

**Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
January 19, 2023**

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

Others present: G. Koumantakis, H. Morris, R. Pena, L. Rogers, S. Day, T. Vaughn, R.
Venegas, C. Atkinson, C. Grant, Mayor Coffman, S. Newman, L.
Hettinger, B. Mendoza, E. Cadiz, J. Edwards, J. Wesoloski, A. Montoya,
P. O’Keefe, J. Prosser, J. Smith, T. Velasquez, J. Rustad, T. Rees, K.
Kitzmann, M. Brown

1. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 3, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

3. 2024 Legislative Priorities

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L Rogers discussed the 2024 federal and state legislative priorities.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Approved.

Follow-Up Action: 2024 Legislative Priorities will be taken to Study Session for full Council approval.

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

• **Legislative Discussion**

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L. Hettinger discussed Congress passing another continuing resolution for four appropriation bills with a deadline of March 1st and a separate package of bills due March 8th. The Speaker was able to get it in the House, and the Appropriations Committee was working on finalizing

funding differences. Congress continues to work on the Water Resources Development Bill, the Farm Bill, and the National Defense Authorization Act. L. Hettinger stated the President's budget was expected to come out the second week of March and Congress would then begin an appropriation process. This is the third year of the Infrastructure Bill, so federal agencies are anxious to get early notice of funding opportunities.

Committee Discussion:

Mayor Coffman stated that if they were concerned about infrastructure issues, including bridge replacement issues, they needed to work with them on that. He asked where they were in terms of negotiating funding for Ukraine and securing the border.

L. Hettinger answered they met at the White House on Wednesday, and there was a possibility that there could be a package, but it was not looking very likely.

R. Venegas said they planned to provide an update on the Federal Infrastructure Bill and the upcoming projects and programs at the winter workshop.

CM Lawson stated she was at DRCOG and they were doing some federal grant programming also.

Mayor Coffman asked how long the concurrent resolution was going to go for. L. Hettinger answered the agricultural, military, and veteran's affairs, transportation, and HUD CR would go to March 1st and the remaining going until March 8th.

- **Federal Legislative Discussion**

L. Rogers discussed House Resolution 6224, where the legislation would establish a task force at the federal level to look at prevention and intervention in street racing. Staff recommends support on the bill. Chief Morris added there were a lot of street racers in Aurora, so any information and data to help support the street racing enforcement would gladly be accepted.

CM Lawson said it was a step in the right direction, coming from a federal level.

CM Gardner said he did not think it was the federal government's purview but supported it.

CM Lawson supported it.

Outcome: Information only.

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

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

P. O'Keefe talked about the state legislature, stating Senator Steve Fenberg spoke about transportation as a priority and affordable housing, Senator Lundeen focused on construction defects, Speaker McCluskie talked about education as a priority, including fully funding education, and Representative Lynch agreed construction defects and fentanyl was a priority. P. O'Keefe stated she tracked down Senator Fields, who said she was unsure what the bill was doing regarding the border but would get more information on it.

Totsy Rees discussed Proposition 123, which was passed to fund affordable housing projects, but Aurora needed to hit 100% of the requirements of units being built in the city to be eligible for funding the following year. She said Representative Mandy Lindsay agreed to carry the legislative fix the city put together to allow them to maintain participation even if they were not at 100% and it was being drafted.

T. Rees stated they had been digging into a potential no-kill animal shelter legislation that wanted to see municipality animal shelters report any animals they would euthanize to a rescue in the state, but city shelters cannot report or identify all the animals and ship that information to 300 shelters in the state. She said the bill decided a vet or shelter management could determine whether an animal needed to be euthanized without waiting seven days to report it. She stated the bill was due to drop on Tuesday, and they could look at it further.

C. Grant discussed the governor's annual State of Address, including property taxes, housing, homelessness, crime, energy, cost of living, and the economy. She said he encouraged the legislature to enact meaningful legislation to boost the state's affordable housing supply, incentivize development near transit corridors, and make changes to land use. He spoke about supporting a bill to make it easier for homeowners to build accessory dwelling units, law enforcement, portable senior homestead exemption, expectations of a fully funded education system, supporting reduction in the state income tax, and condemned the rise in antisemitism and islamophobia.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson asked what the context of the proposed migrant bill. P. O'Keefe said they were trying to figure that out. She said she believed it might be around housing.

Mayor Coffman said there were so many unknown costs involved with impacts on public education and other things and wanted to push back on it and the border bill. He said right now, anybody that crosses the border illegally should get arrested, request political asylum, go to court, and get released in the country.

CM Lawson said regarding housing, if that is the focus, cities are having a hard enough time housing their residents, so they are very interested in what this proposed legislation will include.

CM Gardner stated he agreed with reducing the state income tax rate.

Mayor Coffman asked if a bill was introduced to lower the income tax. C. Grant answered no.

Outcome: Information only.

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

- **State Legislative Discussion**

HB 24-1015: Suicide Prevention Education in the Workplace

Starting July 1, 2025, employers would be required to display suicide prevention education posters in the workplace and ensure employees sign a document with the handbook acknowledging they received it. The division in charge would be responsible for creating all the materials. Staff recommends a support position.

CM Lawson added it did not have a fiscal impact on the city, and she asked to have it reviewed.

CM Lawson and CM Gardner supported the position.

HB 24-1016: Personnel for Emergency Telephone Services

The bill defines the emergency communication specialist as a first responder whose duties involve emergency and non-emergency dispatch services. Staff recommend a support position.

Mayor Coffman asked if it would drive any financial obligation to the city. L. Rogers stated she did not believe the city would have any financial obligation, and nothing was reallocated or redistributed.

CM Lawson and CM Gardner supported the position.

HB 24-1074: Aggravated Cruelty to Law Enforcement Animals

Under current law, aggravated cruelty is a class 4 felony, and this bill would include a further definition of what that stands for. The definition would now state a person convicted of cruelty to law enforcement animals would be court-ordered to make restitution for all expenses and replacement costs if necessary. Staff recommended a support position.

Chief Morris stated she 100% supported the bill.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the position.

HB 24-1076: The Purple Star Program

This bill creates a Purple Star Program in the Department of Education to allow schools to be designated and institute them to have personnel to help support military-connected families. Staff recommended a position of support, stating it could benefit military communities that live within the city, and Buckley Space Force Base also asked the city to support it.

Mayor Coffman said this would help military families be able to lock into a school before they had an address.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the position.

SB 24-032: Methods to Increase the Use of Transit

This bill would create the Youth Fare Free Transit Grant Program that would fund the free fare program that RTD does and also create a statewide transit pass exploratory committee, an ozone season transit grant program, and establish a tax credit of 30% for the purchase of a transit pass. RTD asked the city to support the bill. Staff recommended support for the bill.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the position.

HB 24-1007: Residential Occupancy Limits

The bill prohibits local government from enacting or enforcing residential occupancy limits unless tied to a minimum square footage per person requirement for health, safety and welfare. Staff recommended an amend position on the bill to allow code enforcement to enforce the provisions with penalties for noncompliance.

Mayor Coffman asked if the local government set the square footage requirements. L. Rogers answered yes and said in regard to square footage limitations relating to health and safety, the city already follows the international residential code for square footage requirements.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the amend position on the bill.

SB 24-036: Vulnerable Road User Protection Enterprise

The bill would create enterprise within CDOT to provide funding for transportation system infrastructure improvements and impose a road user protection fee that would be in tiered amounts depending on the type and weight of the vehicle. Staff recommended an amend position for municipalities to be exempt from the fees.

Mayor Coffman asked what vulnerable meant in this situation. L. Rogers explained the fee was used specifically for grant programs for infrastructure for vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and mobility devices.

CM Lawson, CM Gardner, and CM Jurinsky supported the amend position of the bill.

HB 24-1079: Persons Detained in Jail on Emergency Containment

Beginning July 1, 2025, the bill would prevent police from bringing persons placed in a protective hold to jail for their own well-being. The bill included no fiscal note, and there needed to be more language in the bill to address the lack of detox bed spaces or inpatient bed spaces for hospitals. It also imposes additional reporting requirements on law enforcement agencies without additional funding or training resources. Staff recommended an opposed position.

Chief Morris said the most important thing to note on this is it would leave people in a position where they cannot care for themselves if they did not have this option.

Judge Day said he already heard some concerns about the bill.

CM Lawson, CM Jurinsky, and CM Gardner supported opposing the bill.

6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Kathy Kitzmann gave an update on water.

SB24-005: Prohibit Landscaping Practices for Water Conservation

Marshall Brown gave a summary of the legislation. He said the legislators who put it together were looking for ways to make a positive impact on water use in Colorado, and the bill would prohibit non-functional turf in the same areas the Aurora ordinance did, except not getting into residential spaces and also banning artificial turf.

K. Kitzmann stated they recommended a position of support.

Committee Discussion:

Mayor Coffman asked why they banned artificial turf. M. Brown answered there were some MgOs active in that space opposing artificial turf due to including chemicals and lack of ability to recycle, but there was an exception for artificial turf in sports fields. He explained the bill still allowed local control within general guidelines and was almost entirely consistent with what Aurora does already.

Mayor Coffman asked if there were any suggested amendments for it. M. Brown stated they tried suggesting not going into the artificial turf space, but that was not well received. He said they viewed it as a relatively small issue and backed off.

CM Lawson, CM Jurinsky, and CM Gardner supported the bill.

Outcome: Information only.

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

7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

Mayor Coffman asked when the City lobbying trip would take place. L. Rogers answers the week of April 15th.

- **Open Discussion**

CM Lawson opened a discussion for City staff members to share other information or updates during the committee meeting.

Judge Day stated regarding HB 1132; the Court Data Sharing task force did its work, put together the report, and delivered it to the Supreme Court Legislative Liaison, who they believed presented it to the House and Senate Judiciary. He said they made three recommendations,

including building a portal to share data amongst courts to take the next step in the IT context. He strongly supported that recommendation.

CM Lawson stated she would like to see the report with the recommendations.

Chief Morris said their priorities would be to cover increasing the bed space for juveniles or flex situations. She said they were asking for car thieves and people convicted of distributing drugs to be included on the list not to be able to carry a weapon legally.

S. Newman talked about bills regarding 911 that may get introduced, including an anti-swatting bill at the federal level. Chief Morris further explained swatting. He said at the state level, they were told there was potentially a bill for the 911 enterprise fund.

K. Kitzmann said the top three that had legislation were the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Program, PFAS Water System Utility Exemption, and reintroduction of the Water Conservancy Tax Rebate Parody Act.

T. Vaughn said they would see what comes from the Liquor Advisory Group Recommendations that went to the state. He expressed that the group was very heavy with industry rather than with public health and safety.

- Updating FSIR Goals and Objectives

CM Lawson stated she wanted to revisit the goals and objectives of the FSIR committee and will be putting it on a future agenda for review and discussion.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

February 2, 2024, Virtual

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

2-2-24

Date