



DATE: September 22, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: League of California Cities Annual Policy Resolutions: Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Singular League of California Cities Policy Resolution Being Considered at the 2020 League of California Cities Annual Business Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts a resolution (Attachment II) supporting the singular League of California Cities policy resolution that will be considered at the 2020 League of California Cities Annual Business Meeting.

SUMMARY

On July 21, 2020, the Council designated Mayor Barbara Halliday to be the City's voting delegate, and Council Members Salinas and Wahab as the alternate voting delegates to the League of California Cities 2020 Annual Conference.¹ Mayor Halliday, Council Members Salinas and Zermeño are attending the League of California Cities (League) 2020 Annual Conference, scheduled for October 7-9, 2020, which will be conducted virtually.

The League's Annual Business (General Assembly) Meeting will take place on October 9, 2020, where voting delegates from member municipalities vote on the League policy resolutions being considered.

Staff recommends that Council support the singular resolution identified by the League: a resolution calling to amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to require social media companies to remove materials that promote criminal activities.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Policy development is a vital and ongoing process within the League of California Cities (League). The principal means for deciding policy on the important issues facing California cities is through the League's seven standing policy committees and the board of directors. The process allows for timely consideration of issues in a changing environment and assures

¹ July 21, 2020 City of Hayward City Council Meeting Link:
<https://hayward.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=793413&GUID=5BF48901-43A7-4AA0-9181-11C18CA64A37&Options=info&Search=>

city officials the opportunity to both initiate and influence League policy decisions. Annual Conference resolutions are an additional way to develop League policy.

One League policy resolution has been introduced for consideration at the 2020 League of California Cities Annual Conference. The purpose of this report is to provide information about this resolution and to obtain direction from Council regarding the City's official position on this resolution.

A summary of the League policy resolution being considered at the annual conference is provided below along with staff's recommendation. A copy of the League resolution, including background information and the League's staff analysis, is also available in the [2020 League of California Cities Annual Conference Resolutions Packet](#).²

League Policy Resolution No. 1:

Title: A Resolution of the General Assembly of the League of California Cities Calling for an Amendment of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to Require Social Media Companies to Remove Materials Which Promote Criminal Activities.

Summary:

This Resolution states that the League of California cities should urge Congress to amend Section 230 of the Federal Communications Decency Act of 1996 (CDA) to limit the immunity provided to online platforms where their forums enable criminal activity to be promoted. Ultimately, the policy objectives proposed under this resolution, if enacted, would incentivize social media companies to establish and implement a reasonable program to identify and remove content that solicits criminal activity.

This Resolution supports the League's existing policy around Public Safety:

- Stiffer penalties for violent offenders, and
- Protecting state Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) and federal Community Oriented Police Services (COPS) funding and advocating for additional funding for local agencies to recoup the costs of crime and increase community safety
- Reduction of violence through strategies that address gang violence, domestic violence, and youth access to tools of violence, including but not limited to firearms, knives, etc.
- Use of local, state, and federal collaborative prevention and intervention methods to reduce youth and gang violence

Staff Recommendation: Support

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

² League of CA Cities Annual Conference Resolutions Packet Link: [https://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Policy-Advocacy-Section/2020-Resolution-Packet-\(1\).aspx](https://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Policy-Advocacy-Section/2020-Resolution-Packet-(1).aspx)

There are no immediate fiscal or economic impacts to the City that are associated with this report or support of this resolution.

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

This agenda item is a routine operational item and does not relate to any of the six priorities identified in the Council’s Strategic Roadmap.

PUBLIC CONTACT

The agenda for this item was posted in compliance with the California Brown Act and does not require additional public notice.

NEXT STEPS

Mayor Halliday, as the City’s voting delegate, and/or Council Members Salinas and Wahab, as the City’s alternates, will represent the Council’s vote at the 2020 League of California Cities Annual Business (General Assembly) Meeting on October 9, 2020.

Prepared and Recommended by: Maria A. Hurtado, Assistant City Manager

Approved by:



Kelly McAdoo, City Manager