

Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
June 16, 2023

Members Present: Council Member Lawson – Chair, Council Member Jurinsky – Vice Chair,
Council Member Zvonek

Others present: C. Grant, L. Rogers, S. Day, R. Venegas, T. Rees, G. Koumantakis, K.
Kitzmann L. Hettinger, P. O’Keefe, A. Reis, S. Newman, M. Parnes, J.
Prosser, L. Gaylord,

1. CONSENT ITEMS: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 5, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

L. Hettinger provided updates on several legislative matters. She started by discussing the debt ceiling limit and appropriations, noting that a deal was reached to raise the debt ceiling and set limits for defense and non-defense appropriations. She explained that this agreement would ease the passage of the bill due to clear spending limits. However, a group on the House side expressed concerns about the debt limit deal, deciding to lower their appropriations overall for defense and non-defense below the debt limit deal. Hettinger mentioned that the appropriations for agriculture, military construction, and homeland security had been passed. She also indicated she would monitor earmarks recommended by Congressman Crow.

L. Hettinger then updated the group on FDA reauthorization, which she suggested could be achieved in a bipartisan and bicameral manner this year. She stated that the House had passed this bill unanimously, which was significant given the current political climate. The reauthorization includes substantial funding increases for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which the Denver Airport relies on for its projects.

L. Hettinger also reported on the progress of the Senate. She mentioned an unexpected amendment related to pilot training that caught everyone by surprise and mentioned that the Senate had started marking up their bill and would hopefully complete it in the following week. Hettinger indicated that the House and Senate both aimed to finalize this bill by July 17th.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

LEGISLATIVE POSITION DISCUSSION

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Liz Rogers provided an update on the Legislative Position Discussion, with recommendations for active support.

L. Rogers presented Senate Bill 1514, House Resolution 3170, also known as the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator and Responder (HELPER) Act. This bipartisan bill aims to create a home loan program within the Federal Housing Administration to assist first responders, which includes law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and preK-12 teachers, by eliminating the down payment requirement and the monthly mortgage insurance premium for first-time homebuyers who qualify. The city staff, as well as the Mayor, recommended supporting this bill as it could help expand affordable housing options for first responders and serve as a recruitment tool.

Committee Discussion:

Council Member Lawson asked Council Members Jurinsky and Zvonek if they supported the city staff's position on this legislation. Both council members stated that they supported the staff's position. Council Member Lawson also expressed her support.

Outcome:

The Committee unanimously voted on taking an actively support position on this bill.

Follow-up Action:

Staff and lobbyists will act on the above bill in accordance with the position taken.

4. ADAMS COUNTY

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Alisha Reis, Deputy County Manager of Administrative Service for Adams County provided a presentation update on the county's ARPA funding distribution.

A. Reis, provided an overview of how the county has allocated ARPA funding. The funding supported 70 different organizations and more than 100 individual projects in the first tranche of funding. For the second tranche, the county focused on more extensive regional projects like homelessness prevention, housing, behavioral health, and mental health allocations. The county

supported various initiatives, such as the development of land banking projects, a Clarion Hotel conversion project for housing, a farm worker housing project, and several tiny home projects.

A. Reis shared information about the data sources the county used to assess needs and determine funding allocations, such as their homelessness management information system and updated housing needs assessments.

A. Reis detailed the various projects and initiatives underway in Adams County, using the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. She spoke about land banking for affordable housing projects, a farmworker housing project, and tiny home village projects in partnership with Commerce City and Salvation Army. Reis mentioned a domestic violence project and a rapid rehousing initiative as well. She then shifted to mental and behavioral health projects, highlighting the county's plan to establish a 5-year mental health plan, launching a public dashboard for information access, mobile mental health services, and a co-responder expansion. Reis also discussed the Strengthening Families initiative and mental health training. She informed the committee about regional discussions for detoxification and walk-in crisis services. She mentioned drafting a request for information to seek partners for relaunching a broader county service.

Committee Discussion:

A. Reis asked if the remaining funding for a project was secured. J. Prosser informed A. Reis that the application for additional funding had been released about a week ago and they were in the process of applying. J. Prosser mentioned they would reach out to Reis in the following week for a formal letter of support from Adams County.

CM Lawson highlighted the importance of regional collaboration, particularly in tackling issues like homelessness and affordable housing.

CM Zvonek expressed gratitude for the presentation and acknowledged the county's continued support. A. Reis reciprocated the appreciation, affirming the county's commitment to partnering with regional entities and addressing the challenges associated with serving multiple counties.

Outcome: Information only.

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

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

END OF SESSION REPORT

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Peggi O'Keefe gave an update on End of Session Report.

Peggie O'Keefe provided a detailed recap of the recent legislative session noting that around 620 bills were introduced during the four-month session and approximately a third of the legislature was new, which posed a challenge. She highlighted Senate Bill 213, the Governor's Land Use Bill, and mentioned how the city actively engaged in influencing the legislation. However, the bill died

on the last night of the session. She also mentioned a Workers Comp Bill that could have been devastating for local governments and businesses. This bill, along with Senate Bill 213, is expected to return next session. Peggie touched upon several other bills they were closely watching and how they worked with other parties to make amendments. She also discussed a Data Modernization Task Force Legislation that was introduced and passed in the session. Peggie described the session as challenging but ultimately successful and noted that they would plan to engage with delegation members in the coming months to discuss issues expected to arise in the next session.

T. Rees provided an update on the 2023 interim committee season, noting that meeting dates are being posted but very few agendas are currently available. They noted that the Joint Budget Committee would be meeting for the June quarterly forecast. T. Rees then listed a number of interim committees of interest to the city. T. Rees also highlighted the creation of new task forces by the General Assembly, such as the Court Data Sharing Task Force and the Task Force to study corporate housing ownership. However, they noted that these task forces have not yet been filled with members or scheduled.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson expressed her appreciation for the work of Peggie, T. Rees, and Cammie, noting that the recent legislative session was particularly challenging. She also mentioned the council's plan is to work on their priorities in preparation for the next legislative session. T. Rees expressed her gratitude in response.

Outcome: Information only.

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

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY DISCUSSION

Summary of Issue and Discussion: L. Rogers provided an update on Legislative Priority Discussion.

L. Rogers explained that the presented document and its priorities stemmed from the 2023 state priorities that the City Council approved in 2022. They also incorporated input from other departments, internal staff, their lobbying team, and issues that surfaced during the past session. Rogers noted that the priorities focused on affordable housing and homelessness, as well as public safety, with the goal of being proactive for the next session. She expressed the intention to find potential elected officials interested in sponsoring and drafting legislation.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek suggested that, although the city should continue advocating for the removal of the cap on juvenile detention beds, it could be useful to explore the idea of a floating cap to offer more flexibility, given that achieving full elimination might be challenging. CM Zvonek recommended

proactively seeking a sponsor who could support the concept of adjusting the cap to meet the greatest need. L. Rogers agreed to incorporate this suggestion into the approach.

CM Zvonek brought up two issues that he thought would need attention before the next session - a statewide vote on HH and the HEC rule 28. He questioned a rule that requires unanimous agreement to support or oppose a ballot measure, even if it's statutory, and suggested the possibility of changing this rule, citing that it doesn't make sense to him that positions can be taken on statutory legislation, but not on something being voted on by the people that's statutory. He requested clarification from George Koumantakis on this matter. He also expressed concerns about the impact of HEC rule 28 on businesses and suggested that the city should officially weigh in on it. G. Koumantakis didn't have immediate answers and promised to research and provide updates at the next meeting.

CM Lawson asked L. Rogers to confirm that the proposed list of priorities for the next session is flexible and can be changed or added to. L. Rogers affirmed this, clarifying that the listed priorities are those they came up with so far and can be added to or removed from as needed.

Outcome: Information only.

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

6. WATER UPDATE

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

Senate Bill 23-295, involved the formation of the Colorado River Drought Task Force, which establishes a 17-member interim task force to develop legislative recommendations for the 2024 session. One of the task force members will represent Front Range municipal water providers, including Aurora Water, Denver Water, Pueblo Water, and Colorado Springs Utilities. Kitzmann mentioned that these entities collectively support Marshall Brown as their representative. However, it was not yet known if Brown would be selected.

K. Kitzmann stated that several federal bills have been or will soon be introduced, likely to require letters of support. These bills touch on aquatic nuisance species, the endangered fish recovery program, water and agricultural tax reform, and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

Committee Discussion:

K. Kitzmann requested 20 minutes on the agenda for the July FSIR meeting to review these matters, noting that these bills will all arrived concurrently.

CM Lawson agreed to K. Kitzmann's request, emphasizing the importance of discussing and preparing support letters for the proposed bills. Kitzmann expressed that all the bills are positive.

Outcome: Information only.

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

7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for July 21, 2023, at 1:00 PM, Virtual.

Approved:	<u>Angela Lawson</u>	<u>7-24-23</u>
	Angela Lawson	Date
	Committee Chair	