

MINUTES
CML Executive Board Special Meeting
March 24, 2021, Denver, Colorado
via Videoconference

Board members present: President Robert Widner, City Attorney, Centennial; Vice President Kathi Meyer, Council President Pro Tem, Steamboat Springs; Secretary/Treasurer Dale Hall, Mayor Pro Tem, Greeley; Immediate Past President Liz Hensley, Council Member, Alamosa; Larry Atencio, Council Vice President, Pueblo; Rick Bain, Mayor, Brush; Kendra Black, Council Member, Denver; Cathie Brunnick, Mayor Pro Tem, Lone Tree; Barbara Bynum, Mayor, Montrose; Greg Caton, City Manager, Grand Junction; Sharon Craig, Trustee, Ignacio; A.J. Euckert, City Manager, Dacono; Wynetta Massey, City Attorney, Colorado Springs; Christian Morgan, Town Manager, Kersey; Jessica Sandgren, Mayor Pro Tem, Thornton; Russell Stewart, Mayor, Cherry Hills Village; Laura Weinberg, Mayor, Golden; Charlie Willman, Council Member, Glenwood Springs.

Board members absent: Leah Dozeman, Council Member, Wheat Ridge; Andrea Samson, Council Member, Loveland; Katie Sickles, Town Manager, Bayfield.

CML Staff members present: Kevin Bommer, Executive Director; David Broadwell, General Counsel; Meghan Dollar, Legislative Advocacy Manager; Meghan MacKillop, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Beauclarine Thomas, Legislative and Policy Advocate; Sarah Werner, Engagement and Communications Manager; Laurel Witt, Associate Counsel; Allison Wright, Finance & Administration Manager; Dianne Backhus, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order by President Widner at 7:35 a.m. Attendance was taken and a quorum was established.

Dale Hall MOVED AND Kathi Meyer SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. The motion passed unanimously.

This special meeting was called at the request of two Board members in order to revisit CML's position on SB 21-062, the Jail Population Management bill. The bill would authorize County Sheriffs to keep jail populations as low as possible by prohibiting arrest and incarceration for many municipal violations, misdemeanors and certain felonies. Peace officers would have authority to issue only a summons and complaint in many circumstances unless violence is involved.

Legislative Advocacy Manager Meghan Dollar reported that CML staff has sought several amendments to clarify language and address the most obvious conflicts for members, and those have been approved by the bill's sponsors. Since the addition of the amendments, CML removed its opposition to the bill, while continuing to work with the sponsors on other amendments, covering firearm offenses and cases with offenders likely to repeat or likely to flee. However, many police chiefs and municipalities continue to oppose the bill, believing that it hampers their ability to protect their citizens.

Board members spoke at length about potential impacts to their communities, including the perception of minimized consequences for serious crimes. Also mentioned were the impacts of attempting to track down offenders who ignore a summons repeatedly. Executive Director Kevin Bommer noted that the position of the Policy Committee as approved by the Executive Board in February was 'oppose unless amended,' and with the addition of the amendments, the current position is 'formerly opposed.' Some Board members felt that was a weak-sounding position for CML to take, and others were concerned that the sponsors (and possibly others) consider that 'formerly opposed' means CML now supports the bill. It was also mentioned that the perception of weakening law enforcement may result in more difficulty for municipalities when recruiting for their police forces.

Other Board members cautioned against changing CML's position. There is a potential for damaging the credibility of our advocacy team in the process. It is important that CML be able to continue to work toward effective amendments on this bill and others having similar impact on our communities.

Charlie Willman MOVED AND Larry Atencio SECONDED A MOTION THAT CML RETAIN ITS EXISTING POSITION OF FORMERLY OPPOSED TO SB 21-062. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with ten voting 'yes' and six voting 'no.' Kevin reminded the Board that this will allow Meghan to continue negotiating in good faith with the sponsors of the bill. President Widner thanked the Board members for taking the time for this special meeting and for the sound and thoughtful discussion of the issues.

A MOTION WAS MADE by Larry Atencio AND SECONDED by Kendra Black TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Hall
Secretary/Treasurer

CML Executive Board Addendum

Supplement to Minutes of March 24 Special Meeting

Based on developments subsequent to the March 24 Board meeting, KEVIN BOMMER requested via email that the Board vote to change CML's position on SB 21-062, Jail Population Management Tools, from 'formerly opposed' to 'opposed.' Votes were requested via email unless Board members requested a special meeting. No special meeting was requested, and staff received 16 votes IN FAVOR of the change in position and 1 vote OPPOSED. The League's position was officially changed to 'opposed' on April 3.