shed a light on the need for wraparound

services such as resources on mental health and opportunities for job placement and job training and partnerships with entities such as Arapahoe County and or Aurora Mental Health.

Committee Discussion:

CM Marcano shared gratitude that they had a fairly calm summer compared to what was expected despite still having juveniles involved in motor vehicle theft, break-ins, and petty robbery. He mentioned that these incidents have begun to calm down. He asked what students, SROs, counselors, and parents have to say regarding the change in the youth. J. Armstrong mentioned that there are a lot of programs being done that seek to intervene. He mentioned that the bloodshed is continuing. He added that there is work being done to put youth in safe spaces with safe adults who will provide them with different experiences and allow them to show up differently in the fall. He mentioned the Leadership Academy which identifies at risk-students and provides them with skills such as critical thinking and time management which will aid them in navigating systems and structures. J. Armstrong added that there are instances where adults and leaders in the community are missing the mark and not actively listening to what the youth are expressing. He mentioned that there are adults in the youth's space that are the biggest offenders of violence and drug abuse. J. Armstrong stressed the need for elevating the youth's voice, being rid of preconceived notions about their generation, and actively listen to the issues that they put forward. He said that he would love to share the youth's thoughts and recommendations.

CM Marcano said that he would like to have J. Armstrong and the students talk to Council and share their issues and experiences. He added that their issues are within the Council's purview, and they are able to provide assistance. CM Lawson agreed and stressed the importance of listening to youth's experiences and voices. She added that they want to ensure that they create partnerships for the youth violence prevention programming and move in the direction that benefits the youth. She suggested inviting students to speak at the Regular Council Meetings. She also suggested having a liaison from the Cherry Creek School District to ensure that information is being shared.

J. Armstrong said that he likes the idea of having a liaison to continue the flow of information. He suggested having several leadership teams sit down with the city which would provide varied perspectives on the issues being discussed. CM Lawson thanked him for the recommendations and added that they will hear back from the committee regarding the next steps.

CM Lawson said that she will bring back something to the Committee which establishes a liaison. R. Venegas clarified that it is in the job description of the intergovernmental relations manager to play the liaison role with the school districts. He mentioned that they could set up informal breakfast meetings with council members and board members to talk about the plans for the school year, school closure processes, and school repurposings. He suggested having the Superintendent and school board members at a Study Session to talk about issues. He added that he liked the idea of having leadership teams and having work groups in school boards pair up with Committee Chairs. R. Venegas specified that there must be a discussion on youth violence and ideas on how to get them involved in the effort in the Community Engagement Office to provide more information regarding programming, resources, possible funding, etc. He stressed the importance of getting input and recommendations on city programming. CM Lawson said that she wants this to be in the FSIR agenda going forward as it is a priority. She requested for a summary of what it

would look like and how the strategy would be to get it as a part of the FSIR Committee. She suggested having a luncheon with the school board. R. Venegas said that he will put this together for the next committee meeting. CM Marcano agreed with the plan.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: No follow-up is needed.

---

---

#### **4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Lauri Hettinger gave an update on federal legislation.

Currently, more Republican races are being secured and finalized. In the House, Republicans only need five seats to gain control. On the Senate side, however, is a 50-50 chance. A slide deck will be sent to the Committee regarding current perceptions. Webinars will be held on Election Day to discuss its impacts. Should there be a flip, all committee chairs will change over, and many new members will be part of the committees.

Regarding IJA, several hearings will be held investigating how local governments, states, and trust rating agencies are utilizing the infrastructure dollars and sharing good practices. There will be more on permitting and streamlining NEPA which will help Aurora Water and Public Works in their projects. Next year, they will consider the FAA Authorization Bill which can be passed on a bipartisan basis. The earmarks remain unclear and it is unsure if Speaker McCarthy will allow them to happen. There are concerns from Republican members to continue allowing the Biden Administration to decide which projects will be funded. Earmarks remain to be helpful to the city to choose what they want to be funded. The new Congress will start on the second week of January, while the Senate will start later. Committee assignments for both the House and Senate will start in January or early February.

After the elections, the National Defense Authorization Act, Water Resources Development Act, and Omnibus Appropriations Bill must be done. The continuing resolution is lasting until December 16<sup>th</sup> and staff think that they can get the Appropriations Bill done around that time. The city's earmarks will remain in the bill. There will also be a group of tax extenders. The Same-Sex Marriage Bill, which passed in the House, will be considered on the Senate side.

#### **Letter re: S. 4295 Financial Data Transparency Act of 2022**

The bill will mandate government and non-profit financial information to be reported in a standardized format to ensure there is uniform financial reporting across all types of municipal bond issuing entities. The letter was previously approved by the Committee to be sent to the Senators on the bill.

The letter will be attached to the National Defense Authorization Act. Last week, several senators came back to debate the Act on the floor so they could start conversing with the House. They will work with Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and are working on compromised

language with Senator Warner and Senator Crapo. The compromised amendment has not been available yet but should be finalized soon. Municipal, transportation, and water are concerned about this.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson mentioned that they are still finalizing the federal priorities which will be done at the next Study Session on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

R. Venegas mentioned that T. Velasquez is the president of GFAO. She is involved in them and does a lot of work. He mentioned that T. Velasquez and her team can speak to the implications for local governments in particular. L. Hettinger said that she will follow up on this in the offices and offer Terry to speak with them. R. Venegas mentioned that T. Velasquez speaks with the finance directors for local governments and municipalities across the country. L. Hettinger asked if DRCOG or RTD has been affected. R. Venegas said that they may be since they are quasi-local governments and have the same issues in terms of reporting. He said that he will confirm this. L. Hettinger mentioned that they should also contact their delegations.

CM Marcano asked if there is a potential upside to the end goal that might be ameliorated by support in transitioning. He added that he had issues with it being an unfunded mandate. He mentioned that they should provide support and a reasonable timeline for transition. L. Hettinger said that this is what they were concerned about and GFAO wanted to study it first. She explained that a timeline was not provided. CM Marcano said that he sees an upside to standardizing data practices as long as specialty information that may be useful for specific disciplines, jurisdictions, or entities is not omitted. He added that he is okay with the letter but just wants to ensure that they are not foregoing a benefit that could be realized by compromising on the existing mandate as proposed.

L. Hettinger asked when the Committee will be going to National League of Cities Summit in Kansas City. CM Lawson mentioned that she will be arriving on the 16<sup>th</sup>, while CM Marcano would not be able to attend due to medical issues.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: No follow-up is needed.

---

## 5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Peggi O’Keefe and Totsy Rees gave an update on the state legislature.

In Colorado, the most competitive chamber is the Senate. Republicans are hoping to get enough seats to flip the chamber with the current 21-14 split. Senator Priola’s changing of parties gave the Democrats an advantage. In the House, the Republicans are hoping to get a few seats, but they

may not be able to make up the 41-24 disadvantage. The governor is likely to retain his seat. Overall, there is a 70 to 80% chance that the current structure will continue in 2023.

Several statewide ballot issues will be presented to the voters including the following:

- Amendment D allows judges from the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to move into the 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Amendment F extends the homestead exemption for Gold Star Spouses
- Amendment F reduces the number of years a charity must wait to operate games of chance (e.g., Bingo, Raffle) to 5 years
- Amendment FF creates and funds the Healthy School Meals for All Program
- Amendment GG is the tax information table that would be added for Voters' Reference on petitions and ballots
- Proposition 121 reduces the state income tax rate
- Proposition 122 creates the National Medicine Health Act and deals with hallucinogens
- Proposition 123 is for the affordable housing program
- Proposition 124 allows for an increased number of liquor store licenses
- Proposition 125 allows wine in grocery and convenience stores
- Proposition 26 allows for third-party delivery of alcohol

Ballots are currently out. As soon as the election is done, Leadership Elections will be held, and the House will vote on a new Speaker. Some members of the Joint Budget Committee may be running for Denver Mayor, and some may move into leadership. The Governor will then introduce his proposed budget and legislators will start meeting with departments for budget briefings. After the elections, there will be more available information on potential bills coming for the next session. There will be Cybersecurity funding going down to the local government. There will also be legislation on transportation and affordable housing. There has been an influx of federal funding and Senator Gonzales is spearheading the call for accountability.

The Colorado Press Association will be running a CORE bill. Language is not yet available, but a stakeholder group is being formed. The Department of Internal Revenue stated that driving schools are certified and would be open to discussing issues revolving around the schools.

#### Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson commented that the city use to go down to the Capital to meet with the delegation for a breakfast. She stressed that she wants to reestablish these gatherings. State lobbyists will work with Roberto Venegas for pre-session gatherings of the delegation.

R. Venegas requested City Clerk Kadee Rodriguez be involved as a representative for CML's open records and core working groups and provide feedback. T. Rees said that K. Rodriguez can be involved in a stakeholder meeting. She mentioned that the individual representing the Press Association shares a client with her and can help make it happen.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: No follow-up is needed.

---

## 6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Kathy Kitzmann presented the updates to the Committee.

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

#### Camp Hale

President Biden recently proclaimed Camp Hale a national monument. Within the proclamation are strong water rights protection language. The Forest Service will produce the National Monument Management Plan over the next 3 to 5 years.

#### Meeting with State Legislators

The Aurora Water State Lobbyist arranged for a virtual Aurora Water meeting with Aurora State Legislators. Six legislators attended. Marshall Brown and Alex Davis led the conversation and discussions regarding the turf replacement and the new Water Conservation Ordinance. The legislators requested a follow-up, and Aurora Water will be presenting at the monthly meeting with HOA representatives regarding the ordinance, turf replacement, and program assistance.

#### Committee Discussion:

CM Marcano asked if there is interest from legislators to emulate portions of the passed ordinance. He also asked what they wanted to learn regarding turf replacement. K. Kitzmann explained that they wanted help explaining the program and assistance available to the HOA representatives. She added that the state legislature passed a turf replacement program bill last year which provided \$2 million to CWCB to distribute.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: No follow-up is needed.

---

## 7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

---

### CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled on November 18, 2022, at 1:00 PM.

---

Approved:

<u>Angela Lawson</u>	<u>11-21-22</u>
Angela Lawson	Date
Committee Chair	