

Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
August 18, 2023

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

Others present: L. Hettinger, L. Rogers, A. Botham, C. Grant, A. Jacobson, A. Acevedo,
S. Day, J. DeHerrera, E. Hanson, K. Kitzmann, G. Koumantakis, M.
Hildebrand, C. McClelland, S. Newman, P. O’Keefe, R. Pena, J. Prosser,
P. Schulte, R. Venegas, H. Morris, C. McDonald

1. CONSENT ITEMS: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 21, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

3. JUVENILE BED SPACE DISCUSSION

Summary of Issue and Discussion: A. Jacobson opened up the discussion on the juvenile bed space to the committee.

Committee Discussion

CM Zvonek proposed a resolution from the city that was passed that they should get rid of any cap on juvenile beds. He said the number of kids committing very violent crimes was increasing, forcing judges to choose if a kid was to be sent to juvenile detention by releasing a child already in there taking up bedspace. CM Zvonek added that was further endangering the community by putting them back out to the community and jeopardizing their future by releasing them back into the same environment. He said there should be no limit.

CM Jurinsky reiterated CM Zvonek comments. She stated that putting a cap on beds was absurd if juveniles were committing crimes. She added that judges should not be forced to release kids early to make room.

CM Lawson brought up how the SAVE Program in Aurora, which was initiated a week prior to this meeting, will use the strategy of focus deterrence that strategically apply interventions and social service resources to youth at high risk for recidivism and that with the current cap on bed space, it will make any work with Focused Deterrence and APD more difficult if youth are not being held.

Division Chief Hildebrand talked about the Public Safety Partnership instituting an intervention program with the key component to have a deterrence effect. He said a lot of participants in the program would be juveniles and it would hold them in a pretrial capacity so they could not go back out and continue crimes over and over again. He said they needed to keep the juveniles in custody for their own safety and the safety of the community.

Chief Acevedo echoed Chief Hildebrand's comments. He said they often hear all the beds are not taken but that meant in the whole state, but locally they were all taken.

J. DeHerrera reiterated and echoed everything that had been stated. He said it would be interesting with their SAVE program with the potential caps.

Division Chief Hildebrand added to be sure to look at the proper numbers when discussing it. He also mentioned that monitoring was failing with the juveniles who were let out due to bed limitations.

A. Jacobson said they served whoever came to the door and the courts were taking the lead on what to do with the juveniles. He stated juveniles were typically with them for 2 years but are seeing more youths for 3 to 5 years. He said they proposed a 22 bed increase to go from 215 to 237. He also stated that the floating beds or utilization of the full statewide detention bed cap was an option that was available to all judicial districts. A. Jacobson stated they did allow flex beds which allowed to hold a youth for an additional 48 hours if beds were at the limit. He said statewide numbers did not always tell the right story. He stated he did not agree with having no cap because they could bring in juveniles that did not need to be there.

CM Zvonek said the bed cap was not to lessen criteria for juveniles to be detained. He said that made more sense than having a cap and transferring kids which would create logistical challenges.

CM Jurinsky stated they had not met the bed cap because Denver Metro was not sending kids to additional bed space. She said there should be no cap, but Denver was operating under the assumption there was no space elsewhere.

A. Jacobson said they operated the detention and had to have some sort of idea of budget and an idea of what bed space would be available and enough staff to handle all the youth that came in.

Division Chief Hildebrand asked if there was a way to confirm the 208 number being below what the bed cap was on the slide deck. He asked why they always required a transport instead of just adding another bed to the facility.

A. Jacobsen said he would have someone look into the slide deck. He said he would take a look at adding other beds and get back with him on that.. He discussed ghost beds, which was borrowing beds, and said the advisory board was discussing that further. He said the ghost bed process worked well for some judicial districts and not for others.

Chief Acevedo said it did not do them any good in the Denver Metro to think about capacity 300 miles away. He asked to visit the local facility to get an understanding on what that capacities are.

A. Jacobsen said he was welcome at any of their youth centers whenever he would like.

CM Lawson stated that based on the discussion there are some things that could be potentially look at for the next legislative session.

E. Hanson said legislative required them to go through a process with the governor's office. She said she was always available to have conversations or help brainstorm.

Outcome: Information only.

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

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Lauri Hettinger presented this item.

L. Hettinger stated Congress was in recess and would not start returning until September 5th. She said the Senate Appropriations Committee passed all 12 of their bills, and the House Appropriations Committee passed 10 of the 12. She stated they would have to pass a continued resolution to continue funding with the federal government. L. Hettinger said Republican and Democratic staff members were using recess to help negotiate to advance a resolution before the end of the year. She said Speaker McCarthy held a meeting with House Representatives and told them he wanted any continued resolution no later than early December so members could go home and avoid being in D.C. during the holidays.

L. Hettinger said the City submitted a grant application for the Protect Program, a new program created in the bipartisan infrastructure bill to help mitigate emergency extreme weather events.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson asked what the timeframe was to get a decision.

L. Hettinger said the infrastructure bill did not give a deadline, but she was thinking three or four months.

Outcome: Information only.

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

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

INFORMATION ONLY

State Legislative Update

P. O'Keefe gave updates on the bills the committee is following.

SB 213: Affordable Housing

The governor's land use bill continues to be a huge issue. Representative Woodward is looking at running several bills to pull out individual issues and trying to do individual legislation to address some of those issues. Representative Froelich to potentially run legislation to address ADUs as a right, TODs with a quarter mile of transit, and additional issues. Senator Kirkmeyer and Zenzinger are bringing legislation to make a more honed-in bill to address affordable housing in a bipartisan manner without mandates on local government.

The governor indicated he was issuing an executive order to ask for an internal review of departments that touch housing. Senator Winter is looking at a multi-modal transportation change for MMOs so local governments can get more money for transit.

C. Grant added they had a very productive meeting with Rep. Lindsey around affordable Housing and Proposition 123 with concerns that the City had with regard to the 3% calculation metric. Representative Lindsey shared the same concerns and was willing to work with them.

Broadband Update

S. Newman stated public works initiated an effort in 2022 to develop a fiber master plan for the city to identify the key deliverables to provide fiber backbone across the city. He said they wanted to provide better connectivity for traffic signals and to eventually interconnect other city facilities to provide better connectivity. He discussed different funding for the plan and the criteria for grants.

Committee Discussion - None.

CM Lawson wanted to know what the City of Aurora would do with the money when it came to getting access to certain areas and communities that did not have adequate internet speeds like other areas in the city. She stated she wanted to hear more about that in a future update.

S. Newman clarified they could have more conversation on that and would provide another update.

Outcome: None.

Follow-up Action: No follow up needed.

Legislative Position Changes

L. Rogers proposed a revision to the positions the city could take on legislation for the upcoming session to be more in line with the Colorado Secretary of State's Office and how their lobbyists reported on the positions they take to be clearer and more transparent with their constituents. She said they would have five positions: support, oppose, amend, monitor, and none.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Committee members approved the change.

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

6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Kathy Kitzmann gave an update on water.

They are still actively involved in the Colorado River Drought Taskforce with interim activities on the state wanting to develop a dredge and fill program.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

CM Lawson asked colleagues to figure out dates of when they could do the next meeting in November. She also noted the National League of Cities Conference was November 17th.

Committee Discussion

The committee agreed to meet November 3rd, at 1 p.m.

Outcome: Information only.

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

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

September 15, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., Virtual

Approved:

Angela Lawson

Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

9-15-23

Date