



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Newsletter

Vol. 46, No. 22, November 6, 2020

October CML Board meeting first step in establishing legislative agenda



By Kevin Bommer, executive director, and Meghan Dollar, legislative advocacy manager

On Oct. 16, the CML Board met virtually for the primary purpose of reviewing recommendations from the CML Policy Committee on member proposals and positions on legislation or policy (see related article on page 4).

The Board had an in-depth discussion on several items, particularly around member proposals related to law enforcement in the aftermath of the 2020 legislative session. Following the robust discussion,

the Board approved the Policy Committee recommendations and established initial steps in CML's 2021 legislative agenda. The remainder of the agenda will be set when the Board meets in December and reviews additional recommendations from the Policy Committee.

After a detailed discussion at the September meeting on Board President Bob Widner's initiative for an equity and diversity focus during his term, staff presented the Board with a proposed "CML Statement on Equity and Diversity," which was discussed and approved with minor edits (see related article

on page 3). In addition to adopting the statement, the Board affirmed that a subcommittee of Board members will work with staff on ideas to ensure the CML Strategic Plan and future training content and publications incorporate equity and diversity content when appropriate.

Finally, the Board approved endorsements of CML members applying for leadership positions with National League of Cities (NLC) at the upcoming City Summit. CML endorsed Boulder Council Member Junie Joseph for the NLC Board. The Board also endorsed City Councilor John Fogle, City of Loveland, for Vice Chair of the Information Technology and Communications (ITC) Committee; Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Sandgren, City of Thornton and CML

Executive Board member, for Vice Chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee; Council Member Marlo Alston, City of Centennial, for Vice Chair of the First Tier Suburbs Council; Council Member Joyce Downing, City of Northglenn, for Vice Chair of the Small Cities Council; and Council Member Junie Joseph, City of Boulder, for membership on the Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) Council.

The CML Board's final meeting of 2020 will occur on **Dec. 11**.

NLC committee and council membership applications are open

The National League of Cities (NLC) is now accepting applications for membership from individuals in NLC-member municipalities for NLC Federal Advocacy Committees and Member Councils, as well as constituency groups. Members have the opportunity to

get involved with NLC and represent your municipality's interests at the national level.

Applicants are strongly encouraged by NLC to get references from state leagues. In Colorado, applicants should email CML Executive Director Kevin Bommer, at kbommer@cml.org.

For more information on how to apply – as well as a complete list of all the committees, councils, and groups – please go to bit.ly/384Q4jy. The application period will close on **Dec. 4**.

Congratulations

CML congratulates Morgan Cullen who celebrated his work anniversary in November.



Morgan Cullen
legislative and policy
advocate
4 years

SAVE THE DATE

U.S. EPA
America Recycles

EPA's 2020 America Recycles Events

America Recycles: Innovation Fair - Monday, November 16
America Recycles: Summit - Tuesday, November 17

These events are free, online, and open to the public.
Register at www.epa.gov/ Americarecycles

www.epa.gov/ Americarecycles

50 EPA at
Progress for a Stronger Future

Registration now open for the virtual 2020 innovation fair and summit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in celebration of America Recycles Week, invites everyone to register for free, virtual events hosted by EPA that focus on advancing the future of recycling from **Nov. 16 - 17, 2020**.

On **Nov. 16**, the second-annual America Recycles: Innovation Fair will showcase entrepreneurs from across the recycling system online via virtual exhibit halls demonstrating their state-of-the-art products, services, outreach, and technologies.

On **Nov. 17**, the America Recycles: Summit will feature opportunities to participate in public and private sector discussions about the future of recycling. Summit topics include bolstering markets for recyclables, improving strategies for reducing contamination in recycling, and enhancing recycling strategies in tribes and territories.

"Again this year, EPA will be showcasing the best of the best in recycling innovation and encouraging engaging dialogue among stakeholders in order to enhance our nation's recycling infrastructure, create new markets for recycled materials, and improve consumer education and outreach," said EPA Assistant Administrator Peter Wright. "As a special highlight of this year's 'America Recycles: Summit,' EPA will announce the first National Recycling Goals and discuss how public,

non-governmental and private sector and other organizations can work together and with the public to achieve the National Recycling Goals."

The virtual Innovation Fair will feature more than 40 exhibitors that are advancing the recycling system through strategies such as: deploying artificial intelligence robots to enhance operations at recycling facilities; using hard-to-recycle plastics in 3D printing materials; installing small system sorting units in stadiums and small communities; creating new construction materials from hard-to-recycle plastics; and using automated technology and recycled glass bottles from restaurants to create new glassware.

For a complete list of the Innovation Fair exhibitors, visit: bit.ly/3mDlj9a.

On **Nov. 17**, at the America Recycles: Summit, EPA will announce the first National Recycling Goals and discuss the draft National Recycling Strategy, which is open for public comment until **Dec. 4**.

Both events are free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, please register at: bit.ly/323xNzo.

For more information on EPA's America Recycles efforts, visit: bit.ly/2TGglqB.



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EQUITY AND DIVERSITY



CML adopts statement on equity and diversity

As part of an ongoing effort initiated by CML Executive Board President Bob Widner, Centennial city attorney, the CML Board recently adopted an organizational statement on equity and diversity. The scope of the initiative called for the League to first develop the statement. In subsequent weeks and months, staff and the Board will collaborate to incorporate changes to the League's strategic plan, which guides the activities and direction of CML's efforts for and on behalf of member municipalities. In addition, the engagement and communications staff will make an intentional effort to add equity and diversity content to CML's periodicals, training curriculum, and CML Annual Conference content. For both the strategic plan and content discussions, the staff will work with a subcommittee of CML Board members who expressed a desire to assist with the effort.

CML performed a survey in Sept. 2020 on equity and diversity efforts in their community. This information, and other research, was used to create an equity and diversity resource webpage at bit.ly/2GjJKcv. This page contains survey results, resources provided by Colorado municipalities (such as proclamations, declarations, banners, job descriptions and board information), links to municipal equity and diversity webpages and other resources.

CML's full statement is also posted on the page. CML staff will continue to build this page with resources that municipalities can adopt or build on. Members are encouraged to share additional material to be posted on the page. Please send any relevant content to Sarah Werner, engagement and communications manager, at swerner@cml.org.

CML statement on equity and diversity

CML is committed to supporting our members' efforts to embrace and increase equity and diversity in their communities.

We provide training, resources and tools that facilitate sharing and enhance learning to help local elected leaders build inclusive communities where people from all backgrounds and orientations thrive socially, economically, academically and physically.

The League also values diversity within its membership, elected leadership, and staff. We strive to support a CML Board and committees that reflect the communities we serve. Diversity of opinions, ideas, and solutions ensure that we are considering the needs of our members and Colorado residents in all our decisions.

City of Aurora earns recognition as breastfeeding friendly employer

The City of Aurora recently earned the Breastfeeding Friendly Employer designation from Tri-County Health Department, joining more than two dozen other employers in Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties to achieve this recognition.

Designated employers must demonstrate a breastfeeding friendly environment for staff, including a written lactation policy, few or no barriers to scheduling pumping breaks during the workday and a prioritized or designated private pumping space that is not a restroom or toilet stall.

"In the city of Aurora, we are dedicated to creating opportunities that promote work-life balance for our employees," said Dianna Giordano, the city's human resources department director. "The "Breastfeeding Friendly Employer" designation recognizes our efforts to support our employees and their families by providing city employees with a designated and inviting space to express milk, as well as flexible leave and break policies and telework opportunities. We encourage and care for our working mothers and understand that returning to work should not result in discontinuing the healthy option of breastfeeding."

Federal and Colorado laws protect breastfeeding mothers in the workplace. Including these types of measures support breastfeeding moms to provide the ideal nutrition for their babies while removing logistical obstacles.

Tri-County Health Department notes that providing support for nursing women at work results in lower healthcare costs due to healthier babies and moms, reduced rate of absenteeism (among both mothers and fathers) due to infant illness, lower turnover rates, improved employee productivity and loyalty, and a more family friendly image in the community.

Department of Local Affairs publishes Special Eviction Task Force report, receives additional \$2.6M for COVID-19 rent relief, allocates \$8M for affordable housing in October for Colorado



The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) Division of Housing (DOH) received an additional \$2.6 million in CARES Act funds to allocate for COVID-19-related housing relief, and awarded \$8 million through the Colorado State Housing Board (SHB) for affordable housing in September.

Gov. Jared Polis appointed DOLA to convene a special task force of community leaders to create recommendations on evictions in Colorado. The group supplied their findings to the governor, which were followed by executive orders including a new allocation of

\$2.6 million in additional federal Coronavirus Relief Funds for the Property Owner Preservation (POP) program to extend its provision of rental relief.

For October's SHB meeting, DOLA approved a total of \$2.6 million in loans to TransEquity Development,

Inc. and City of Lamar for the rehabilitation of the Plainsview Apartments, a two-building property consisting of 45 two- and three-bedroom apartments with close proximity to schools, government services and ample green space for recreation. Plainsview will be open to families with incomes between 30 and 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI.)

DOH granted \$3 million to DBG Properties, LLC. for construction of 201 one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments for a development in Colorado Springs called Academy Heights.

A new Amazon facility will add around 1,000 jobs to the area. Academy Heights will be available to families with incomes between 30 and 70% of the AMI.

The division awarded \$1.44 million to Brothers Redevelopment, Inc. for construction of a 72-unit development of permanent supportive housing in Denver. The project will serve extremely low-income individuals and families, especially those experiencing homelessness, who have a disabling condition creating a barrier to housing stability. Resident referrals will originate from the Regional Coordinated Entry System and the Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado (BIAC), who will also provide on-site services in the ground floor of the building.

The department granted the Town of Breckenridge a loan of \$960,000 to assist with a mixed income development called the Alta Verde Apartments. The project will consist of eighty one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments dedicated to households with incomes between 30 and 100% of the AMI.

The State Housing Board and DOLA's Division of Housing continue to support the creation of affordable housing that is accessible, safe and secure for all Coloradoans. For complete information on Housing Board grant approvals, visit bit.ly/3kPDvfw.

CML begins legislative process for 2021 legislative session

by Meghan Dollar, legislative advocacy manager

CML held the first virtual Policy Committee meeting on Friday, Oct. 9, to consider member proposals, and recommendations from staff on known or expected legislation.

Approximately 70 members of the Policy Committee from around the state were in attendance. Anita Seitz, Westminster mayor pro tem, presided over an extremely thoughtful and productive meeting.

The Committee submitted recommendations on member proposals including a support position for legislation that increases or removes the current statutory cap on the use of

solar power, and a recommendation for CML-initiated legislation to clarify the application of open meetings law. Most of the discussion was regarding SB 20-217, the Law Enforcement Integrity Act, and what CML should pursue in terms of amendments to the law. That discussion will continue at the December meeting. Finally, the Policy Committee did not recommend CML move forward with a proposal for CML-initiated legislation to increase penalties for assault against a peace officer.

The Policy Committee also approved staff recommendations on two pieces of CML-initiated legislation within the housing realm as well as the realm of sustainability. Policy

Committee recommendations were forwarded to the CML Executive Board, which approved them at the Oct. 16 board meeting. A Policy Statement Subcommittee was also formed to work on detailed updates to the CML Policy Statement. That conversation will continue at the December meeting. Ultimately, the Policy Committee will approve a draft which will then be voted on by the full membership at the Annual Business Meeting occurring at the CML Annual Conference in **June 2021**.

More information on CML's policy development can be found at bit.ly/3jUVW1a or by contacting Meghan Dollar, legislative advocacy manager, at 303-831-6411 or mdollar@cml.org.

The Arvada Economic Development Association reaccredited by the International Economic Development Council



The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) announced that the Arvada Economic Development Association (AEDA) has once again been recognized as one of 68 economic development organizations accredited by IEDC as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO). Originally accredited in 2013, the organization was reaccredited by IEDC following six successful years of activity as an AEDO

member. AEDA was the first organization in the State of Colorado that was accredited with this honor. "On behalf of the AEDA Board of Directors, we are excited to receive the AEDO reaccreditation, as it affirms AEDA's position

as an effective and innovative organization within the city of Arvada and as a leader within the economic development profession as a whole", said Daniel Ryley, AEDA's executive director.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession.

Earning the AEDO accreditation tells the community and prospects that AEDA attained a measure of excellence assuring that their trust is well placed, and their business is in good hands.

"AEDA displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor", said Jeff Finkle, IEDC president and CEO.

IEDC is the largest membership association serving economic and community development professionals in the world. With over 5,000 members nationwide and abroad, IEDC offers the economic development profession one source for information and professional development, one voice for the profession and one force for advocacy.

For more information on IEDC or the AEDO program, contact AEDO Program Manager Dana Crater at 910-833-7020 or dcrater@iedconline.org, or visit IEDC's website at bit.ly/2HVTFJF.

Virtual Annual Attorney Seminar a Success



By Laurel Witt, CML Associate Counsel

Municipal attorneys from every corner of the state virtually attended this year's CML Annual Seminar on Municipal Law on Friday afternoons in October. The seminar proved to be one of CML's most successful legal education programs ever with 180 registrants, a record number for this event.

Due to the pandemic, we unfortunately could not meet at the much-anticipated Pueblo location for this year's Conference. However, we will be looking forward to attending the

Annual Seminar next year in Pueblo, which is scheduled for **Oct. 22 and 23, 2021**.

All seminar materials are available on the CML website at bit.ly/3eflCEc.

Using the virtual format, CML has delivered 24 hours of CLE accredited programming this year. Despite the circumstances, we are glad to provide quality learning for municipal attorneys statewide. Among the timely topics featured at this year's event, attorneys heard from dynamic speakers on:

- Telecommunications and wireless facilitates;
- Election campaign finance compliance;
- Housing in economic uncertainty;
- Employment discrimination claims under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act;
- Internet sales tax; and
- Civil claims against police officers under Senate Bill 20-217.

Thank you to all of our speakers for their presentations and for working with a virtual platform.

U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to visit Montrose during 2020 tour



Every year, a different national forest is selected to provide a tree to appear on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol building for the holiday season. The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests, in partnership with nonprofit partner Choose Outdoors and Colorado Tourism, will present this special gift from Colorado

to Washington, D.C. for the 2020 holiday season. Ten communities will host special celebrations along the way, including a special appearance in Montrose on Tuesday, **Nov. 10**, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. in front of the city's visitor center located at 107 South Cascade Avenue.

Under the theme, "Experience Your Nature", the 55' tall Engelmann Spruce will be harvested from the Uncompahgre National Forest on **Nov. 6** and prepared for the nearly 2,000-mile expedition. The tree will be delivered to the U.S. Capitol on **Nov. 20**, decorated by handmade ornaments specially created by Coloradans, and be lit in early December.

The tree's visit to Montrose on **Nov. 10** will be open to the public and free for all to enjoy. Due to the ongoing concerns over COVID-19, face coverings are required as well as social distancing.

"Southwest Colorado is home to some of the most beautiful public lands in our country," Montrose Mayor Barbara Bynum said. "I am looking forward to celebrating the 2020 US Capitol Christmas Tree and consider it a reminder that we must be good stewards of these precious natural resources so that future generations can continue to enjoy our national forests."

"As a native to Montrose County, I am proud to say that this year's U.S. Capitol Tree is coming from our backyard," said Montrose County Commissioner Keith Caddy. "This tree is a bright spot in a difficult year and it represents some key features of the county including: agriculture-oriented, strength and fortitude, and vast public lands. I am excited that we are able to share this small part of our community with the U.S. Capitol to bring joy during the holiday season."

The initiative was made possible by cash and in-kind contributions from companies large and small as well as volunteers, locally and across America, who provide vital time and resources.

"We are grateful to the host cities such as Montrose who play a vital part of bringing the tree across the country and this annual celebration", said Bruce Ward, president, Choose Outdoors.

For more information on the Montrose event, visit bit.ly/3jPBzIG. For news, events and tour information, visit bit.ly/3eh49LA and [@uscapitolchristmastree](https://www.facebook.com/uscapitolchristmastree) on Facebook and Instagram.

Research corner: Local and state governments step up for small business relief

Since May, 2020, Kennedy Smith, of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), has been cataloging state and local programs to provide financial assistance to small businesses facing challenges due to Covid-19. Smith also conducted an analysis of the ILSR's Big List of Covid-19 Assistance Programs, including those offered by Colorado cities and towns, which can be found at bit.ly/3oSf7vU. Findings from the analysis are below. To read the full policy brief, please visit bit.ly/2HRYuj8



>800

programs created by state and local governments and community organizations to provide financial assistance to small businesses in the wake of the pandemic



\$9.27 billion

value of grants and loans offered by state and local programs



1/3

of Americans are employed by small businesses with fewer than 100 employees



100,000

Yelp's estimate of businesses that have permanently closed as of early September



2/3

of small restaurants and hotels reporting a "large negative effect" from the pandemic in U.S. Census Bureau survey



2 weeks

Length of time for first round of federal Paycheck Protection Program to exhaust all funds

28 programs totaling over \$118 million

Colorado programs being tracked by ISLR*



*If you know of additional programs, or if you have updates on the status of any of the programs included on ISLR's list, please email kennedy@islr.org



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