

**Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
February 2, 2023**

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

Member Absent: Council Member Gardner

Others present: G. Koumantakis, H. Morris, R. Pena, L. Rogers, S. Day, R. Venegas, C. Atkinson, C. Grant, Mayor Coffman, S. Newman, L. Hettinger, J. Wesoloski, A. Montoya, P. O’Keefe, J. Prosser, T. Velasquez, T. Rees, K. Kitzmann, L. Callanen, M. Bryant, A. Coombs, S. Berg, A. Youngblood, M. Parnes, T. Buneta

1. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 19, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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 eight bills due March 8th. The Speaker was able to get it in the House, and the Appropriations Committee was working on finalizing funding differences. Majority Leader Schumer announced legislation for border security and Ukraine. The Senate will arrive next Monday to vote on the bill on Tuesday. The president’s budget is expected to come out on March 11th and Congress would see the outline for focus and spending for the upcoming fiscal year.

Committee Discussion:

Mayor Coffman asked for an opinion regarding what may occur with the border and Ukraine voting.

L. Hettinger answered the issue is likely not moving forward after being criticized by President Trump and Speaker Johnson.

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 state legislation, stating that the Smart Act hearings have concluded, and they have moved on to testimonies, hearings, and witness presentations on bills. So far, 250 bills have been introduced, and another 450-500 are expected to be introduced in the next three months. There is progress on several bills being worked on, including HB24-1015, which passed out of committee. They are focused on language for virtual or internet-based options that would be appropriate for suicide prevention and education in the workplace. If it does not pass in the Senate, it will move on to the House, which has support. Also discussed was HB24-1090 which supports the protection of juvenile witness identities. The objective is to ensure records are released for attorneys and to ensure no conflict from the defense side. The goal is also to ensure municipal attorneys can access the records. The amendment was successfully passed. Occupancy limits were discussed where local government can limit occupancies for residents.

HB24-1074 regarding Aggravated Cruelty of Law Enforcement Animals passed the committee earlier in the week. HB24-1076 The Purple Star Program passed the committee, assisting military families and children starting new schools. HB24-1079 was discussed regarding Persons Detained in Jail on Emergency Containment. There are potential amendments based on room or availability for alternatives. The committee is working with the State Patrol and sponsor Senator Fields. They are optimistic about getting language in the bill. A bill regarding Land Use and Affordable Housing is to be drafted and would allow for defect standards for homes before a lawsuit can be brought to a 2/3 vote in the HOA. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) rights will be introduced in a week or so.

L. Rogers discussed that no amendments were introduced to HB24-1079 and that there will be no change in position at this time.

Committee: Discussion:

CM Lawson asked for tracker of bill positions and statuses from previous committee meetings be included agenda packets.

CM Jurinsky brought to attention a bill proposing to end tips and minimum wage most directly towards restaurant and service workers. The bill will likely be dropped in the middle of the night and is said to be against Constitutional tipped minimum wage.

Mayor Coffman asked for an update on Senator Fields and the Migrant Support Network.

P. O’Keefe answered that Senator Fields is working with the Department of Labor & Employment to deal with the creation of a migrant support network, establish guidelines, and fund to the Division of Labor. The idea is to assist new migrants with administrative funds and reimbursements during training and to help apply for Community Relief Fund (CRF) grants for ineligible migrants.

T. Rees noted that a bill from Representative Mandy Lindsay on Proposition 123 is being drafted for the city to continue to receive funding in the housing world. More information will be available in one week.

Outcome: Information only.

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

SB24-001: Continue Youth Mental Health Services Program

The temporary youth mental health services program “I matter” is scheduled to repeal on June 30, 2024. The bill would continue to program indefinitely as it addresses youth violence and access to behavioral health services. Staff recommends support position.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the staff recommendation of support.

SB24-052: Ongoing Funding for 911 Resource Center

The bill requires the general assembly to appropriate funds from the general fund to the Department of Regulatory Agencies for the use by the Public Utilities Committee to fund the operations of the Colorado 911 Resource Center. Staff recommends a support position.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the staff recommendation of support.

HB24-1076: The Purple Star Program

This bill creates a Purple Star Program in the Department of Education to allow schools to be designated and institute personnel to help support the 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 staff’s recommendation of support

SB24-065: Mobile Electronic Devices & Motor Vehicle Driving

An amendment is proposed to the current law that has established exemptions to drivers being on their phones while operating a motor vehicle. The amendment calls for utility operators responding to a utilities emergency, code enforcement officers, and animal protection officers being added to the exemptions list. Staff recommends amend position.

CM Lawson asked if they were amenable to the rationale of the proposed bill.

P. O’Keefe answered that Senator Fields is open to discussion; however, Senator Hansen has more concerns with adding too many exemptions.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the staff recommendation of amend.

HB 24-1152: Accessory Dwelling Units

This bill creates a series of requirements related to accessory dwelling units, establishing requirements for subject jurisdictions and for qualifying as an accessory dwelling unit supportive jurisdiction. The bill creates the accessory dwelling unit fee reduction and encourages grant programs within the division. Staff recommended amend position.

Concern was raised by staff regarding the requirements and fee waiver or reduction. The current business model does not support fee waiver or reduction, and water conservation data is thought to be inaccurate and should not be part of the rationale. Concern was raised for inadequate compensation for the city to set up units. There is a built-in grant within the bill that can help offset costs in lieu of waiving fees.

CM Jurinsky had concern about not waiving fees for seniors.

CM Coombs asked about fee caps and its impact because the city has comparatively low fees.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported the staff recommend amend position.

HB24-1007: Residential Occupancy Limits

The bill prohibits local government from enacting or enforcing residential occupancy limits unless they are tied to a minimum square footage per person requirement necessary 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 regards 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.

HB24-1114: Pet Animal Safety Requirements Before Euthanasia

The bill would require animal shelters or pet animal rescues to notify each in the state before euthanizing a pet animal so that another may take possession of the animal if it wants. Staff recommend to oppose the bill in its entirety. Concern was raised that the bill impairs the city Home Rule Authority, places an undue burden on shelter staff, and increases the stay of unclaimed and potentially unclean animals at the shelter. It was noted that a number of other organizations and agencies oppose the bill for similar reasons.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported opposing the bill.

HB24-1090: Privacy Protections Criminal Justice Records

The bill permits the release of unredacted records to the office of the state public defender and the office of the alternate defense counsel. Amendment would add municipal attorneys and county attorneys would also be approved to view unredacted records. Staff recommended monitoring the bill.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky supported monitoring the bill.

Judge Day commented and thanked staff for their work on the amendment.

HB24-1098: Cause Required for Eviction of Resident Tenant

The bill would prohibit a landlord from evicting a residential tenant unless the landlord has cause for eviction. Staff recommends a no position on the bill.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky support no position on the bill.

SB24-094: Safe Housing for Residential Tenants

The bill modifies existing warranty of habitability laws by clarifying actions that constitute a breach of warranty and procedures for landlords and tenants. The bill also requires the landlord to allow a tenant to return to their dwelling unit to collect their personal property if they were displaced by an environmental public health event after a government official deems the dwelling to be safe for reentry. The staff recommend no position on the bill.

CM Lawson requests clarification from J. Prosser regarding why the city would not be involved in the situation despite a government official being present when deeming an environment unfit for habitation.

J. Prosser answered that state habitability statutes work between the city and the property owner who is held accountable. The bill creates an amendment for tenant and landlord resolution that may be outside of the city code.

CM Jurinsky questioned about a home they would have to condemn.

J. Prosser answered that property nuisances and placarding when deeming uninhabitable would go to the property owner.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky support no position on the bill.

6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

K. Kitzmann gave an update on water.

HB24-1062: Warrants for Metro Sewage Disposal Districts

K. Kitzmann stated they recommended a position of support.

K. Kitzmann explained that Metro Water Recovery is used to identify legislation to streamline processes. They are required by law to the Industry Pre-Treatment Program to ensure business-generated wastewater does not cause a hazardous environment. The Bill proposes that businesses pre-treat wastewater before discharging it to the system, but inspections may still be necessary. The bill allows for inspections to occur quicker and more easily.

A federal bill that has yet to be introduced was discussed for Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). A pilot project was successful, and the bill would continue funding the program. With support, a letter would be drafted for recommendation.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson, and CM Jurinsky supported the bills.

Outcome: Information only.

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

7. ROUNDTABLE

Judge Day updated that all of the Smart Act hearings have concluded although hearings were brief because of an emergent situation in the building. Representative Weisman indicated he was interested in the task force's report used during the hearings. He hopes a bill will be introduced soon. He also noted to CM Lawson regarding SB-35 regarding strengthening enforcement of human trafficking. The bill was introduced on January 10th and is scheduled for senate judiciary on February 21st.

L. Rogers noted the bill is under review and awaiting feedback.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

8. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

February 16, 2024, In Person/Hybrid, 1:00 pm

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

2-16-24

Date